

Welcome to the December edition of Chat about Childcare

This has been another busy term for many of our services, and I know that many of you will be enjoying the Christmas celebrations of parties, nativities and concerts.

In this edition some of you have shared the events, activities and experiences that you have been part of this autumn. We are always interested in hearing from you and sharing your practice, so please get in touch and tell us your story.

We have given you some information on upcoming events over the next year, and ideas to help you plan experiences for the children that you're working with.

I hope you enjoy this edition and share it with colleagues, parents and friends.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy 2016.

Jea E. M'Kean

Councillor Jean McKeown
Chair, South Lanarkshire Early Years and
Childcare Partnership

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: 0303 123 1015 Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

"On parles français!" at Crosshouse Nursery

Children at Crosshouse Primary School and Nursery Class in East Kilbride are starting young to learn French. Pre school nursery and Primary One children come together twice a week to learn greetings, numbers, colours, days of the week, weather and what it's like to go to school in France. They are learning language through songs, rhymes, active games and inter active programmes using ICT.

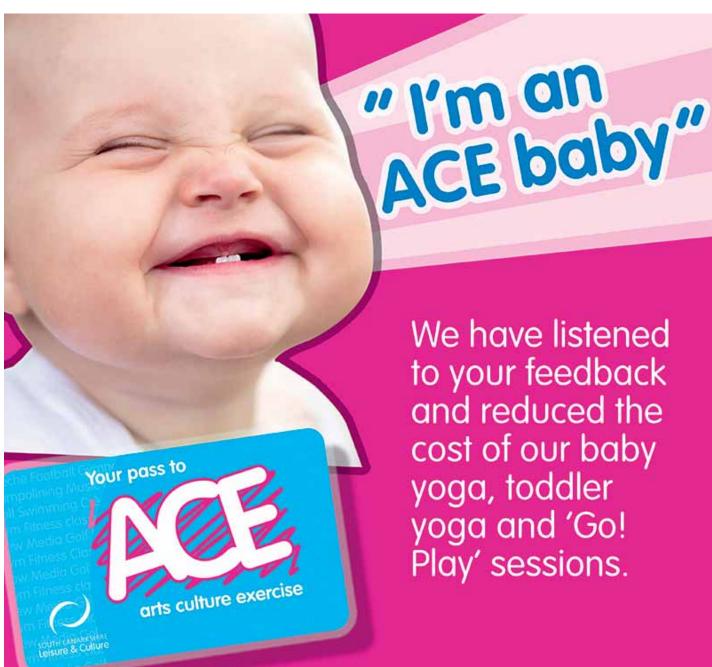
The school has introduced a "French Day" to their annual events calendar and this has proved a great success. Every class in the school, from nursery to P7 took part and experienced many different activities, including a visit to le café du Croix maison to sample some French delicacies.

Crosshouse - "C'est formidable!!"

For further information, please contact Crosshouse nursery on 01355 245300.







We have listened to your feedback and reduced the cost of our baby yoga, toddler yoga and 'Go! Play' sessions.

Now £2.90 per session (£1.45 concession) or FREE with an ACE membership.



www.slleisureandculture.co.uk





Woodland Badge

When you are out in the woods with your little one, why not make a woodland badge?

- Make a mini memento of your journey
- Name each item as you thread it onto the string, and let your Nature Detective hold them
- How many different items will you find?

When you get home, make a natural mobile using the items you find.

Leaf Collecting

Choose leaves of different shapes, sizes, colours and textures. Are they rough, smooth, prickly?

Collect the leaves together and make a collage. You can also make a leafy crown. Try collecting fallen petals in the spring and summer months and make your own flowers.

Hedgerow Hunt

Search among the leaves, grass and brambles, use your senses, what can you hear, see, touch and smell? Does anything else make their home in the hedgerows?

Go hunting on a frosty morning and spot glittering spider webs in the hedgerows.

Create a spooky nature scene

Black paper is great for creating super contrasts and sparkly pictures. Use chalk, glitter and bright paints to make a night time scene. Try materials like leaves and abandoned spider webs to create a spooky collage.

Twig Hunt Adventure

Look for twigs on the ground. Can you find twigs that birds might use to build their nests. Try finding your favourite twigs and collect them all together, what will you make from them?



