

# Everton

Nursery School and Family Centre



[www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org](http://www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org)



@EvertonNursery



0151 233 1969

# Sensory Garden

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**Dr. Lesley Curtis OBE**  
Headteacher/Head of Centre

# Welcome



Dear Parents and Carers, As we come to the end of the summer term, it is with sadness that we say goodbye to children who are leaving us this summer to go onto their next schools around Liverpool. Some of the children I have known since they joined us at two years of age and before through joining activities in the Children's Centre as a baby and toddler. Seeing the children grow and develop has been a pleasure to observe for myself and the staff team. We have also said goodbye to Jade Dumbell (Deputy Children's Centre Co-ordinator) and welcomed Angela McConville into this role, with Joanne Evans starting in September as the SEN Disability Worker for the Children's Centre. We have four staff presently on maternity leave, two have had their babies (Rebecca Morgan in Spencer had a baby girl and Laura Clarke in Heyworth had a baby boy), two are awaiting their babies in July and September. We wish them all well.



The summer term has been very busy with the children engaging in lots of activities whether educational visits to develop projects such as our Sensory Garden and Allotment or undertaking tasks in the outdoors. The staff continue to provide high quality learning experiences for the children as acknowledged in our recent Ofsted Report (May 2024). Governors and I are delighted that HMI recognised our school as Outstanding. The staff have worked very hard in developing a curriculum that supports all children in their learning. Governors were recognised for being *'resolutely focused on providing outstanding education and exemplary support for the pupils, parents, carers and staff of the school.'*

If your child is returning in September, our return date is Tuesday 3rd September for all returning children into their new classes. If you require new uniform, please collect before Friday 19th July as there will be no-one to pass this to you until Tuesday 3rd September as the school section of the site will be closed. New children will start from Wednesday 4th September onwards. We are still looking for another parent governor, so if you are interested please contact me on [evertonnsc@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:evertonnsc@evertoncentre.liverpool.sch.uk) I wish everyone a lovely summer whatever you do, with hopefully some sunshine? Many thanks for all your support to the children and staff at Everton Nursery School and Family Centre.

Dr. Lesley Curtis OBE.

# Summer 2024 Contents



**Contact information**

-  [www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org](http://www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org)
-  @EvertonNursery
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-  Search Everton Nursery School and Family Centre
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**Kate Doyle**

Nursery Teacher Spencer 2

# Sensory Garden

Throughout this academic year children from Spencer 2 class have been working collaboratively to transform an unused plot of land within our school grounds into a sensory garden. This has involved the children learning about our senses of sight, smell, touch, taste and sound and then working



creatively to provide a space that stimulates each of these senses. We took some inspiration from our educational visit to Everton Nature garden and children created their own individual design plans.

The children have reclaimed materials to construct a mini beast hotel, decorative mobiles, rain gauges, a water station and sensory tyres. They have had the opportunity to work alongside our Assistant Site Manager Tom Moore and have used a variety of tools including, hammers, saws and even a power drill. The area has been filled with sounds, scents and textures, designed to stimulate the senses and provide a relaxing outdoor experience for the children.



continued



Several children visited B&Q to buy resources including guttering, pipes, stones and plants and so far, we

have planted wildflower seeds, lavender, rosemary, mint, basil, thyme, sunflowers and beans. The wooden structures, designed and constructed by Tom break up the space and offer opportunities for hanging materials and resources that the children make in class or during our woodwork sessions. The children are all interested in watching how their mobiles blow in the wind, and are keen to run through



the long ribbons that hang from the canes. The creation of this environment does not end here, as the projects will continue with the planting of more aromatic plants. We would like to add more elements to this project so that new generations can also enjoy the Sensory Garden as much as we have. Congratulations and well done to Spencer 2 children for all of their hard work.



**Julie Antonio**

Senior Early Childhood Educator (HLTA)

## Heyworth 'Stay and Play'

This year in Heyworth class we have offered termly sessions for parents to come in to the classroom and play together with their children. The stay and play sessions are an opportunity for parents to see how their child chooses to play and the resources they like to use. The stay and play sessions are also an opportunity to talk with your child's family worker about the progress they are making in nursery. Thank you to all parents who continue to attend stay and play sessions and play with their child. As all children grow and develop they will play in lots of different ways. Psychologists and experts have identified a number of styles of play that children engage in, which are key parts of their development.

