

Feedback from Previous Playleaders

For Your Information

Photographs

We are now adding a consent form in the Staff folder (of which you have not yet received) to ask staff whether they are happy for photographs or videos to be taken of them and used in publicity. We are aware of the children that have had permission given, but of yet, we haven't consulted with staff.

Setting Rules

It was recommended that gathering the children together on the first few days, and creating club rules really worked well. It was then used as a resource for staff dealing with negative behaviour and used for the children to refer to. This could be written, but reinforced with photos or pictures.

Pictures and Signs

Wherever possible, you should be using symbols and signs to reinforce language, but it is proven that photographs of actions or objects are far easier for children to understand than drawings or pictures. We will also be making you some visual timetables, signs and key rings to use with the children.

Parent/carers

When we send out your activity plans for the whole summer to the parent/carers please make sure you do a map of the school, showing clearly how they get into the school (which door etc to use). One Playleader found it better to laminate signs on all the doors and gates around the school showing where the parent/carers should go to get into the school.

Siblings and Families

It has been decided that children's siblings should not be included this year in the playschemes. It is felt we wouldn't be able to cater for the different levels of ability with special needs children and the different levels of mainstream children in one setting. However it would be really nice to try to include them in the playscheme some how. Suggestions are:

- § Asking parent/carers to contribute to each day's activities, so if you are making puppets, ask them to send in some socks, if you are cooking veggi pizzas, ask them to send in some vegetables etc.
- § Having a family day event, a big party one afternoon or picnic and asking the parent/carers and siblings to come and see what the children have been up to, what they have made and invite them to the event. (Parent/carers would need to be told siblings are their own responsibility).

Begging letters to shops

You can write to big shops such as supermarkets and send to any local shops in your area. It is important to make contact with them and it would be better coming from you as Playleaders as we don't know what other shops are out there. Small local 'pick your own' farm shops might offer you a discount. Why not take the whole group there to pick their own fruit and veg for the day – they might offer tractor rides!

ID Badges

These have been sent to Countyhall and are being made. We are going to make simple Playworker badges for the rest of your staff and these will be with you at some point!

Names

It has been suggested that you ask parent/carers to label everything they bring in very clearly. If not, have some labels at the front door for you to place names on items. You could try buying lots of boxes, naming them and laying them out by the entrance so that each child has an area to keep all their belongings.

Things to bring

It might be easier for each parent/carer to make up a playscheme bag that they bring every session.

Things they might need to include are:

Spare change of clothes for accidents and spilled water/paint/glue or worse!

Clean towel for water play

Swimming costume for water play

Hat for every time they are outside (staff should be wearing these too!)

Suntan lotion (staff should be wearing this too!)

Coat for wet weather, to play outside if it rains (staff should bring these too!)

Lunch box with a cool pack inside as you can't put boxes in the fridge (staff should bring this too!)

Drink for lunchtime (Staff should bring this too!)

Pads/Nappies/Wipes etc for toileting, with instructions on how many times a day they need changing.

You could ask them to bring something each day, such as recycled bottles to fill, socks to decorate, old shoes to make into puppets, veg to top onto pizza's etc etc etc!

Suggestions for the summer

Get the children to make scrap books

Have one theme running all summer, split into 4 for each week

Try to include activities, ideas, games etc from other cultures

Contact the Sports and Arts Council from the County Council

Contact Worcester Wildlife trust who sometimes visit or you can visit them

Try planting things over the summer to grow and eat

Contact Severn Trent – for water based resources /activities free

Contact the sports partnership – Steve Brewster

Make sure you display your art around the area with washing lines and pegs! (OFSTED will want to see the children in control of their environment)

Make sure you display photos of the activities with evaluations of the activities (OFSTED will want you to prove to them how you ensure you evaluate the children's play, ensure the children are happy and ensure the children are doing activities they want to do!)

Try to recycle everything and use recycled materials

Avoid using any baby toys, use things that are age appropriate, so sensory or messy play is more appropriate for a child with low ability than baby toys.

Can you be part of the Eco schools status ecoschools.gov.uk

What can you grow over the 4 weeks?

Ensure the children take something home every day to show what they've been up to!

Ensure the parents are aware every day, what the children did, what they enjoyed and what they've done.

Bishops Wood – John Bannister story teller

Droitwich Spa young firefighters

Cleaning a car with water and sponges on the playground has to be the best fun ever! (good for your car too!)

Think imaginatively about meal times, try to have picnics outdoors under trees, or go for a picnic, make sure the staff enjoy lunch as much as the children. (It also saves time cleaning tables/sweeping floors afterwards!)

Remember... if you find out anything good, start writing it down so we can make a huge database to be shared around for the other staff and for the next summer playschemes!

Happy Planning!!! Take care, Jessica