Caterpillar Hunt

Go on a caterpillar hunt and see how many you can spot. Look under leaves and on plant stems to spot caterpillars. Make sure you don't touch or pick up caterpillars as they can be very delicate, and they can also make your skin itch.

Sound Safari

Nature is noisy. Find a quiet spot, stand still and listen carefully. What can you hear? Tweeting, squelching, shuffling, rustling and buzzing?

Can you hear insects, birds and trees?

Mini Beast Mansion

Find a good spot where all sorts of creatures might like to live. Some like dark, damp places, and some prefer bright and sunny spots. Gather sticks, moss, leaves, bark and other woodland items together and start building a home for mini beasts.

Match the Track

Look out for foot prints in soft ground. It's best to spot tracks in snow or after a rain shower. An information sheet showing tracks to look out for can be downloaded from the Woodland Trust Website:

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/



(rub tummy)
Was looking for his lunch
(hand to forehead, looking)

He grabbed that snowman's carrot nose

Nibble! Nibble! Crunch!! (pretend to eat carrot)

Outdoors in Winter

Country Parks.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE Leisure & Culture

www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/events/

Looking for opportunities to get out and about this winter?

Check out the different activities / groups and places throughout the year, www.elament.org.uk/greenspace.aspx

The web portal gives information on different play parks and Country Parks in both North and South Lanarkshire. Being outdoors is a great excuse to get wrapped up and explore the different sensory and visual wintery delights that nature has to offer!









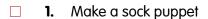
Christmas



30 things to do



before you're 3



2. Draw and colour a saltire on St Andrew's Day – the 30th November

3. Drop sticks in the river and watch them float down stream

4. Use your fingers to draw a picture in condensation on a window

5. Help mum and dad make chocolate apples (or another fruit), and get messy eating them afterwards!

6. Kick up colourful fallen leaves

7. Snuggle under a blanket for bedtime stories

8. Make a pompom

9. Eat a marshmallow toasted by mum or dad

10. Collect sticks and make a stick man

☐ 11. Go singing in the rain

12. Make an egg head - plant cress seeds in egg shells, draw on a cheeky face and watch it grow green hair

 \square **13.** Help mum or dad bake biscuits

☐ **14.** Tuck into a bowl of warming winter soup

□ **15.** See your breath on a cold winter morning

☐ **16.** Turn an unused glove into a cuddly, little bear

□ **17.** Spot a red robin

18. Dig out your wellies, jump in a puddle and make a splash!

19. Get playful in the bath with soap and suds

20. Get messy **making fingertip paintings** of your family

21. Go on a **'hot or cold' treasure hunt** inside your house

■ 22. Make a snowflake

23. Feed the ducks

24. Turn on some tunes and have a baby disco indoors with mum and dad

25. Spot a **twinkly star** in the sky

26. Have fun on a windy day **waving a ribbon** in the breeze

27. Play dress up trying on mum or dad's clothes and shoes

■ 28. Get creative making a newspaper hat

29. Have some good old-fashioned fun playing hop scotch in the garden with mum and dad

■ **30.** Make a noise like an owl – "twit twoo"











To find out more visit www.playtalkread.org





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angel donkey
Jesus Joseph
kings manger
Mary shepherd
stable star

















What is Year of the Dad?

A year of celebration, insight and collaboration to promote the importance of fathers in child development and support men to be the dads they want to be.

How are we going to achieve this?

- Foster understanding of the key contribution fathers make to child development, family and community life.
- Increase awareness of the organisational benefits in acknowledging men's family roles.
- Advance father-friendly practice within organisations and their services.

Why is it important?

Research overwhelmingly shows that children, women and families benefit from the positive involvement of fathers.

Valuing and supporting dads brings business benefits of increased engagement and a healthier work-life balance – which means more motivated and efficient workers.

Recent legislation – including the right to request flexible working and shared parental leave – means forward-thinking organisations are embracing new working patterns for men.

Promoting equality for fathers as parents at work and at home simultaneously helps to advance equality for women by decreasing the pay gap and creating more options for women to work and care.

Organised by Fathers Network Scotland with support from the Scottish Government

Where do I sign up?