Did you know there are six different styles of play?

**1. Unoccupied Play.** Unoccupied play may not look like play at all. Unoccupied play is when newborns and infants use their senses to explore the world and their place in it. Kicking their legs, trying tummy time or putting their hands and feet into their mouths are some examples of unoccupied play.

**2. Solitary Play.** At this stage of play, children will play alone without interaction with others. At this stage, your child is still trying to figure out their place in the world and their impact on the environment. Your child may play with toys, stack blocks, or read books. They'll touch, taste and play with any object that catches their attention, and might even talk out loud as they do it. If your child is shy, you might find that they default to a more solitary play style more often."



**3. Spectator / Onlooker Play.** Spectator play is just like it sounds - children watch and observe others, without joining in themselves. This is a really interesting phase as your child learns so much from watching other children. As well as learning some of the “social rules” around play and how to set it up, they’re also getting to know how to interact with others.

**4. Parallel Play.** This is one of the most fascinating stages of play. At this stage, children play alongside each other with little to no engagement. They might have a small chat, observe one another and even copy what the other is doing. However, they aren’t playing together to achieve a mutual goal. This is a natural evolution from onlooker play, as children go from being on the edge to being closer to the action. It’s strongly linked to your child’s social development, as at this stage they are not yet ready to share or take turns with others. As a parent, you might be tempted to encourage children to play together during this type of play, but your child picks up lots of crucial information through this interaction.



**5. Associative Play.** It is during this fifth stage of play when children interact and chat with each other. They’ll still be focused on their own ideas and goals. However, they will chat with the other children around them and share toys or other materials as they go. This type of play can only happen when your child’s language and social skills are at a certain level. Every child will reach this stage at different times.

**6. Cooperative Play.** Cooperative play is when children’s play becomes more complex and interactive. What they learn during this type of play is something children will use later in life when they go to school, do group work and get a job. In cooperative play, children are more empathetic towards others’ needs. Their play is usually sophisticated and intricate. Try to follow your child’s lead if you are playing with them. Every child is different and prefers certain play styles over others. Children may play differently at home than in nursery. If there is something that concerns you about the way your child plays, especially if it’s linked to other areas of their development, talk to your child’s Family Worker.





**Emma-Louise Scott**  
Nurture Teacher

## Educational visits

Throughout this academic year Spencer 3 have taken part in an array of educational visits. These real life experiences are an important part of our curriculum; enhancing children's learning and creating wonderful memories.

In the Autumn term Spencer 3 have been exploring their local environment and embarking on local area walks.



This educational visit was influenced by nursery rhyme week and the nursery rhyme, 'The wheels on the bus'. Spencer 3 children visited the local area to spot buses. Spencer 3 children saw many buses including double decker's. A bus driver even blew his horn and waved at Spencer 3. During this visit we also explored the importance of road safety and walking safely on the footpath.

During the Spring term Spencer 3 celebrated and learnt about Chinese New Year. In order to give a better insight into this celebration as a class we took a trip to China town. The children saw the many decorations, wall art, symbols and vibrant colours during this visit. This educational visit was influenced by our cultural and diversity curriculum.





continued



During the Summer term Spencer 3 visited the World Museum Liverpool. This educational visit was influenced by a PLOD, 'people' in my family worker group.

My family worker group travelled by minibus to the World Museum to discover and explore an array of exhibits.



Spencer 3 spent time following the River Nile, travelling through the ancient Egypt level and observing the many photos and displays of people throughout history.



**Maria Edge**

Senior Early Childhood Educator(HLTA)

## Outdoor Learning is Fun



**In Spencer class we have spent a lot of time outside in Forest School, the Peace Garden, Allotment and Sensory Garden.**

Some children prefer to learn whilst outside as there are less boundaries or expectations and a sense of freedom.

