

Everton

Nursery School and Family Centre



www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org



@EvertonNursery



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Connecting with nature

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Liverpool Health & Wellbeing Award



School Improvement Liverpool





Welcome

Dr. Lesley Curtis OBE
Headteacher/Head of Centre

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter and our last Newsletter of the academic year and also sadly for our school leavers, their last Newsletter before they move onto their next schools.

As always at Everton Nursery School and Family Centre we have had a busy academic year working alongside all the restrictions we have had to put in place because of the pandemic. Thank you to all parents and carers that have really supported our staff team throughout this difficult time. We are hoping that the next academic year will have less restrictions.

During the year we have had a number staff who have had babies. Congratulations to Faye O'Connor (Assistant Headteacher) who had twin girls, Hayley Dalton (Community Outreach Worker in the Children's Centre) had a baby boy and Claire Cruikshank (in Spencer 3) had a baby girl. Two other members of staff (Jade Rafferty and Laura Clarke in Cresswell) will be leaving in the next few weeks and months to have their babies. We wish them well.

In this Newsletter you will read lots of activities the children have engaged in over the summer term including sharing information about the allotment, the new outdoor equipment, our awards, plus various activities the children undertake such as woodwork, yoga, Tuning In, Forest School plus how we teach reading and writing. Thank you to all the staff who have contributed in writing the articles to share with the children and their parents/carers. On page 4 you can read the length of time various items take to decompose. For example a plastic bag takes 20 years, a drinks can 200 years and a nappy 450 years!

All staff wish our leavers good luck as they move to their next schools. We look forward to welcoming our returners back to Everton Nursery School and Family Centre on Monday 6th September. All class times will stay as they presently are as this is supporting everyone accessing our site. Any changes will be shared via ParentMail via email so please make sure you check your ParentMail emails.

Have a lovely summer break from school.

Dr. Lesley Curtis OBE
 Headteacher/Head of Centre



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URLEY



Allotment updates



Indoor Heuristic Play



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"Sometimes it can be challenging to juggle school, work, other children, house work and commitments and know what is going on and keep in tune with the latest news and events at school. This app is a godsend!"



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Everton Children's Centre

Outdoor equipment



Rebecca Melia

Assistant Headteacher / SENDCo / Spencer 1 Nursery Teacher

During the Easter holidays, we had new outdoor play equipment installed in our 3-4's outdoor area. This equipment was supplied and installed by Playsound Services Ltd. This new equipment includes an A frame, Twisty Log Walk, Parallel Ropes, Stepping Logs, 2 Balance Beams, 2 Incline Beams, a Wooden Bridge and Climbing equipment.

The aim of this equipment is for children to develop their gross motor skills (Physical Development) through balancing, climbing and navigating their way along the trim trail of activities.



Nursery Staff have observed many children growing in confidence and independence since accessing this equipment. Children are aware of how to assess their own risks and are able to manage their risk effectively when using the equipment.

Trim trail activities are a great method for challenging children physically and mentally as they offer a variety of challenges whilst also being achievable. The equipment encourages independent learning and cooperation between children, as well as building strength and coordination.





Bronze Health and Well-Being Award

Rebecca Melia

Assistant Headteacher / SENDCo / Spencer 1 Nursery Teacher



In March 2021, we achieved our Health and Well-Being Bronze Award with School Improvement Liverpool. This award aims to provide an opportunity to celebrate current whole school good practice, whilst identifying



areas for improvement that will make a difference and demonstrate impact. The Audit completed on the day of the assessment for the award stated: "The staff are all engaged in positive and active healthy eating activities, practical cooking activities and general well-being. All children seemed to be thoroughly enjoying the food at lunchtime and we could see lots of empty plates. The dining hall looked fabulous with flowers, napkins and music on.

Children were encouraged to eat with cutlery rather than their hands which was great to see and the whole environment and atmosphere was really pleasant and sociable. You are all doing an amazing job and it was a really inspirational visit, thank you for having us".

We also had our Catering audit in March 2021 which highlights again the high quality we offer to our children through everyone's involvement in food from breakfast provision, morning snack, lunch, afternoon snack and after school provision.

The award is progressive, therefore we are now in the process of completing the steps to achieve the Silver Health and Well-Being Award.