Sign up at <u>www.</u>
Follow us on Twi
Find us on facebo





How can I/my organisation get involved?

Join this new wave of mums, dads, practitioners and employers as we drive a shift in 21st century parenting and work culture that will benefit business, families and communities alike.

- Sign up to the charter for dads and commit your support either as an employer, service provider or individual.
- Adopt father friendly practice, challenge ingrained myths about dads and tap into the win-win of shared parenting at home and in the workplace.
- Register online for regular Year of the Dad updates and show your support by downloading our digital supporters' badge.
- Network with others in the growing Year of the Dad community and be visible as an early adopter in a high-profile national campaign.
- Let us know how we can help you celebrate Year of the Dad, share your best-practice stories and promote the importance of fathers.

Together we can help make Scotland the best place in the world for children to grow up!

yearofthedad.org

tter @yearofthedad #yearofthedad
ook at www.facebook.com/yearofthedad

Childminders Go2Play

A beautiful Thursday morning saw childminders from Clydesdale Childminding Group make a visit to Castlebank Park in Lanark.

The childminders and children were there to participate in Outdoor play training. The childminders had previously attended a theory based session a few weeks earlier and now it was time to put knowledge into practice with the little ones in tow.

Thankfully it was a gorgeous day and Castlebank has a beautiful Fairy garden. It didn't take the group long to get on with the job in hand. Firstly a scavenger hunt to find lots of different items. Then the children and grown- ups made bird feeders, then it was build a den where we had our snack, climbing trees and last but not least some of us got a little wet with our tarpaulin activities.

A great morning was had by all and everyone said that it certainly made them think more about the activities they can do outdoors even with the little ones.

New dates are now being arranged so that other groups of childminders and children can be involved with the activities.

For further information, please contact Lorna Carlyle on lorna.carlyle@childminding.org







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Blitzen Comet Cupid
Dancer Dasher Donner
Prancer reindeer

Rudolph Vixen



Supporting early years improvement with the Early Years Collaborative

South Lanarkshire Council has played an active role in the Early Years Collaborative (EYC) since it was launched in January 2013. It has set itself the aim of "making Scotland the best place in the world to grow up". It intends to achieve this aim by supporting services working in early years to use a specific improvement approach (the Model for Improvement or Improvement Science) to support improvement activity.

Over the last two years, South Lanarkshire's early years establishments have been involved in a number of pieces of work which have used the Model for Improvement. These have included:

- St Paul's Nursery Splash! A swimming programme aimed at two and three year olds which has improved relationships between parents and children as well as increasing physical activity. St Mary's Nursery, Lanark have also started their own Splash! Programme based on St Paul's learning
- Woodlands Nursery has explored new processes to support the way they observe children and support achievement of individual outcomes
- First Steps Nursery and St Pauls have both been looking at ways of encouraging more involvement in the nursery by Dads and father figures
- Happy Feet and Westburn have been working with Speech and Language Therapy (NHS Lanarkshire) and Educational Psychology to support staff to identify children with speech and language delay and put effective interventions in place

We have now started a small group to support nursery staff who are interested in using this improvement approach. We had our first meeting on Tuesday 20th October attended by staff from four establishments, and another three have expressed interest in taking part in future group meetings. Some of these, like Machanhill Nursery, are using the model for the first time. We will use these groups to build skills and knowledge in using the model for improvement, and sharing our learning from the pieces of work we do when back at base.

If you want to know more, please contact Michele Dowling, Early Years Collaborative Manager, michele.dowling@southlanarkshire.gcsx.gov.uk or on 01698 452238.







Calendar of notable dates 2016

Here is a list of notable dates and events celebrated around the world in 2016. It may give you some inspiration for topics to explore with your children.

