



# Bluebells Children's Centre

Newsletter

March 2010

A Sure Start Children's Centre

## Happy Birthday Bluebells

In February 2010 Bluebells reached its 1st birthday. The centre was decorated with balloons and banners whilst everyone joined in with the celebrations. Families enjoyed various activities including craft, face painting and playing in the ball pond. It was lovely to see so many families having fun and making use of the facilities that were on offer. The party came to an end with a first birthday cake and song time where staff, parents, and children sang happy birthday to Bluebells. It was great to receive so many positive comments, not just about the party but also about Bluebells Children's Centre.



"We love coming to have great fun playing with the toys, doing the arts and crafts, playing outside and song time."

## Garden Work

The new back garden area is being developed at the rear of the centre which will provide lots of learning opportunities for children. We are aiming to keep the garden as natural and rustic as possible to fit in with the surroundings. With wooden play equipment we aim to encourage imaginative and physical play and children will be able to grow fruit, vegetables and herbs. Wildlife will be encouraged into the garden to enhance children's knowledge and understanding of the world.

The garden is due to be completed some time in April 2010!



## Sickness

If your child is unwell we ask that you do not bring them to the Centre for 48 hours after their illness.



# Wow

**Throughout 2009 – 2010  
approximately 460 families have  
used Bluebells Children's Centre  
services.**

## Benefits of Outdoor Play

There is no such thing as bad climate only bad clothing. If we restrict children's access to outdoors to the few days that we consider are not too hot, cold or wet, we limit their opportunity to benefit from a fully combined indoor – outdoor learning environment depriving them of a unique play opportunity. At Bluebells we encourage parents and children to make use of the outdoor facilities whatever the weather. Children learn so much from being outside and learn best through real and meaningful experiences.



## Courses at Bluebells

### Story Sacks – Starting Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010 at 1.00pm

Come along and make a sack or box based on your children's favourite story book character.

Artistic skills not required just a keen interest in reading with your child and making learning fun.

### You Make the Difference – Starting Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 9.30am

A 9 week programme for parents and carers of babies and young children. Allowing you to discover ways to interact with your child to promote language development and social skills. Parents will learn how to use everyday activities and play time as opportunities to promote their child's learning.

### Baby Massage – Various Sessions Available

Take time out together for a massage to teach baby and you to relax. Massage has lots of physical benefits and for babies can play a vital role in circulation, digestion and growth. Using simple techniques to help ease the symptoms of colds, colic and teething.



### Bumps and Bruises – Starting 29<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Back as requested – Learn infant resuscitation, fire and safety and about childhood illnesses

If you are interested in attending any of the above courses then please contact Emma at Bluebells on 01233 622296.

Please note: Limited free crèche places are available

## Tenterden

The Children's Centre at Tenterden is now complete! Tenterden Staff will work with families in Tenterden and the surrounding villages of Rolvenden, Wittersham, Stone, Newenden, Hamstreet, Appledore, Warehorne, Kennardington, Shadoxhurst and Woodchurch.

Some of the activities we hope to run at the new Centre include parenting courses, first time parents groups, baby massage, Ashford Active Learner Groups, Freedom Programme, speech and language assessments and Makaton workshops. Some groups and courses will be supported by a free crèche. The Centre will also have information on health related topics, job centre plus and benefits and learning through play.