

Welcome to



*Crossways
Playgroup*

Information for Parents

Crossways Playgroup

Holiday Absence Form

Name of Child :

Will be absent from Playgroup during the Period

.....

to

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Please give this form to the Playleader at
least **ONE MONTH** before the absence.



AIM

The Playgroup's aim is for your child to learn through play in a safe, stimulating environment, to gain self-confidence in preparation for entering school. To develop skills at variable levels, using the wide range of activities available each day, e.g. Playdough, sand and water, painting, home corner, books, imaginative play, construction toys, puzzles and physical play.

Policies

A detailed list of all policies are displayed on the notice board for parent/carers to read. A copy can be made available on request.

Admission

Crossways Playgroup is an equal opportunity Playgroup and is open to all children, including children with special needs, from the ages of 2 years 9 months. A registration form must be completed before attendance. Please inform the Playleader and Treasurer how many sessions you wish your child to attend. Spaces vary from term to term. We have to pay rent and wages regardless of numbers, so if you book a place, we must charge you even if you are unable to come.

Absence/Sickness

Please notify the Playleader whenever your child contracts an infectious disease e.g. chicken pox, mumps, rubella, measles, whooping cough, impetigo etc. If your child is admitted into hospital, fees will not be charged from the day you inform the Playleader of your child's illness.

Medication

The Playgroup is not covered in any way for administering any medication, but there is always a fully qualified first-aider present and access to a telephone in an emergency.

Holidays

Please use the holiday absence form at the back of this booklet and give at least one month's notice or longer if possible and you will not have to pay a retainer fee. If you give less than one month's notice, a small charge will be made to retain your child's place at Playgroup.

Parent/Cover Rota

If on a morning there are more than 18 children attending we need, by Social Services Policy to have 4 adults present. We therefore require a parent to help, otherwise our insurance policy will be invalid and we could be closed down.

Being a parent helper gives you the opportunity to join in with the different activities. It is also an ideal way of seeing how your child is progressing at Playgroup. If your child attends one morning a week, please do one duty per term. Three mornings a week, three duties per half term and so on. For the first half term your child attends, you are not expected to do a duty as this will give your child time to settle. If you cannot undertake to do a duty, for whatever reason then please let the Playleader know.

We also hope that you will be eager to help with any group fundraising events as these help to keep costs down. The Playgroup also needs volunteers for the Committee who are a vital part of the group's smooth operation.

Nursery Vouchers

Crossways Playgroup is inspected by both Social Services and OFSTED and can accept Nursery Vouchers for four year olds.

Objectives



The objectives of Crossways Playgroup are to help your child gain self-confidence in a friendly, caring atmosphere. Our priority is to give your child a warm, safe surrounding while learning through play. We have an excellent atmosphere with both Owermoigne and Broadmayne First Schools with regular visits from both Reception teachers.



If any Parent has a complaint concerning the Playgroup they should firstly contact the Playleader. If she is unable to resolve the complaint this can be referred to the Chairman of the Playgroup Committee and then onto the local Social Services.

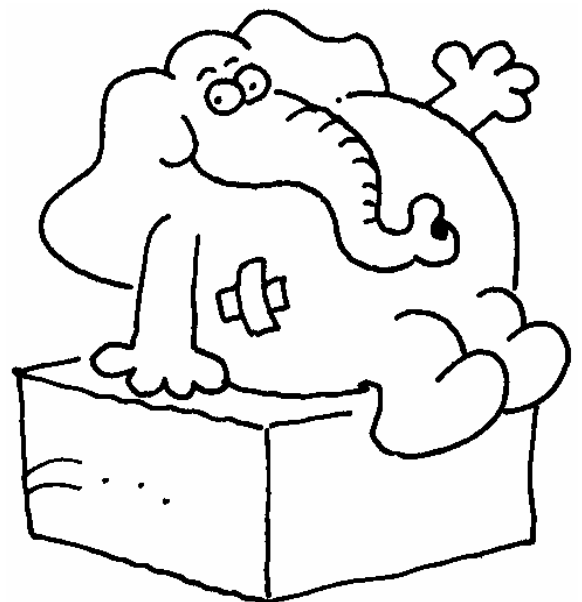
All names of the Committee members will be displayed on the Notice board in the Playgroup Room.

