

Nile Grove Playgroup at Greenbank

www.nilegroveplaygroup.co.uk 07505366580

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We extend a warm welcome to any new families joining us at Playgroup.

Reflecting on the term so far.....

It's only February but we have already been up to lots of things at playgroup. We have been learning about things that fly, like birds. We made fantastic bird feeders. We have also been making colourful kites. We will be creating Valentine's themed crafts in the coming weeks.

Do let us know if you think Panda might be able to assist your child in learning to do something new. Some of the children like to bring in a toy each morning to put into panda's box. If you think this might help your child settle, then please encourage your child to choose a toy for Panda at playgroup.

Thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas Raffle. We raised £693!

Up and coming events:

Nile Grove Obstacle Course (w/c 29th Feb) is the perfect way to raise money for the playgroup. Children will have the opportunity to take part in various simple activities. This event has been running for several years and is always popular with participating children and the adult audience! All families will be given a sponsor form. There will be a prize for the child who raises the most money. You will be able to come along and watch your child and cheer them on.

A **Summer Social Evening (Sat 21st May)** will be held to raise funds for playgroup. More details will follow but in advance of this event, we would like to get as many prizes as we can, so if you have any connections to local businesses/tradespeople etc, please tell the playgroup staff as soon as possible so that we can get this aspect organised.



Important Dates

Obstacle course:

w/c 29th Feb 2016

More details will follow!

Social Evening:

Saturday 21st May 2016

Half Term break:

Monday 15th – Friday 19th
February 2016



Advertising Convenor required!

Can you help? This is especially important to the running of the playgroup. Without children (or staff), there would not be a playgroup! If you think you could offer help in this way, please contact Kirsty for a job description.

In addition, can ALL families please continue to spread the word about the playgroup as some days are particularly low on numbers. Flyers are available from staff - just ask!



NILE GROVE
PLAYGROUP
AT GREENBANK

Childcare for 2½ - 5 year olds

9.15 - 11.45 am every week day during term time

£8.50 for 2 ½ hours

Nile Grove Playgroup is a great place for your child to take their first steps towards independence, to socialise and play with other children!

For more information see our website: www.nilegroveplaygroup.co.uk
or call **07505 366 580** during playgroup hours

A great way to market Nile Grove is via Netmum's. We have an information page on the website where you can write a review and this is where several of our parents have learned about Nile Grove. If you would like to share your experience of the playgroup, simply visit:
<http://www.netmums.com/edinburgh/local/view/education/playgroups-pre-schools-and-nursery-schools/nile-grove-community-playgroup>

New website

You will shortly receive an email with details of the new website and fb page. Please share these sites/pages accordingly to raise awareness of the playgroup.

Facebook

If you haven't already done so, and you use facebook, can you please 'like' the page to raise awareness. This will help generate interest in local communities.

Fees ££

Thank you to everyone for paying your fees so promptly. As we are a small charity, it is really important that we can gather these in quickly to allow us to meet our regular costs, including rent and staff salaries.

Other ways you can support Playgroup

Nile Grove receives no State funding and to keep running we rely upon regular voluntary giving by parents for additional costs that are not covered by fees, e.g. new toys, art resources.

- You can make a donation using our BT MY Donate page. We ask that everyone donates £20 per term (or £60 a year), or as much as they are able. Donating online is the best way to give to Playgroup as we can automatically recover the tax through Giftaid, allowing us to raise an extra 28p for every £1 you donate. If you are not currently a UK tax payer, please consider asking any tax payer in your household to make the donation. To donate, go to www.nilegroveplaygroup.co.uk, then click on Make a Donation in the left hand menu. This will take you to our BT My Donate page: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/nilegrovecommunityplaygroup> Click on Donate Now on the right hand side and fill in the two-page online form.
- If you would prefer to do so, you can also donate in cash or by cheque (made out to Nile Grove Community Playgroup) and leave this in the Donations box on the desk at Playgroup.
- Easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores including Argos, Next, Debenhams, John Lewis, Toys R Us, HMV and over 2000 others. Just use the links on the easyfundraising site whenever you shop online and, at no extra cost to you, we will receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It's completely FREE and you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers offer discounts exclusive to easyfundraising. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/ngcp> and select Nile Grove Community Playgroup - Edinburgh when you register.

Did you know you can pay for Playgroup using Childcare Vouchers?

If you would like to pay your playgroup fees using childcare vouchers please see our notice board for more information or contact Vanessa. Childcare vouchers are a government scheme operated through employers that allow you to pay for childcare from your PRE-tax salary.

Rota Duty

Thank you to everyone for all your wonderful help on your duty days, we couldn't run without you!

A few points to remember:

Rota duty starts at 8.40am. If you cannot make that time, please inform staff PRIOR to your duty day.

If you can't make your rota duty day, it is your responsibility to swap. If you have no success or it is last minute, please call the playgroup mobile (07505366580) or email (nilegroveplaygroup@googlemail.com) asap. Insufficient adult to child ratios means that playgroup has to close so it is important to prevent this as much as is practically possible.

We ask that parents do as many duties per term as days their child attends per week, e.g. if your child attends for three mornings per week, you will need to do 3 sessions of duty each term. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up on the notice board this term.

When you are on duty it would be lovely if you could bring in your child's favourite book to share with the group at story time.

And finally.....

Please send in **one box of tissues each term** for runny noses!

Please send in a **kitchen roll each term**, for drying hands. This is a recommendation, following the recent Care Inspectorate report.

Both are hugely appreciated!

A heartfelt thanks, as ever, to the Nile Grove Staff for their continued care and commitment.

Thank you to the whole Nile Grove community, for their efforts, in many ways, to make Nile Grove a great community resource for our little ones.

