

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

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FAMILY GROUPS

Our family groups continue to run in Basildon and Wickford on alternate weeks. Families are free to drop in anytime during the sessions and attend any, or all of them. These groups are open to anyone and not just families who are receiving our Home-Visiting Support. The groups are a chance for parents to meet and chat with other parents from the local area and gives your children an opportunity to play and socialise with others. Please find below dates for November 2015 to March 2016.

BASILDON

The Place Leisure Centre, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, SS13 3DU and will be held in the Foyer Meeting Room, all sessions are from 10am to 12pm. Please note, the room where the session is held may change for 2016. Tea and Coffee will be available.

Friday 11th December
Friday 12th February
Friday 25th March

Friday 15th January
Friday 26th February

Friday 29th January
Friday 11th March

WICKFORD

Highcliffe Children's Centre, Rettendon View, Wickford, SS11 8JE, all sessions are from 12.30pm to 2.00pm.

Friday 4th December
Wednesday 20th January
Friday 4th March

Wednesday 16th December
Friday 5th February
Wednesday 16th March

Friday 8th January
Wednesday 17th February

As the session is held during lunchtime you are welcome to bring a light lunch for children and yourself. Tea and Coffee will be available but will not be allowed in the play area.

Free Childcare for Two Year Olds

Early learning at Nursery, Pre-School or Childminder gives children a positive start to life and their early development they can:

- Have fun
- Learn through play
- Make new friends
- Experience new activities and
- Get a good start to early education

If your family receives free school meals or certain benefits including income support or income based JSA you can claim 15 hours per week of free childcare for your two year old. Children who have special educational needs, are looked after by a local council or have left care through adoption or a special guardianship order are also entitled.

To find out more talk to the Family Information Service on 0800 055 6874. You can also find information about childcare online at: <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Early-Years-Childcare>

LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION



Staying Safe Online— This is a priority for all parents now and [Parent Info](http://parentinfo.org/) (<http://parentinfo.org/>) is a great new website from CEOP (The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre and The Parent Zone). It provides high quality information to parents and carers on a wide range of subjects, from difficult topics about sex, relationships and the internet or body image and peer pressure to broader parenting topics like “how much sleep do children need?”.

Although your children may be a bit young at the moment to access the internet it never hurts to be prepared as the world is changing fast and children access technology at younger ages more and more.



Primary School Admissions—Was your child born between 1 September 2011 and 31st August 2012? If so you can apply now for their Primary School place. Apply online at: www.esses.gov.uk/admissions. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2016.

Free Family Activities — Looking for things to do locally with your children aged 4+ then why not check these out.

Bake Off — Get imaginative in the kitchen and bake all kinds of delicious treats with the family. The first session is 18.02.16 from 9.30am to 2.30pm at SEEVIC College in Benfleet. The first session is free and subsequent sessions are £20 per adult including a maximum of 2 children.

Arts and Crafts — Using all kinds of materials, our workshops will ensure you and the kids get creative! First session is 16.02.16 from 10am to 12pm at Growing Together Thundersley or SEEVIC College. The first session is free and subsequent sessions are £10 per adult including a maximum of 3 children.

Grow Your Own Veg — Introduce the friendly world of vegetables by getting them to grow their own! First session is 29.03.16 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm at Growing Together Thundersley or SEEVIC College.

Outdoor Crafts — Embrace the outdoors and get creative all at the same time with our one-off workshop for all the family! First session is on 01.04.16 from 10.30am to 12.30pm at Growing Together, Westcliff.

There are other sessions available for all these activities more details and how to book can be found at: www.seevic-college.ac.uk/community. There are also other courses available.

Dual Language Books — These are perfect for bi-lingual families, making it easy to share books in English and your home language. They are also good if you are learning other languages. Did you know that Essex Libraries has titles in over 40 different languages including French, Arabic, Polish, Yoruba and Chinese. To track down books in the language you require just type the language and DUAL into the Library Catalogue this can be accessed online via the Essex County Council Website:

<http://classiccatalogue.essex.gov.uk/vs/Vubis.csp> For more information and help in this please go to or contact your local library.

WINTER MONTHS

During the winter months approaching, we have advised our volunteers that should there be snow and ice conditions that they should not visit their families. It may also be necessary to open the office on a reduced hours basis, due to bad weather.

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy prosperous
New Year