We have also been successful thanks to Kate Doyle, Nursery Teacher Spencer 2 in gaining a Learning Through Landscapes bid who are a leading UK-based charity dedicated to enhancing outdoor learning and play for children and have accessed £500.00 of resources such as this wooden insect house.

Learning Through Landscapes

Decomposition Rates

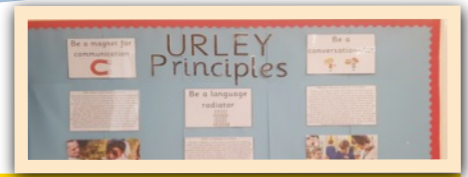
Orange peel 6 months
Paper towel 4 weeks
Apple core 2 months
Milk carton 5 years
Cigarette ends 5 years
Plastic bag 20 years
Tin can 50 years
Drinks can 200 years
Nappies 450 years
Glass bottle undetermined



URLEY



Lyndsey Gardner
Senior Early Childhood Educator (HLTA) / Cresswell 1



I have recently completed the URLEY (Using Research Tools to improve Language in the Early Years) training course which I undertook one afternoon a week over a six-week period.

The course involved using a range of research to look at my own practice, evaluate the class and nursery environments, observe and tune in to children as communicators and the power of shared reading.

Each week I was given a take back task to complete enabling me to put what I had learnt into practice and share my findings with other staff members.

On week one of the course I was shocked to discover the size of the word gap between different social class groups and how this can affect children's learning later on in life. At Everton Nursery School and Family Centre we provide language enriched learning in everything we do but children need to continue to hear words meaningfully and consistently in order to learn the word and use the word themselves in communicating. Therefore there is an importance for parents/carers and nursery staff to share these experiences and continue learning, expanding on what children have learnt.



Over the six-week period I was able to look at my own practice and evaluate language I was using with the children, communication styles, how I used books to enhance children's language and when and where conversations were taking place within the classroom. By doing this I was able to adapt and spend time in different areas with more children and have meaningful conversations. I consider the URLEY training has helped me make improvements within our nursery environment and my own practice. I will continue to use what I have learnt looking back at research and evaluating environments and practice ensuring we can provide the best learning experiences for ALL children who attend Everton Nursery School and Family Centre.



Yoga

Kelly Collins
Early Childhood Educator / Spencer Wing

Children in Spencer 1 and 2 have been attending yoga once a week with our instructor Tony.

Research has shown that yoga can improve focus, memory, self-esteem, academic performance and classroom behavior and can even reduce anxiety and stress in children.

Yoga for children includes poses to increase strength, flexibility and co-ordination. Our yoga classes are fun and rewarding and include age appropriate games, animal sounds and creative names for poses such as frog, rabbit, mountain, tree pose and downward dog.



We end our yoga session with restful relaxation. This allows the children's body and mind to rest and focus on their breathing.



Allotment updates



Kate Doyle
Nursery Teacher Spencer 2



Going into the fourth season on our allotment I am pleased with how everything is shaping up. The children aim to visit the allotment once a week and we prioritise the jobs they have to undertake. Unfortunately, for some weeks during these summer months weeding and watering takes our time away from planting new seeds, and managing our time well has been a constant juggle. However, we have seen so much progress and growth in just a couple of months. Our tomato seeds have formed strong plants with some visible flowers, and they won't be long now until the tasty tomatoes arrive! We had much success with our peas and the children were delighted harvesting, tasting and taking them home to share with their families and our Kitchen Staff.



Towards the end of May we planted our pumpkins, watermelon and sweetcorn plants that we had been growing from seed. These are thriving in our freshly fertilized soil and with additional help from a scarecrow that children made to protect the plants from hungry birds.

Giving our children the chance to connect with nature and grow their own food from seeds has been an incredibly valuable experience. The allotment is a fantastic place to visit to extend classroom based activities as well as a perfect place to provide the opportunities for children to observe and care for nature.





