

WELCOME! We got great feedback from our 1st issue of our **Quacker Times** so didn't hesitate in considering doing it again! We hope you find this edition as enjoyable and informative!



What is the fuss about High/Scope?

In High-Scope, infant and toddler settings staff establish a daily routine that is predictable yet flexible and provides a balance of learning experiences. Here is what each part of the routine looks like. **Group time:** In small group time, staff provide materials for the children to explore and introduce new activities. Children are free to make choices about the materials and how to use them. **Choice Time:** Staff are attentive and offer emotional & physical support to children as they play & explore their environment at their pace. **Outside Time:** This allows children to explore the outdoor world while staff support their exploration & interests. The open area if the play space is used for a wide variety of physical movements, simple games and problem solving as they pursue their own interests.

This Months Theme is...Under the sea!

Have you spotted the new "Monthly Theme " Display board in the hall? Not only does it tell you the theme for the month but it also gives you ideas on different things to talk with your child about to support their learning and develop it further. When the parents and staff work in partnership with each other, the child reaps the benefits!



Annual Inspection: We have been advised by the Early years team (Social Services) that our annual inspection will take place within the month of June. Full details of the inspection are on the notice on the front door to Puddleducks.

Tips for Parents—Potty Training

Although potty training normally occurs between the ages of two and three, the actual time it takes a child to be trained may vary, depending on the potty training readiness of the child. Try not to be pushed by family members or outside pressures into starting the process prematurely and forcing the pace.



One of the most important potty training tips is making sure your toddler is physically, emotionally and developmentally ready for potty training. If your child does not show signs of readiness or a willingness to go through potty training, never use physical or emotional force. It will likely cause problems in the future. Don't be alarmed if your trained toddler slips back into nappies for a while, if there is a major change in the family routine, such as bringing home a new baby or moving into a new home. Regression is normal under these circumstances, and should only be temporary.

Many child development experts have made the following observation regarding the use of pull-up or big-kid style nappies. While handy, they give the child a sense of comfort that actually delays potty training. The toddler is so comfortable, that he or she is not motivated to get out of nappies and into pants. The Puddleducks team will happily advise and support you but just remember that, no matter how frustrated you may get, all children eventually grow out of nappies and will be potty trained when the time is right.



Food for thought

3 step Chicken Risotto!

- 200g Rice per person
- 1 Chicken Stock Cube made up with ½ pt of boiling water
- 4 Chopped cooked chicken fillets
- 1 Onion – Chopped
- 1 Cup of frozen Peas

- 1 Boil rice in stock for 15 – 25 min until cooked
- 2 Add cooked chicken and onions
- 3 Once the rice begins to boil add remaining vegetables and seasoning.

If you try any of the food for thought ideas, take a picture and we'll maybe include in the next newsletter!



Quote of the month

“Minds are like parachutes – they only function when open.”

Thomas Dewar
(1864-1930)



With the summer upon us, please provide a sun hat for your child. It can be left on their peg and used when the children go outside!



I would like to welcome two new staff to the Puddleducks team!! Lindsay is a new Nursery Assistant who will be working in Little Chicks. She has lots of experience in working with young children, and most of it in a day nursery environment.

David is our new cook, his food is going down a treat already with all the children. He has brought with him lots of enthusiasm and some really exciting ideas for the menu. We are delighted to have them on board and look forward to getting to know them more!



Garden developments! Sharon has had a meeting with our maintenance and Facilities manager recently to discuss developing our outdoor area. We have come up with lots of ideas that are going to enhance the space to provide lots more opportunities for the children to develop essential skills as well to provide many new play and learning experiences! Some of the plans discussed are a raised flower bed, extension to the garden area, a work station for potting & planting and a wall mounted drum kit and glockenspiel! We hope for work to start in June and be complete by Mid July!

Is everything going swimmingly with your little duckling?



The parent Questionnaires are now all being collected and the results collated.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete it.

The results will be circulated to all parents and any recommendations will be actioned if appropriate and if possible.

Remember...You can Like us on or follow us on and make sure you (if you haven't already) add a recommendation for Puddleducks to www.daynurseries.co.uk (where we are currently No.1 in Belfast & Co.Antrim!!)

Remember if you have any ideas or suggestions for the newsletter or anything we do in Puddleducks, don't be shy in letting us know!

KEEP CALM AND QUACK ON!