



Spring 1/2024

# Trinket Box Newsletter

## Dates for the Diary

- Monday 15th January—Deadline for Primary School applications (for children starting school Sept 24)
- Friday 16th February—INSET day CLOSED
- Week commencing 19th February—half term
- In the pipeline, date to be confirmed—Save Our Planet and Oceans-focus on being environmentally friendly



## HOME FROM HOME!

At Christmas time our role play area was transformed into a grotto for Santa. As you know we asked for some items to give this area a facelift when it was changed back.

Well, we asked and you delivered, literally! Thank you to all of you but particularly to Eve's family who lugged the bookcase and dressing table!

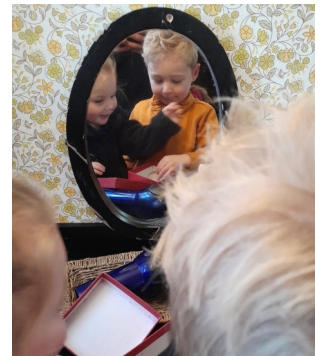
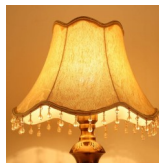
I'd like to say with the flick of a magic wand and the area was transformed but we're not totally delusional! We pieced together wallpaper donations, secured furniture to walls, sorted out clothes and bits we had earmarked, ordered some sofas and VOILA! Our lovely role play area was created!

The children absolutely love it and we have witnessed so much great conversation in play. Birthday cakes have been made, hairstyles have been created at the 'salon' and pizza has been on the menu in the kitchen. Babies have been fed, phone calls

have been taken and 'parents' have been relaxing on the sofas!

We would still like your help locating any of the following items please so let us know if you can help:

- \* Small tablecloths, cushions
- \* Battery operated fairy lights
- \* Large lampshade, maybe like this
- \* Baby reborn dolls clothes or premature babies clothes



Here's a sneak peak at our popular new area .....



## Primary School Admission Reminder

The deadline to apply is Monday 15th January 2024. If you applied online, please check you received confirmation. We had a family last year who assumed it had gone through and it hadn't. Come April, the child did not have a school place.

The link to apply is: <https://www.southend.gov.uk/school-admissions/primary-school-admissions-1>



## FUNDING UPDATE

As you know the government has announced that 2 year funding for eligible working parents will be available from April 2024. More funding will be available for working parents from September 2024 (for children from 9 months old) and funding is planned to be increased for eligible families to 30 hours per week from September 2025 (from 9 months old).

If you would like to see whether you qualify please use the following link for the Childcare Choice website: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

The government has confirmed that the entitlement criteria will be the same as the current 30 hours funding for 3 and 4 year olds (working families).

This means that parents must earn the equivalent of 16 hours at the minimum wage but no more than £100,000. This applies to a dual parent household but there are some exceptions if one parent is in receipt of certain benefits like Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carers Allowance, Limited Capability for Work Benefit or contribution based Employment and Support Allowance, providing their partner is working.

Whilst the additional funding is being launched, the government continue to underfund the childcare sector. The amount we receive does not meet the cost to deliver the funded place unfortunately. This is a national crisis within the childcare sector. With bills rising like utilities, resources and of course the minimum wage in April, we, like others are trying to rise to the challenge! We are a charity so not looking to make a huge profit but sustainability is always at the forefront of our minds, hence our constant fundraising.

Sadly the governments expectations do not meet the reality of delivering the funded places. If we were better funded we could think about expanding to meet the needs of the families. Currently, we are full and we can't afford to take more children as we can't afford to recruit paying the new minimum wage based on the funded amount that the government pays. It sounds like a ridiculous situation but sadly underfunding is causing an issue and many settlings are closing.