School Displays

Kate Doyle
Nursery Teacher Spencer 2

The display boards around our school building have been updated for the summer term. Unfortunately, due to current school policy and covid restrictions we are aware that parents and carers have not had access to the building to see these wonderful displays that showcase the work and achievements of our children. Therefore, we have attached some photographs of the display boards to share with you in this newsletter. Our displays are a way to celebrate, communicate and inform others about our school values, curriculum and the learning that takes place both inside the classroom and beyond. Please remember to follow our school Twitter page as we use this as a communication tool to connect with our school community and to regularly share relevant news and information about what children have been learning. There are many beautiful photographs added each week that showcase high quality learning and development.



Brain Changer Arts Project



Selma Kesedzic
Cresswell 1 / 2 Nursery Teacher

Throughout the Spring term, Cresswell and Spencer class were provided with the opportunity to access weekly Brain Changer Dance Therapy sessions. Now with Covid-19 restrictions easing we were able to experience the joy of the Dance Therapy sessions face to face! Each programme runs for 12 weeks with hour-long weekly workshops.

The weekly Dance Therapy sessions are possible due to the generous funding from BBC Children In Need. The free workshops harness the power of the arts to help hundreds of young people. The sessions focus on mobility and strength through a range of creative themes that are familiar to the children such as The Lion King and We're Going on a Bear Hunt.



These activities stimulate multiple parts of the brain. Dancing improves motor control and balance and assist with dexterity, hand-eye coordination and memory.



Cresswell class have been attending weekly sessions throughout May and June. The children are encouraged to move their bodies freely in a range of motions and with confidence. Dancing improves motor control and balance. As a physical exercise this can reduce stress and increase serotonin levels which is a hormone linked to our feelings of well-being and happiness.



Physical Development

Selma Kesedzic
Cresswell 1 / 2 Nursery Teacher

At Everton Nursery School and Family Centre, we aim to provide opportunities for young children to be active, interactive and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Throughout the academic year Cresswell and Spencer have been exploring all the wonderful ways they can explore movement with their bodies and to keep active.

Children aged 3 - 6 should spend at least 180 minutes (3 hours) a day undertaking a variety of physical activities spread throughout the day, including active and outdoor play. The more the better. The 180 minutes should include at least 60 minutes of moderate-to-



vigorous intensity physical activity. But research shows that only 10% of children are hitting 180 minute goal.



During Healthy Eating Week this academic year all children across The Nursery School experienced an energetic, fun packed physical week and participated in a range of events such as Walk to School Day, obstacle courses and racing competitions. Rain or shine children dressed appropriately for the weather and became active!

As we come to the end of another academic year, please ensure children remain active over the summer holidays. Here are some easy, fun ways to engage the children this summer...

- Play music and feel the rhythm! Encourage your child to move freely and explore moving their bodies to the beat.
- Exercises such as push-ups, planks, squats or hops in the living room or garden are a great way to challenge your child's core strength and balance.
- Talk about local landmarks in your area such as the Water Tower, Asda, a local primary school or a wind turbine and plan to go on a walk with your child spotting these landmarks as you go! Take a camera with you and document the journey.

In the summer term the children have been learning about making a pattern with their bodies, for example, a hop, jump, clap, star jump, repeat. Encourage your child to create a pattern using their bodies.



Heyworth Learning Experiences



Julie Antonio
Early Childhood Educator (HLTA) / Heyworth Class

Heyworth provides rich learning experiences within the environment both indoors and outdoors. The children access Forest School where they can play, learn and develop in their natural environment.



During the weekly sessions the children are stimulated by the outdoor experience, developing their Physical skills and Communication and Language Development. The children are curious and highly motivated exploring the outdoor environment.



Outdoor Heuristic play is accessed weekly for all children within Heyworth Wing. Heuristic play supports Personal, Social and Emotional Development by providing children with an experience where they can make choices and play autonomously, delighting in the exploration of natural objects.

Appropriate learning materials are provided to allow children to explore and learn independently. Follow us on Twitter @Evertonnursery for weekly updates.



Indoor Heuristic Play

Ellen O' Connell
Early Childhood Educator Heyworth Class

In Heyworth groups of four to six children take part in Heuristic play where they freely explore, investigate and manipulate natural resources.

Undertaking Indoor Heuristic Play gives children the opportunity to experience an environment where they can develop different ways to be creative. This play is an effective way to encourage children to explore the natural resources and materials around them.