All such complaints will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and in accordance with the policy of the Playgroup.

FINALLY

Regular reports and details about the Fund-raising activities for the Playgroup can be found in the Parish Magazine "*The Bridge*". This is delivered free to every household in the Crossways, Moreton, Tincton and Woodsford Parishes.

The help of "*The Bridge*". is gratefully acknowledged in the production of this booklet.



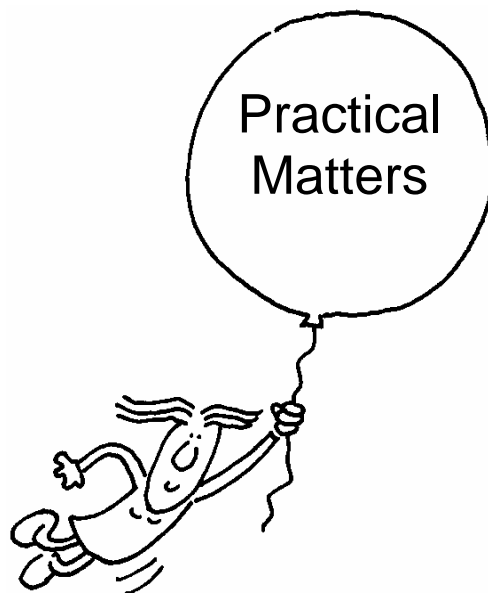
Please feel free to ask any of the Playgroup Staff any questions if you have them. Also if you have any worries or concerns about your child please ask. The Playleader has been with us since 1983 and has coped with most things during that time.

Clothing

There is no fun without mess so please send your child in comfortable clothes. Nothing too special so there is no worry of getting dirty or wet. There are spare clothes available at Playgroup.

Times/Fees

Our sessions begin at 9.00am to 12 noon. The daily fee is currently £3.00 per session but any alterations will be notified to you. Fees are normally collected every Monday and Tuesday morning and are charged weekly. You can make other arrangement e.g. monthly with the Treasurer. All fees must be paid on time as the Playgroup cannot afford to give any form of credit. In the case of special circumstances/problems you should initially speak to the Playleader.



Toileting

When your child starts Playgroup please make sure he or she is toilet trained. We are used to the occasional accident and have spare clothes to deal with this.

Food and Drink

At the mid morning break we provide your child with a drink of milk or squash, together with biscuit and fruit.

Records

It is a requirement that records are kept on each child and Crossways Playgroup uses the Sound Learning System. All records are quite confidential and the staff or Playleader will talk to the parents about each child's progress and any problems the children may have.

Term Dates

These will be shown on the Notice Board at the Hall.



Playleader

Mary Brewer

18 years experience in Playgroups. Pre
School Playgroups Association
Foundation Course* held
St John's Ambulance Lifesaver Plus.

