

# Nile Grove Playgroup at Greenbank

[www.nilegroveplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.nilegroveplaygroup.co.uk) 07505366580

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Dear Parents,

As the academic year is coming to an end and we say goodbye to many children, it is a time to reflect on the last year and look forward to the summer holidays. To everyone who is leaving playgroup, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all good luck in your new settings and thank you for the support you have given to the playgroup. For everyone who is returning we will continue to plan and provide appropriate, realistic experiences that build on the children's interests while we laugh and have fun. Enjoy your summer break.

Best wishes, Nile Grove team x

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## What's happening at Nile Grove.....

As a team we are all working together to ensure that on a daily basis the playroom offers a wide range of activities to meet the needs of all the children. The children have been learning about the Life Cycle of Frogs, rote counting from 1 -5 through songs and poetry and we have been talking about trips to the seaside and what we might find on the beach. As a team we would like to encourage your child to bring in and share one of their special books. Thank you.

## Puddle Play

We are always thinking of ways to encourage the children to play outside in all weathers and improve facilities in the garden. Puddle Play is a fantastic way to expend energy –running, splashing and jumping as well using equipment like watering cans and buckets to fill and pour and experiment with the flow of water. By using natural materials like leaves, twigs and stones the children learn about floating and sinking. Personal care and safety, imaginative play and finding out about reflection and the weather ..... the list is endless. Over the next few months we will be building up our resources and starting to offer this activity to the children. Any donations of waterproof suits and wellies would be a great way to get us started.

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## Important Dates

### End of Term

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### Start of next Term

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016

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## End of term party

We will be holding the end of term party on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016 which all children are invited to. All children should arrive at 10am for lots of fun and a bite to eat. The party will finish at the normal time of 11.45am but please remember to come back at 11.30am if you would like to see the staff presentation. If anyone has not replied about whether their child will attend the party, please do so ASAP as we need to ensure we have enough parent helpers.

## Committee

Nile Grove Playgroup is a charity and as such we require a management committee to operate. Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who has been on the committee this year for your continued effort and support. It really is appreciated and the playgroup could not run without the continued support of parents. As most of the committee are no longer going to be at playgroup we are recruiting for new members from August 2016. Thank you to parents who have signed up already and please have a look at the roles we are trying to fill and let us know if you can help. The noticeboard in the cloakroom has a short description about each of the roles and we hope to have a full committee by September 2016.

## Fees

From August 2016 fees will be increasing from £8.50 to £9.25 per session. Snack payment will remain the same.

As we are a small charity, it is really important that fees are paid on time to allow us to meet our regular costs, including rent and staff salaries. Fees are due on the first day of the new term that your child attends. We thank you for your assistance with this.

## Deposit

Nile Grove will be introducing a £50 deposit for all new starts from August 2016. The deposit will be refunded in the first terms fees and can be paid by cash, cheque, bank transfer or in a branch. We have seen an increase in people declining places once administrative costs have already been incurred and the deposit will ensure the playgroup are not bearing these costs.

## Rota Duty

Thank you to everyone who completed their rota duties this term and to everyone who has put their name down for next term. The new rota is now on the noticeboard so please sign up before the end of term. If you have not put your name down by then, you will be allocated days to be on duty. If these do not suit, it is your responsibility to swap them with another parent. Please remember to take a note of when you are signed up for duty.

## PVG

Thank you for your understanding and support in the new requirements to PVG check anyone who will be carrying out rota duty in Nile Grove. This will allow the playgroup to ensure we are safeguarding children as per the recommendations from the Care Inspectorate and Early Years Scotland. Thank you to those of you who have already met with Kirsty to complete your PVG application and for those who have not, please try to bring in your documents by Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June. If you will be unable to bring in your documents by then, please contact Kirsty and she will arrange a suitable time over the summer to meet with you.

## Parent Questionnaire

A parent questionnaire will be sent to you in the next few days through survey monkey. Please could you take some time to complete it as we rely on feedback to improve the playgroup and we value your opinions. All responses will remain anonymous. Thank you.

## Fundraising

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](http://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 the treasurer. Childcare vouchers are a government scheme operated through employers that allow you to pay for childcare from your PRE-tax salary.