

# April 2016

*Dear parents  
and carers,*

It's been a very busy few months since we took over from Julie and Satnam in September 2015.



We still have things that we want to look at, such as environments and toys/equipment but we have been working on other 'hidden' things to provide a better service to you and your children. The nurseries continue to grow in popularity, helped by our highly successful open day events and as a result, the nursery managers are busy recruiting new staff, with the help of our HR team and Paul, the Regional Operations Manager. Vicky will introduce new staff to you as they appear in the nursery over the coming weeks/months.

The Eduko team is also growing; providing us with the infrastructure we need to offer increased levels of support to our nursery teams in the form of a wide range of training and development activities. Mim Brown, Early Years Regional Manager, will be joining us in May to offer support and challenge to practitioners in the nursery. Paul Picton, Regional Operations Manager, who many of you have already met, offers support to Vicky and Soffie to ensure the smooth running of the nursery on a day to day basis.

## *Recent changes*

Here are some of the activities that have been going on in the background and changes that will be taking place in the nursery in the next few weeks:

- New learning journals and two-year-old progress checks are now in place. These are personalised booklets for each child. Key workers are now called 'Play Partners'; this better reflects the role they do in supporting your child's learning and development. We believe it is much more 'child friendly' and makes it easy for the child to know which adult is their main support.



Please help us to change the language so that your child knows who his/her play partner is. The last summative assessment will be added to the new booklet and used as a 'starting point' to track your child's progress. This will be completed by the end of the month. Ongoing observations will continue to be added to the learning journal, and summative assessments will take place every 3 months or so, depending on individual children's needs.

- The summative assessments will now be monitored by the room supervisor and also by Vicky. Spot checks of monitoring will be carried out by the EY team (myself and Mim) on an ongoing basis to ensure that they are accurate and used effectively to plan activities that meet your child's learning and development needs.
- Please ask to see your child's learning journal and feel free to contribute by completing an observation 'sticker' at any time. We need your contributions to enable us to build on experiences at home and here in the nursery, so that we can make an accurate assessment when the time comes.
- On the back page of the Learning Journal is a tracker. This enables us to compare each assessment and reflect on children's progress over time. We can identify gaps in children's learning and provide activities that will help to close these gaps. We can also see where children have special skills and talents so that we can provide extra challenge to help them to reach their full potential.
- Peer-on-peer monitoring will be introduced over the coming months, to enable us to identify areas for personal development in the team. These will be carried out by Vicky, Mim and myself. They will link to personal development plans and training.



- Training is being provided for all nursery managers. This is led by an external consultant and based on materials from Institute of Leadership and Management. The materials are bespoke for us, to reflect the specialist nature of managing a nursery team. This training commenced in February and is taking place over 10 months; it will culminate in a project that will be presented at the nursery manager forum in December.

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- Training for play-partners is also ongoing. Staff have received training in how young children learn. Further training is taking place at the end of the month around Heuristic play and free and found materials. This will be linked to planning and EYFS areas of learning to support staff in their work. Further inset training is planned for September. More details to follow later in the year.

- <http://www.kathybrodie.com/articles/heuristic-play-a-simple-guide/>

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact Vicky for more details. In the event that Vicky is unable to answer your questions satisfactorily, please feel free to contact Paul@edukoltd.com, Mim@edukoltd.com or me, Caroline@edukoltd.com We are happy to meet with you in the nursery to provide you with the information you need.

In the meantime, I wish you a lovely weekend in the sunshine with your children – spring has sprung!

*Best wishes,*

*Caroline Wright  
Director of Early Years*