

# Ringwood Day Nursery News

## February 2009

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2009! As always we appreciate any items you may wish to contribute to our newsletters.



### **We've struck gold!!**

We are very excited to announce that Ringwood Day Nursery has recently received accreditation from the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) Quality Counts. We have been awarded a level 3 gold award and recognised as 'Investors in Children'. Out of all the nurseries registered with the NDNA only 15 % have achieved this level of award and we are the only nursery in Hampshire with this level of award.

To complete this accreditation we have been evaluating and implementing improvements to enable us to achieve quality throughout every aspect of the setting - from management structure to early education practice. Achieving accreditation demonstrates that we are committed to a continuous process of evaluation and reflective practice that will challenge, support and develop the setting and enhance the service we deliver.

*Quality Counts* marks a childcare provider out as special. It builds upon the unique provision each setting provides, while ensuring each one has at its heart the same underlying ethos of commitment to families, staff, the community and above all, the child.

The full report is available for everyone to read and a copy can be obtained from the office.

### **Pathfinder scheme**

By 2010 the government wishes to implement changes to the entitlement of free nursery education. But as with all new things, they want to test it out first with a few settings. Ringwood Day Nursery has agreed to give it a go!

So what does it mean? Those children aged 3 years and over are now entitled to claim up to 15 hours a week of Education Grant, increasing from the original 12  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours over 38 weeks a year (therefore during term times only). For you this means an extra £9 per week of free education, if you take up the full 15 hours. It may be possible to increase the time that some children attend the nursery in order to take advantage of the new entitlement.

If you need any more information then speak to Rachel, Sue or Neil.



We'd like to say a big thank you to any parents or grandparents who very kindly bought the staff gifts at Christmas. All very much appreciated and enjoyed by all!

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### Calling all grandparents!

Are you a grandparent or do you know a grandparent who enjoys gardening, painting, wood working, sewing, singing or reading? Why not come and share these things with our pre school children? We'd love to involve you in the activities that the children do and perhaps introduce them to new skills and concepts too. Speak to Rachel if you are interested!



We'd like to welcome Sarah Hutton to the nursery team. Sarah joins us from March and will be working with the staff and children in Pear room. Sarah comes to us from a Day Nursery in Cheltenham and is relocating to the Ringwood area. Sarah brings with her 8 years experience and knowledge of working with children and we are all looking forward to working with her.



### Recommend a friend!

Don't forget if you recommend a friend to Ringwood Day Nursery and they book a place for their child with us; get them to mention your name and you will be entitled to a free session with us!



### Information update!

Please, please remember to let us know if any of your contact details change! This includes your address, home, work and mobile phone numbers. If you need to check what information we currently hold, please just ask a member of staff. Thank you!



### Pancake day!

If you are coming to the nursery to drop off your child on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> February, why not stop and join us for a pancake! These will be on offer in the office and prepared by our singing chef, Leigh!

### Please remember

Can we please remind you all that fees are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. We appreciate if payments are made via childcare vouchers they may arrive a little after this time, however all balance payments are due by the 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Working tax credits

We have been advised by Hampshire County Council that only a small percentage of families entitled to the working tax credits are claiming for them. Attached to this newsletter is an information leaflet from them to give you more details and how to claim.