The children have developed their gross motor skills by using climbing and

balancing equipment in our outdoor area. We have incorporated two wheeled bicycles and encouraged children to use them to enhance balance and perseverance.

The children have taken their indoor learning outside by searching for minibeasts in Forest School and observing how the tadpoles have developed into frogs by visiting the Peace Garden learning about water safety and lifecycles.

**In Forest School our traditional tales' topic The Three Billy Goats Gruff was extended**

**as we hunted for different trolls that where hidden in trees and bushes.**

The children experienced a campfire learning about fire safety and keeping ourselves safe, making their own risks assessment as they rolled down hills and used the tyre swings.

Our planting and growing topic was also transferred to the outdoors as the children had planted seeds which were then transitioned to the Peace Garden and Allotment.

The children still visit these areas to observe changes in the seeds they planted.





**Kelly Collins**  
Early Childhood Educator

# Yoga



**Children in Spencer 1 and 2 take part in weekly Yoga sessions taught by our instructor Tony.** Research has shown that yoga can improve focus, memory, self-esteem, academic performance and classroom behaviour and can even reduce anxiety and stress in children.



Yoga postures encourages whole brain learning and memory retention as children learn with their bodies and helps to improve coordination and balance.

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. Throughout the yoga session the children learn that exercise is a good and an important activity to engage in, making them healthier by boosting the immune system.



The yoga session ends with restful relaxation exercise. This allows the children's body and mind



to rest and focus on their breathing and help improve concentration and attention.





**Catriona McDonough**  
NurseryTeacher

## Traditional Tales

Throughout the academic year, we have had a half termly focus on various traditional tales. Spencer class have shown a keen interest in these traditional stories and engaged in activities both indoors and outdoors each time. We began the Autumn term with Jack and the Beanstalk, building castles for the giant and houses for Jack and his mum. We collected leaves to create our own beanstalks, threading them onto string developing their fine motor control. The children were able to use the phrases including "fee, fi, fo, fum" in their play, using puppets to retell the story, enabling them to understand story structure and story characters.



During the Spring term we shared Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We explored the concepts of 'three' along with developing our language of size; 'small', 'medium' and 'big'. Spencer class spent extended periods retelling the story, using props such as bowls, spoons

and chairs of different sizes to set up their own Three Bears cottage. We added porridge to our play, scooping the porridge out for each of the bears.



Our story during the Summer term was The Three Billy Goats Gruff. Spencer continued to develop their language, using "Who's that trip trapping over my bridge?" when sharing the story. The children were fully engrossed in this story, building bridges both indoors and outdoors, then taking on the roles of goats and the troll as they re-enacted



the story. During our Forest School sessions, we explored the character of the troll, what he looks like and what type of person he is. We created our own trolls using clay, decorating them

with natural objects such as bark, leaves and grass. We also went on a troll hunt, searching for trolls around the logs and trees. Over the year, Spencer have continued to develop their language, using language from each book when



retelling the stories and using repeated refrains. We have engaged in imaginative play, pretending to be characters from the story and using props such as puppets in our play which has both stimulated and extended the children's learning. .

The children have developed their knowledge of characters and settings of the different stories and are able to talk about how they are the same or different. Spencer have shown great enthusiasm when engaging with Traditional Tales this year, we hope they are able to share this with you at home too!



# Sensory Session

For you and your Baby 0 - 18 months



**Fridays**  
10.00 am - 11.00 am.

# Toddler Yoga



**Fridays 1.30pm - 2.30pm**

Fun classes to introduce toddlers to the wonders of Yoga and the amazing possibilities of their growing bodies. Stories and activities included. (Bookable)

To book, please contact reception or phone  
0151 233 1969



Toilet training is a stage of development and children need to learn how to do this in the same way as learning to walk and talk. Between 8-20 months children should be able to start communicating bladder and bowel movements. Between 16-26 months children should show awareness of bladder and bowel urges and what a potty/toilet is used for. There are a number of signs to look for to show that your child is starting to develop bladder control and is developmentally ready.