Heuristic play develops fine motor skills as children pick up and attempt to manipulate objects. Heuristic play also provides a wide range of sensory stimulation e.g. touch, feel, texture, rough, soft. This experience helps children discover and learn independently.





Tuning-In

Amina Khan
Early Childhood Educator Spencer 2



Tuning-In is a part of In-Harmony Liverpool. In our sessions we have two musicians:

Gareth who plays the Bassoon and Alex who plays the Cello.

During the sessions Gareth and Alex will engage with the children in various ways. At the beginning both musicians will play different tunes in which the children can listen and move to. This encourages their listening and attention skills and also a sense of movement in their bodies.



At each session the group will be provided with one instrument first and they will take turns to explore. The musicians will imitate the sound and action the child makes. This allows the child to communicate with the musician through eye contact, smiles, continuation of actions and positive gestures.



Next the children find the hidden instruments. The children are provided with a range of instruments that they can then explore with their peers and the musicians to create different sounds. Gareth and Alex will continue to imitate and mirror the children's actions. This helps to form a connection between the child and musician.

Through the sessions, children not only develop their communication skills such as listening and attention but also form positive relationships. They begin to understand turn taking, are able to follow instructions and identify different sounds. Most importantly they have the opportunity to express themselves through music.





Woodwork in Spencer 3

Emma Oswell
Early Childhood Educator Spencer 3

Spencer 3 children have worked with Tony Curtis (Carpenter) to create a garage for the children to use within the provision of the classroom.

Firstly, the children and Tony discussed the plans for the garage working out the measurements for each particular section and the materials they needed.

Secondly, they proceeded to build the garage by cutting, gluing and hammering the pieces of wood together. The children used a range of one handed tools including a hammer, screwdriver and handsaws to create the structure.

Lastly was the decision regarding colour. The children took part in discussions about the choice of colours and worked together to decide how they wanted the garage to be finished. The children and Tony worked together to paint and varnish the garage to give the final quality appearance.

The project took Spencer 3 several weeks to complete allowing the children to develop a wide range of woodwork skills and the quality of perseverance.

The children have engaged in lots of play with the garage since completion and often recall how they worked together to assemble the garage demonstrating pride in their achievements.



Educational Visits



Emma-Louise Scott
Nurture Teacher / Spencer 3

Day Educational visits have returned now that Covid 19 guidelines have eased slightly which has brought great joy to all children. Educational visits are an important aspect of our curriculum giving children real life experiences and enhancing an aspect of the Development Matter's framework; Understanding the World.

This summer term Spencer 3 engaged in a gardening topic; planning and designing their planters in our outside area. Children gathered information from books on what flowers and plants they wanted to plant, this sparked our educational visit to the local garden centre. Spencer 3 wrote their shopping list, boarded the minibus and went to the garden centre.



This opportunity allowed Spencer 3 to visually see the flowers and plants they have been researching. Conversation and discussions took place between the children on what they could to buy. Spencer 3 looked closely at the variety of seeds, the size of the plants and the colour of the flowers. Teamwork was vital packing the trolley with an array of horticultural tools, seeds, plants and flowers. Our outside area is now in full bloom; well done Spencer.

Educational visits incorporate all aspects of the curriculum. Sparking conversations, creating understanding, enhancing knowledge and showing high engagement levels from children. This summer term Spencer 3 took their boat topic to the next level. They used the vocabulary learnt during this week and put this into practice. The children researched and read about anchors, boats and ships. However utilising the city we live in gave us a great opportunity, to visit Albert Dock. Spencer 3 spent the morning at Albert Dock on a vocabulary treasure hunt matching their words to real life objects. Albert Dock is filled with maritime history which enabled Spencer 3 to find anchors, see a variety of boats including ferries and a cruise ship that was docked. Spencer 3 read historical statues and plaques about the sailing of the Titanic and the history of Albert Dock. The timing of this educational visit was perfect as the children watched from the pier head the departure of the Stena line, a fantastic finish to the boat topic.



