



# Little Orchard Montessori Nursery

The Old School, Sparkwell, Devon PL7 5DB.  
Tel: 07974 901367

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## Newsletter, September 2011



*Heuristic play*



*Playing in the new sand pit*



*Enjoying ice poles sat on our new benches.*

A warm welcome back to our term time only children it is lovely to see you and we hope you had a great summer break. This month we would like to welcome Lily, Lotti, and their families to Little Orchard. We have had a great time over the summer playing outside, visiting the woods and enjoying the fresh home grown raspberries for snack, delicious!! The children and staff are delighted that a frog has taken up residency under a log in the garden.

### **Planning (Over two's mostly)**

The topic this half term will be Harvest Time, please look out for the spider graph and the weekly planning sheets on the notice board for more detail, activities are adjusted according to ages, interests and abilities. Harvest is our planned topic but if the children are showing interest in another area we will alter our planning to follow their needs.

Any objects from home to support our topics would be very much appreciated. e.g. Apples from apple tree in the garden, pictures of farm machinery, natural treasures found on walks or tips to the beach.

We shall be reading Harvest related stories such as The Little Red Hen and Stone Soup, printing with vegetables, singing related songs and much more.

### **Planning (under two's mostly)**

Each week for the under two's different sessions are planned such as singing, instruments, messy play, treasure baskets, heuristic play, outdoor time and movement sessions. These are planned from observations of the children to ensure they meet the developmental needs of the children attending each day.

### **Improvements**

Over the summer there have been many improvements to the setting, we are very grateful to both our families for their ongoing support. Tracey's parents have been busy staining the fences, shed and decked area. Caroline's father was very busy making fencing, gates, benches and a fantastic sand pit, which has already been well used. Sadly, Caroline's father passed away very suddenly in mid August, but his memory will live on all around us at Sparkwell.

Our Early Years Professional trainee from South Brent has made some wonderful heuristic bags for the under two's which they love to explore.



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## Sparkwell Library

Sparkwell Old School now has a new community library manned by volunteers. As a nursery we shall be visiting the library with the older children to choose a book each week. The few children who have visited the library enjoyed looking at the books and choosing a story for us to share. If you are a local family please support this community service.

## Spare Clothes

If anyone is having a clear out of old clothes we are in desperate need of spare clothes particularly for the over two's, and would greatly appreciate any donations.

## The Practical Life Area

The practical life area of the classroom allows your child to practise and refine skills; fine motor skills (e.g. opening and closing bottles), caring of the environment (e.g. watering plants), and caring of oneself (e.g. dressing frames). When using this area children are increasing their concentration as they refine their skills. The children use the activities to practise a skill and not necessarily for a purpose, an example of this would be using a dust pan and brush to sweep and then spilling it to repeat the activity. The "process" is important not the end result! You can help your child by allowing them to help out at home, maybe sorting clothes for washing, providing easy clothes they can dress themselves in, allowing them the time to put on and remove their shoes, cooking together and taking care of plants or animals.



A practical life exercise – cleaning a baby's bottles.

## And finally...

As always; if you have any queries, or comments, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or another staff member. We operate a strict "open door" policy, and will strive to work in partnership with you to provide the best service for your individual child.

Kind regards,

Tracey & Caroline