**CATERPILLARS CHILDCARE**

**PARENT NEWSLETTER/UPDATES**

**February 2017**

Dear Parents, please see below all of the latest news within Caterpillars Childcare. I hope you enjoy reading our update, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Junior (Year 1) & Senior (Year 2) Preschool**

Our new junior and senior preschool classes are now up and running. The junior class is for children who are two years away from going to school and the senior class one year away from big school. Different age appropriate curriculums are in operation for junior and senior preschool rooms. If at any point you would like to see what both the junior and senior curriculum consists of, we would only be delighted to show you, so please just ask your child’s preschool teacher.

**Team Training & Upskilling**

* 7th World Conference On Infant Mental Health – In March Eve, Sarah, Grainne (Newport) and Siobhan (Rearcross) will be attending the World Conference on ‘Infant Mental Health’, which is being held in Dublin this year. This will be an opportunity to listen to experts from Finland, New York and Israel speak about the latest research on infant mental health .
* Siobhan (Rearcross) and (Suzanne) have completed a refresher first aid training course.
* Joanne & Siobhan have completed HACCP training.

**New Afterschool Activity Programme**

A new afterschool programme has been implemented in Newport. This programme consists of two strands. The first strand is the employment of a dedicated person whose sole responsibility is to ‘PLAY’ and organise games with the children. Children love nothing more than having the undivided attention of another person who wants to play with them, that being card games, board games, lego, physical outside activities, arts and crafts etc. Secondly we have allotted set days for specific activities, e.g. card and board games on Monday, Lego, Knex, Bristo and Mecanno on Tuesday, Trip to Denis Kennedy every second Wednesday with baking on the alternating Wednesdays, Nintendo’s allowed on Thursdays and Arts and Crafts on Fridays. A child’s different personal choice of activity can also occur at the same time as scheduled activities. We would really love to hear any feedback on the new afterschool changes that you may be hearing from your children or indeed feel yourself.

**Parent Information Evening**

Lots of positive feedback was received from last year’s parent information evening, to this end we will hold this event again on the 13th February from 6pm to 9pm allowing parents to drop in during these hours. This evening will offer you the opportunity to visit your child’s room, speak with their carer, look at samples of their work, gain a strong understanding of how their day unfolds and taste the food served to your child.

If you will be attending please inform your child’s carer. We would really love to see as many parents as possible.

**First Aid Training For Children**

We have contacted an outside company with the aim of conducting a first aid training class for children aged from junior preschool upwards to after school children.

The one hour training will consist of a child friendly approach on topics such as:

* How to do simple bandaging
* How to put a person in the recovery position.
* What to do if someone is very sleepy and needs help to wake up.

This training would take place during Caterpillars opening hours. We have been quoted a cost of €10 per child. If you would like your child to attend this training please let Clare (Newport) and Joanne (Rearcross) know and we will come back to you with organised dates.

**Caterpillars Premise Upgrades**

In January 2017 Clare and Mary’s Room in Newport received large upgrades with smaller upgrades completed in Suzanne, Aine and Ella’s room in Newport and Joanne’s room in Rearcross. Attending our parent information evening will give you an opportunity to see the upgrades.

**Caterpillars Childcare and the St Patricks Day Parade Newport**

This year Caterpillars Childcare will be taking part in the St Patricks Day Parade In Newport on Saturday the 11th March.We would love if the families who attend Caterpillars could walk with us on the day behind our Caterpillars float. Please let Clare know if you will be able to be part of the Caterpillars Family on the day. Parade Starts at 2pm and we will inform families in advance where our starting point is from.

**Afterschool Registrations**

Please note that if you will need our afterschool service in September 2017 please let us know as soon as possible as places are limited and we will be closing the registration process on the 28th February. Please let either Grainne or James know if you will require this service. THIS APPLIES TO NEW AFTERSCHOOL REGISTRATIONS.

**New Members of the Caterpillars Team**

* Niamh Griffen joins our team in the role of ‘holiday cover’.
* Aoife Cooke joins our team in the role of dedicated to ‘play’, within our afterschool service.

**Importance of Signing In and Out Every Morning and Evening**

Only this month we were contacted by TUSLA (The child and family agency) to remind us of the importance of asking all parents to sign their child in and out every morning and evening. Tusla regard any childcare service that do not follow this requirement as being non-compliant with childcare regulations 2016 so it is imperative that this task is completed by all parents. Most importantly it is in the interest of safety that we know what children are on the premises at all times by simply looking at the register, this is a vital tool to have in the event of an emergency.

**Next Early Years Educational Field Trip**

Nenagh Library on the 7th March. Transport will be provided by O’Malley Coaches. Bus will leave Rearcross at 9.30am and Newport at 10am with an approximate return time of 1.30pm. Please provide your child with a packed lunch for the trip.

Thank you for reading our newsletter

(The Caterpillars Team)