

## Home-Start Basildon District Family Newsletter



Welcome to our Family Newsletter. In this edition we have included items on what we are doing as well as what is happening locally. We hope you find this helpful. If you have any suggestions or ideas for things that you would like to see included then please email Becky [administrator@homestart-basildon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@homestart-basildon.org.uk)

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### Free Childcare for two year olds

Find out if your child could enjoy 15 hours a week with a childcare provider such as a pre-school, day nursery or childminder.

You may qualify if your family is eligible for free school meals or receives certain benefits including:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income not over £16,190
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

To find out more, talk to your local children's centre, health visitor or social worker or contact the Family Information Service on 0800 055 6874. You can also look for local childcare online at:

[www.essex.gov.uk/fis](http://www.essex.gov.uk/fis)

You can download a leaflet with all the information on from our website: [www.homestart-basildon.org.uk](http://www.homestart-basildon.org.uk)

### Children's Centres Consultation

Essex County Council is proposing to provide a more integrated health, wellbeing and family support service for families and children from pre-birth until the age of 19.

Children's centres currently provide services for families with children aged 0 to 5 and Essex County Council proposes to offer a wider range of services to meet the needs of the whole family from pre-birth to 19. This includes extending services for pregnant mothers through to families with older children as well as offering more services under one roof.

A part of the plan includes looking at the future of Sure Start Children's Centres. Under the proposals, children's centres would become Family Hubs from 2017 and the number of locations would change to meet the needs of children and families across Essex. It is proposed that Family Hubs, one in each district in Essex, would be open more of the time, including weekends. Family Hubs would be supported by a range of local centres also offering services but open when people need them most.

The consultation takes place from 15 February to 10 April. Members of the public can complete the consultation online at: <http://surveys.essexinsight.org.uk/childrenscentresconsultation2016>

## USEFUL WEBSITES AND FACEBOOK GROUPS

- BEST Parent Support – [tinyurl.com/basildonbestparents](http://tinyurl.com/basildonbestparents)
- Family Mosaic – [familymosaic.co.uk/home/index.html](http://familymosaic.co.uk/home/index.html)
- Parents 1<sup>st</sup> – [parents1st.org.uk](http://parents1st.org.uk)
- Billericay Families Information – [billericayfamilies.com/parent-children-support](http://billericayfamilies.com/parent-children-support)
- Family Lives – [familylives.org.uk](http://familylives.org.uk) or Tel 0808 800 2222
- Essex Mums – [essexmums.org.uk](http://essexmums.org.uk)
- Childcare – [childcare.co.uk](http://childcare.co.uk)
- Samaritans – [samaritans.org.uk](http://samaritans.org.uk) or Tel 08457 909090 (support 24 hours a day, everyday, they will talk to you and give you support)
- Citizens Advice Bureau – [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk) or Tel 0344 477 0808
- Net Mums – [netmums.com](http://netmums.com)

### **Facebook Pages and Groups**

- 8 out of 10 Mums— Reviews of Days out and Places to go
- 8 out of 10 Mums Ask—For asking parenting questions
- 8 out of 10 M(um)-bay—For selling your baby and child bits
- Basildon Mums and Dads—Parental Support, Social Outings, Selling Page for all parents local to Basildon Borough.

## Fundraising Events

**Barleylands Fun Walk** – It is that time of year again We are taking part in the Barleylands Sponsored Walk on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May and would like as many of you to join us as possible! On the day there is a choice of two walks, the cross country one of 3 miles or a 1 mile (around the field), for those that cannot manage the 3 miles. If you can join us on the day that would be good, it is a fun day for all the family with lots of stalls as well. The sponsor form is available to download on our website, pick up in the office or we can send one to you. If you are not able to join us on the day then you can sponsor the office staff as we are all taking part, so please email me and let me know how much you would like to sponsor us for!

**Music Quiz Night** – Saturday 23rd April, 7pm. Come along and test your music knowledge at our fun family quiz. Please note, these are not music questions. You just have to guess who is singing the song that is playing. So come along for a fun evening and bring your family and friends. All are welcome age 11+ (senior school year 7). The cost is £5 each and it's a maximum of 6 per table. Tickets are available from our office please ring or email if you would like to purchase.

We will also be having stalls at the following events if you would like to come along and support us whilst enjoying a fun family time:

- Rotary Club of Basildon Concord Mayfest on Saturday 14th May 9am to 4pm in Basildon Town Centre— we will be having a Tombola stall with 'Hook a Duck' game for the children.
- Basildon and Pitsea Carnival – Saturday 23rd July from 9am to 5pm— We will be having a stall selling drinks and sweets.