Date	Event	
1st January	New Year	
18th January	Martin Luther King Day	
25th January	Burns Night	
26th January	Australia Day	
2nd February	Groundhog Day	
6th February	Waitangi Day (New Zealand Day)	
7th February	Charles Dickens' Birthday	
8th February	Chinese New Year (Year of the Monkey)	
9th February	Pancake Day	
9th February	Mardi Gras	
14th February	Valentine's Day	
15th February	National Flag of Canada Day	
15th February	Presidents' Day	
22nd February	World Thinking Day	
1st March	St David's Day	
2nd March	Dr Seuss's Birthday	
3rd March	World Book Day	
14th March	Commonwealth Day	
6th March	Mother's Day (UK)	
14th - 23rd March	Shakespeare Week	
17th March	St Patrick's Day	
23rd March	Holi	
27th March	Easter	
22nd April	Earth Day	
23rd April	St George's Day	

Date	Event	
2nd – 6th May	Teacher Appreciation Week (US)	
3rd May	Teacher Appreciation Day (US)	
5th May 2016	Children's Day (Japan)	
9th to 13th May (tbc)	Sun Awareness Week	
19th June	Father's Day	
1st July	Canada Day	
4th July	Fourth of July (US)	
5th July	Eid al-Fitr	
15th August	Back to School for children	
4th September	Father's Day (Australia and New Zealand)	
10th - 11th September	Eid al-Adha	
11th September	Grandparent's Day (US)	
13th September	Roald Dahl Day	
21st September	Peace Day	
September / October	Harvest Festival	
30th October 2016	Diwali	
31st October	Halloween	
5th November	Bonfire Night	
13th November	Remembrance Sunday	
24th November	Thanksgiving	
30th November	St Andrew's Day	
1st December	Advent	
25th December	Christmas	







Have you heard about the SSSC Learning Zone?



SSSC are trying to get people to think differently about learning and development and using mobile technology as a platform. The apps they've developed are a part of that. Whatever your role and level of experience, the SSSC Learning Zone has apps and resources to help you develop your knowledge and skills. You can work through the resources at your own pace and use them to contribute towards your recorded learning and development.

Some examples of what you can tap into are:

Engaging with Children

Explore what you need to know and be able to do so that you can engage effectively with children and young people. This includes case studies and a mix of activities.

Childhood Practice simulator

The interactive simulation gives you the opportunity to acquire and apply the knowledge and skills that you are developing as you work towards the Childhood Practice Award. The simulator will confront you with a challenging scenario, enabling you to rehearse the skills required in real-world situations, but with the added benefit that mistakes made here will not have real-world consequences.

Practitioner Research

A selection of research undertaken by practitioners on the BA in Childhood Practice; research linked to Scottish Government Policy such as GIRFEC; The Early Years Framework; A Curriculum for Excellence; and Equally Well.

- The Gender Agenda
- How can we Promote Boys Achievements in Literacy
- L is for Language
- Respecting Me
- Emotional Intelligence
- Health Promotion is it having an impact
- Managing a Workplace Project
- Inclusion or an Illusion
- Self Assessment in the Early Years
- Creating a Space for our Youngest Children:
 The Under Threes at Nursery
- Mathematics In The Early Years
- Leading Effective Collaborative Practice

Safe Administration of Medication (SafeMed)

These resources are designed to support you whilst carrying out your day to day duties with the public. You'll find them useful if you're preparing for assessment for a SVQ in Social Service and Healthcare (e.g. "Administer Medication to Individuals") or the Professional Development Award, "Administration of Medication".

Jargon and Acronym Buster (JAB)

Web based resource

Why not give it a try on the SSSC website: www.sssc.uk.com/workforce-development then click on to the Learning Zone.