The Early Years Alliance, a national charity who support the sector, work tirelessly to raise this with the government in a bid to get this addressed. They are urging parents to write to their MP's. This is a statement from them:

*We believe that the government chose to promise families 'free' childcare and early education and so it is the government's responsibility to ensure that this is properly funded. We don't want to see any more providers have to close their doors as they can no longer afford to deliver a high-quality service. And we don't want to see parents having to pay for the government's mistakes through higher fees and additional charges. That's why we're asking as many parents and carers as possible to speak out by writing to your local MP - you can find their details at <https://www.writetothem.com/>*





## Building Skills for School Readiness

At Trinket Box we focus on activities to help with future life skills. A simple life skill is writing which is something that many of us take for granted.

Before a child can hold a pencil successfully they need to concentrate on gross motor skills (using whole arm) to build up the required muscles to perfect fine motor movements (smaller movements required for more precise tasks).

At Trinket Box we collaborate all skills required for writing and start from an early age. Large play skills such as throwing a ball, running, jumping and pushing and pulling activities all help muscle strengthening. Using the parachute for games where it has to rise and fall, dancing with ribbons and scarves and pouring water from one container to another all help to develop muscles in the wrists for example. Threading, posting, gluing, building and using different tools help with hand/eye co-ordination and precision. Putting these three skills together enables the child to have the poise, body control, grip and hand eye co-ordination to manipulate the pencil in the required way ready for early writing.

So remember it's not all about what they can write, it's the journey they have been on to get to that stage. Your tiny creation has mastered lots of play skills before even being able to hold a pencil! Rome wasn't built in a day as the old saying goes!



**In the social jungle of human existence, there is no feeling of being alive without a sense of identity.**

**-Erik Erikson**

### QUOTE CORNER— INDIVIDUALS!

Erik Erikson was a developmental psychologist who believed that in the nature vs nurture debate, nurture and experience develops a human being as opposed to innate factors.

Thinking about our practice today, we encourage all our children to be individuals. There is not one uniform approach that fits all when teaching. We adjust our practice to encourage the children to have the best experience and outcome at Trinket Box.

Some children are confident, others are shy and reserved. No child is the same, they all have their own identity!

The re-vamp of our home area makes it inviting and helps to make the children feel at home. This reassures them to enable their confidence to grow, all part of the school ready process!

## How to Help Your Child



Leading on from the previous article....how can you help your child to be school ready?

When we speak to the schools that we feed at transition time, they ask about the child's self help skills. Can the child go to the toilet by themselves, can they put their coat and shoes on, can they follow simple instructions?

This is why we try to encourage children to manage their own bags, put their drinks in the tray, take their own coats off, change from shoes to wellies and generally be more self sufficient.

Therefore it would be advantageous to help your child be encouraging these skills at home. We are all guilty of 'doing things ourselves because it's quicker' but if you have time to spare, please encourage your child to try to do things for themselves.



## **COMMITTEE FOCUS.....Fundraising Update**



As previously mentioned we do rely on fundraising and tend to have a steady flow of fundraising events throughout the year, as every little helps! You can even shop through easyfundraising and raise funds for us whilst shopping online (that costs you nothing-QR code below).

**Here's a total for some recent events:**

- Halloween Have you Seen (find the item) - £1039.70
- Match fundraiser (through parents place of work) - £295.00
- Donation by KPMG (by parent requesting a charity donation) - £150.00
- Parent donation - £50.00
- Advent Calendars -£11.30
- Presents Under the Tree -£86.00
- Photo commission - £274.42



**Grand total of £1906.42!!**

If you feel you can help in any way by match funding through work, any donation or even an innovative fundraising idea please let us know.

**Thank you, Trinket Box Committee**



## STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH

If you feel that a member of staff has gone over and above the norm, please nominate them for '**Staff Member of the Month**'.

The Committee takes into consideration all the nominations and then awards staff members with the title. Staff at Trinket Box take pride in their work and endeavour to work with you for the benefit of your child. They do have a job role but we feel that often they go over and above that.

Your input DOES count. ALL nominations are read and shared. Nominations can be made using the nomination slips in the foyer, or by email to [annabel@thetrinket.org.uk](mailto:annabel@thetrinket.org.uk) or [natalie@thetrinket.org.uk](mailto:natalie@thetrinket.org.uk)

Thank you

