

Proposal for Outside Space Usage for Visions Children's Centre

Background

Visions Children's Centre is funded by Rutland County Council based in Oakham attached to the Library. The Children's Centre service aims to improve the well-being of young children aged 0 to 5 years and their families, focusing on those with the greatest level of need. The service provides support to help ensure children are well prepared for school and that parent and carers grow their parenting capacity. Early research findings on the developmental impact of the pandemic indicate that children 0-3 years of age from disadvantaged families have been most negatively impacted.

Rutland County Council are using the main offices for the Vaccination programme which has meant that the Visions Children's Centre has had to be used for essential services and focussed families. Currently we do not have access to our indoor playroom or outside area for the majority of the week.

Proposal

In order to support families who have felt very isolated during the pandemic we want to run two outside COVID compliant courses for 6 weeks for 40 minutes open air play sessions for 15 adults and 15 under 3s from early May. If this is not possible, we would like to begin these sessions in June.

The sessions would include a story time, music fun and movement in an outdoor socially distanced environment.

The days and times which we need to use the area twice a week are Monday first choice- am 9.3--11.00 or Wednesday 2nd choice 9.30-11.00, and Thursday 2pm – 3pm.

As with all services the Centre provides the sessions are **free to Rutland Families**.

Aims and Objectives of sessions

Figures from the Early Years Foundation Stage Profiles show that by the age of five, nearly one in four children do not reach the expected level in language and communication skills and a fifth fall short of the expected level in personal, social and emotional development. This course lays the foundation for children to achieve their future EYFS: Communication and Language goals: Listening, Attention and Understanding and Speaking.

Aims Increased Self – confidence and self – awareness of children. Improved speech development, sound recognition, and rhythm and rhyme. Children develop skills to remember information. Includes a simple story lots of interactive singing fun. The sessions use music as a tool to enrich and enhance the learning of children. The session would also aim to help Parents wellbeing and enable parents to connect with others in their local community.

What we need

An outside area with easy access to Oakham centre. Most parents will walk to sessions, but if there is car parking nearby it would also be beneficial.

A trained professional with current DBS will be running the session. They will do a health and safety check before they start. The parents will be responsible for their own children during the session. A risk assessment would be completed prior to the activity taking place and could be submitted.

I would submit the name of the practitioner in advance and contact number. Parents will be asked to bring their own blanket. Only parents that have prebooked can attend.