- They know when they have got a wet or soiled nappy
- They know when they need a wee and may say so in advance
- Awareness of a soiled nappy and you may see them pulling a “pooh” face
- Wanting to be changed when wet and soiled (some children are quite happy in a wet/soiled nappy)
- Able to understand and follow simple instruction e.g. “Throw the ball”
- Able to remain dry for around 2 hours at a time
- Can do simple role play e.g. “feed the doll”

We would **NOT** recommend using pull ups at nursery as they can confuse children and they are an unnecessary expense. When starting nursery we would encourage you to bring plenty of spare underwear, clothing and shoes if your child has accidents.

Top Tips for toilet training over the summer.

The summer holidays can be a great time to practise some of the skills needed for toilet training.

1. Try and establish the length of time this takes for your child to have a drink and then empty their bladder. If your child go one hour without emptying their bladder this is a good indicator that they are ready and will help you plan for toilet trips when out and about.
2. Plan through the day set times to take your child to the toilet. If you ask your child “would you like to go to the toilet” you will most likely be met with a “No.” It is important that you tell your child it is time for toilet “Toilet time”.
3. Have toys/books in the bathroom or by potty that are for use at toilet time to help distract your child and help to keep calm in sometimes stressful situations.
4. Use lots of praise and encouragement “I’m so proud of you doing your wee on the toilet”. When your child has an accident simply say “Uh oh, you had an accident. Let’s clean it up. Maybe next time you can do your wee on the toilet.” If your child sits on toilet and am unable to go still praise your child for trying.
5. Give you child the opportunity to practise pulling up and down their own trousers.

Give your child nappy free time each day as having a nappy on all day every day can delay toilet training as the nappies can be very absorbent.

# Everton Children's Centre Summer Timetable 2024



Week commencing July 22nd		
Tuesday 23rd	10:00am-11:00am	Queen of Greens Bus
Tuesday 23rd	1:00pm- 2:00pm	Under 1's Stay and Play
Wednesday 24th	9:30am- 11:30am	Baby Weighing Clinic
Wednesday 24th	1:00pm- 2:00pm	Stay and Play 1 - 3 year olds
Thursday 25th	10:30am-11:30am	Pool Session
Friday 26th	10:30am-11:30am	Pool Session
Week commencing July 29th		
Monday 29th	10:30am-12:00pm	Mighty Movers
Tuesday 30th	10:30am-12:00pm	Tiny Tasters
Tuesday 30th	10:00am-11:00am	Queen of Greens Bus
Wednesday 31st	9:30am- 11:30am	Baby Weighing Clinic
Thursday 1st	10:30am-11:30am	Pool Session
Friday 2nd	10:30am-11:30am	Pool Session
Week commencing August 5th		
Monday 5th	10:30am-12:00pm	Mighty Movers
Tuesday 6th	10:30am-12:00pm	Tiny Tasters
Tuesday 6th	10:00am-11:00am	Queen of Greens Bus
Wednesday 7th	9:30am- 11:30am	Baby Weighing Clinic
Wednesday 7th		Activity to be announced
Week commencing August 12th		
Monday 12th	10:30am-12:00pm	Mighty Movers
Tuesday 13th	10:30am-12:00pm	Tiny Tasters
Tuesday 13th	10:00am-11:00am	Queen of Greens Bus
Wednesday 14th	9:30am- 11:30am	Baby Weighing Clinic
Thursday 15th	At the Bandstand 11:30am-1:00pm	Teddy Bears Picnic (Stanley Park)
Friday 16th	10:30am-11:30am	Pool Session
Week commencing August 19th		
Monday 19th	10:30am-12:00pm	Mighty Movers
Tuesday 20th	10:30am-12:00pm	Tiny Tasters
Tuesday 20th	10:00am-11:00am	Queen of Greens Bus
Wednesday 21st	9:30am- 11:30am	Baby Weighing Clinic
Thursday 22nd	10:30am- 11:30am	JOJO's Active Bears

**15** All sessions must be booked contact reception or phone 0151 233 1969

Activities are available for **children aged 5 and under**. We do allow older children to attend with their younger sibling.