30 things to do AT CHRISTMAS before you're 3

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1.	Leave a carrot for Rudolph and a biscuit o	r a mince pie out for Santa	
2.	Write your Christmas list to Santa with help from mum or dad		
3.	Learn the words to Jingle Bells		**
4.	Make your own Christmas stocking with	the help of mum or dad ar	nd 🌉 💥
	hang it on the end of your bed		
5.	Make a snow globe – shake to watch it s	oarkle	W. Carlotte
6.	Help mum or dad put the star or fairy on	the top of the Christmas tre	ee
7.	Make your own Reindeer hat	No.	**************************************
8.	Count sparkly Christmas trees in windows	Stick	. to
9.	Make paper snowflake decorations	the the	me on fridge!
10	Learn the names for all of Santa's reindee	r	riagei
11.	See your reflection in a Christmas bauble		
12	. Get messy making salt dough ornaments	for the Christmas tree	***************************************
13	. Use face paints or make up to give yourse	elf a red nose like Rudolpl	h
14	. Make a paper plate snowman		
15	. Play indoors with sock snowballs		, *.k
] 16	. Make paper chain decorations with mum	or dad	The state of the s
17	Pretend you're Santa's little helper and help mum or dad wrap presents		
18	Make your own Christmas cracker with mum or dad		
19	Go for a winter walk to find pinecones – when you get home dip them in glue and glitter to make glitzy decorations		
20). Sprinkle icing sugar or talcum over your fe	eet and step away to leave	4
	white footprints like Santa		
21	 Get creative and make your own finger p with help from mum or dad 	ainted Christmas cards	
22	2. Chuckle 'Ho ho ho' like Santa		**************************************
23	3. Use a cardboard box to make your own s	sleigh like Santa's	***************************************
24	. Have fun at bath time and use the bubbles to make Santa's beard		
25	Tickle your toes with tinsel		
26	Sticky tape tinsel to the wall to hang your (help from mum or dad	Christmas cards with	
27	. Snuggle under a blanket to hear a story		一
28	3. Make a footprint Robin		
29	. Turn oranges into mini snowmen		**
30). Sing along to the 12 days of Christmas	7	300
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ATT.	**************************************	To find out more visit	scotland
	TITE		







Directory of contacts

Here is a list, of people, services and organisations that may be useful to your service. The list is by no means exhaustive!

Early Years Service

South Lanarkshire Council Early Years Service

01698 454470

earlyyears@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

South Lanarkshire Childcare Information Service

01698 454470

earlyyears@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Morag McDonald, Early Years Strategic Manager

01698 454474

morag.mcdonald@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Allan McRitchie, Early Years Manager (Curriculum)

01698 454285

allan.mcritchie@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Helen Hodge, OOSC Development Officer

01698 455675

helen.hodge@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Early Learning and Childcare Support Team

01698 455675 (Marion, Vivienne, Ruth, Liz, Elaine, Janice,

Andrea, Helen)

Integrating Children's Services

Kathleen Colvan, Service Manager, ICS and CCLD

01698 454517

kathleen.colvan@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Debra Lindsay, Hamilton ICS Area Manager

01698 452370

debra.lindsay@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Val McIntyre, East Kilbride ICS Area Manager

01355 **235702**

val.mcintyre@ics.s-lanark.org.uk

Kevin Mullarkey, Clydesdale ICS Area Manager

01555 **895192**

kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Elaine Walker, Cambuslang/Rutherglen (ICS Area Manager)

0141 **630 2520**

elaine.walker@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Jennifer McCormick, Early Years Manager (Development)

01698 454973

jennifer.mccormick@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Ellen Ward, Training and Development Officer

01698 455660

ellen.ward@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Pauline Stanton, SVQ Lead Assessor

01698 455660

pauline.stanton@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Early Years and Childcare Training and Development Team

01698 **455660** (Ellen, Pauline, Janice, Lesley)

Community Learning/Home School Partnership/ Cultural Co-ordinators/Mobile Crèche

Fiona Robertson, Senior CLHS Worker

01698 452214

fiona.robertson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Doreen Jenkins, Senior CLHS Worker

01698 452395

doreen.jenkins@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Susan Sandilands, Senior CLHS Worker

01357 **528719**

susan.sandilands@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Lianne Grieve, Senior CLHS Worker

0141 630 2520

lianne.grieve@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Cultural Co-ordinator Team

0141 **630 2520** (Claire, Kimberly, Louise)

Anne Brodie, Creche Officer

South Lanarkshire Mobile Crèche

01698 452180

ann.brodie@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Other Useful Contacts

Support for Play and Early Learning in Lanarkshire (SPELL)

01698 768933

spell.org@btopenworld.com

Lorna Carlyle, Childminding Development Officer

01698 **832076**

lorna.carlyle@childminding.org

Hazel Rankine, National Day Nurseries Association

(NDNA representative for South Lanarkshire)

01698 306090

office@bigbirdlarkhall.co.uk

Kim Kilgannon, Play Development Officer, Leisure

01698 476195

kim.kilgannon@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk

Care Inspectorate, Hamilton Office

01698 **208150**

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

www.scswis.com

Scottish Social Services Council

0845 **603 0891**

enquiries@sssc.uk.com

www.sssc.uk.com