Chickens



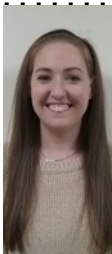
Emma-Louise Scott
Nurture Teacher / Spencer 3



The chicks are all grown up and now hens. The 5 hens have settled well into their home at Everton Nursery School and are looked after with great care by Spencer 3. The hens have daily interactions in the classroom, walks around the school and lots of playful interaction from everyone. Every class, Heyworth, Cresswell, Spencer and Spencer 3 named the hens; Welcome.... Nessa, Rosie, Fiz, Winifred and Sky to the Everton Nursery School family.

Follow our journey from eggs in an incubator, hatching, chicks and now hens search Everton Nursery School and Family Centre on You Tube to watch our Chicken Video diary.





Forest School

Catriona Lewis
Spencer 2 Nursery Teacher



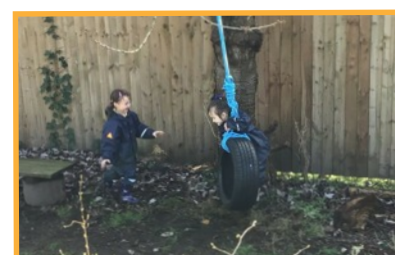
All our classes are keen to explore the Forest School area throughout the year. Engaging in Forest School activities supports play, exploration and risk taking. Forest School develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting. Activities are planned to support the development of the children throughout the seasons. Children are able to experience the changes in the natural environment, noticing how the trees, plants and flowers grow through the year.



The activities that are planned are linked to the 7 areas of learning from the EYFS Development Matters, supporting the whole child's development. From changing into waterproofs and wellies to working together during activities, each area from Physical



Development to Communication and Language is included during each session.



This year the activities have included collecting and

sorting leaves in the Autumn. Children collected a range of leaves from Forest School and were able to use these to develop their mathematical skills, sorting them into different colours and sizes staff also used an app on the iPad to search for an image of the leaves to discover which tree they came from.

The children have developed team work skills, working together to climb onto and push each other on the tyre swing. The children gave each other lots of encouragement and demonstrated confidence and persistence.

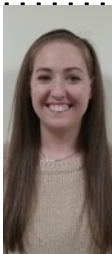
During the Spring term, the children were able to plant wild flower seeds. They explored what the flowers would need to grow and the tools they would need to plant them. Children have seen shoots of the wild flowers begin to grow through the soil, encouraging children to take care where they were playing and sharing their excitement of watching seeds they had planted.

Making our own natural paint using charcoal.
#Spencer2class #Nature #ForestSchool #EarlyYears
#outdoorlearning



Teaching letters and sounds

Catriona Lewis
Spencer 2 Nursery Teacher



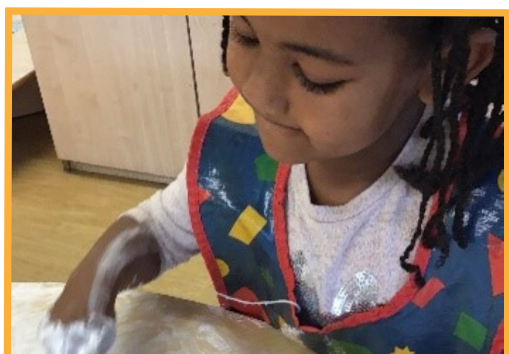
At Everton Nursery School, children engage in their learning through their interests. Teachers use these interests to plan active and creative learning experiences that develop children's listening and attention skills. As a Nursery School, we use guidance from Phase 1 and Phase 2 'Letters and Sounds', which focuses on the teaching and learning of instrumental and environmental sounds. For children who are more confident in linking sounds to letters and who are at the early stages of reading, they are challenged in their learning through the introduction of more age and stage appropriate learning opportunities both indoors and outdoors.



Nursery staff read and share a broad range of books with the children that focus on both fiction, and non-fiction text. Nursery staff challenge children's phonetical knowledge through the introduction and engagement of different writing genres so that children gain a deep and secure understanding of letters, sounds, words, text and information.



Children in the Nursery School classes engage in daily 'Teacher Input sessions' through which concepts such as rhythm and rhyme are developed further. Throughout the indoor and outdoor learning environments, children have the opportunity to explore a range of high quality resources to continuously develop their knowledge of letters and, in turn, their sounds.



Experiences such as 'In Harmony' with the Liverpool Philharmonic musicians on-site and Music and Movement within the Nursery Staff also support children's ability to tune in to sounds.



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