Assistant Playleaders

Jenny Lucas

18 years experience working with children at Playgroup

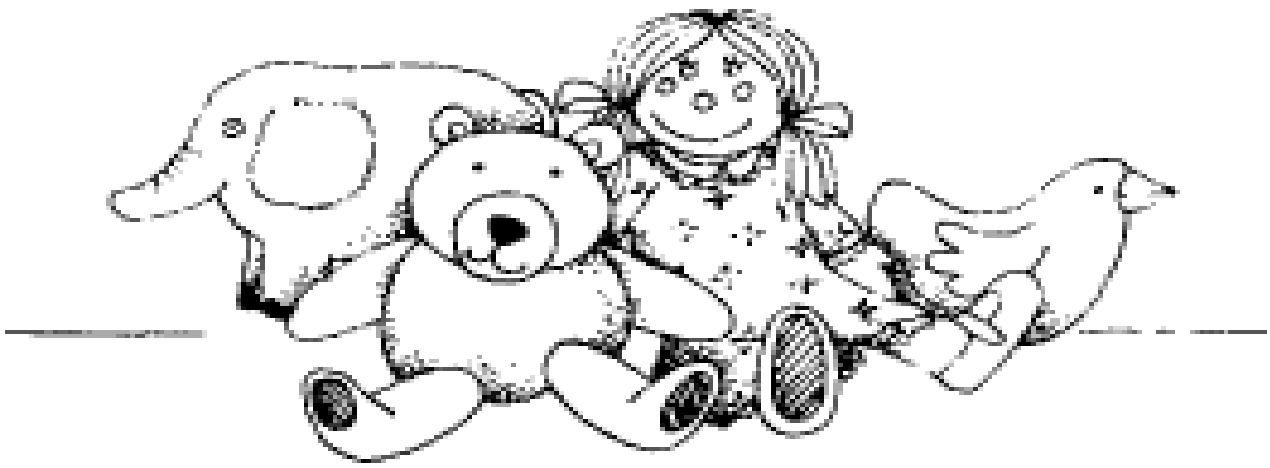
Kathy Foster

Diploma in Playgroup Practice,
St John's Ambulance Lifesaver Plus

Caroline Leeming

Dawn Culling

* Now known as the Learning Alliance



Activities

We aim to run a weekly theme. This includes an interest table where each child can bring a special item:

Previous themes have been:
Arctic, Antarctic, shapes, sea shore, transport, farming, Chinese New Year, Buddhist Festival of the Tooth,

colours, senses, The Farm, St George's Day, Music & Sounds, Pets and Teddies.

We have a book corner with a varied amount of books and children are encouraged to bring their own books with them to be read at storytime.

There is painting with each morning easels made available for the children to use, We try to experiment with other forms of paint such as finger painting, printing and aprons are provided.

Physical Play

We have a varied amount of large activity equipment which is offered every morning. We are lucky to have the use of the large main hall as well as an enclosed outside play area for the summer months. The Playgroup has recently purchased a new climbing frame/slide which has proved popular.

Home Corner

We have a well-equipped home corner which includes furniture and dressing-up clothes.

Water and Sand

We have a sand tray and water tray together with various items of equipment for the children to experiment with.

Other activities

Your child will also have the chance to experiment with clay, Playdough, paste and paper, construction toys, pencils and felt pens and scissors. Children gain in skill and understanding through their play, especially when they have a chance to share their enjoyment with an adult to talk about their discoveries.

The Milk Circle

The social focus of the morning when all children come together in the circle to talk in a group, sing songs, listen to a story and be quiet for a while !

Projects

The children are encouraged to participate in group projects to create displays for the walls (usually incorporating one of the themes) or to make things to take home and act as a stimulus for conversation away from Playgroup.

Science and Nature

We keenly follow the changing of the seasons and have for many years watched tadpoles develop from frog spawn. We have planted bulbs and cress. We go for nature walks and have visited the local farm to see the animals in the past. Some basic science projects such as magnets are also undertaken.

Music and sound

We listen to music and have a new sound system with five sets of headphones enabling the children to listen to various sounds, types of music and stories. We do a lot of music and movement and have a good collection of musical instruments.



Outings and Parties

We aim to have an annual outing to a place of interest and these have included Kingston Maurward and Cricket St Thomas.

We also have a Christmas Party and a Summer end of term party which usually takes the form of some entertainment such as a magician or a visit from Postman Pat. All this is paid for through the parental fund-raising and organised by the Committee.

Mother & Toddler Group

We continue to work closely with the Mother & Toddler Group who meet in the Hall on Thursday afternoons. For more information please refer to the local Community Magazine "*The Bridge*".