



# Newsletter

## Spring 2009

**Dear all!** Welcome to the spring term of **Bongalong**. We hope you and your babies/children are enjoying the sessions so far this term. A newsletter comes out each term, giving practical information as well as the ways the session content is supporting your child/ren's development.

### Safety!

When arriving or leaving St Gabriel's, please make sure you put the latch over the top of the gate. This makes the outside area safe for children, as then there is no access to the road.

### Music!

If you've ever wondered what the music is playing at the beginning or end of a session, please come and ask, or, if you attend a session at St Gabriels, have a look at the notice board above the table.

### Comments Please!

Do please let us know how you are finding the sessions this term by filling in a comments slip at your session. Please add your name and phone number if you want, as it is sometimes useful to have a chat.

**Animals have made quite an appearance this term.** We've been to the zoo, to **stimulate the imagination and develop an understanding of the world around us.** We've also used the instruments to tell a story about animals in the jungle, **not only encouraging discussion about other places, but also helping to develop children's listening and turn taking skills.** A dancing game has given everyone a chance to think about the sounds animals closer to home make.

We've also been singing about food. Creating imaginative dishes in **What's Cooking?**, has hopefully encouraged an interest in cooking at home. The **Shopping Song** encourages us to see shopping as a shared activity, **introducing the idea of planning, and stimulating language development.** Encourage your child to sing this when you make that trip to the shops!

As always, we have used **listening skills** in many different ways - in dancing games, in the instrument sections, and during a story. We've listened to several pieces of music, **developing an awareness of tempo and mood, and then moved to reflect our ideas about the music, helping with body awareness and co-ordination.**

Familiar songs such as nursery rhymes form an important part of the sessions, building children's confidence and aiding their concentration and focus. We've sung **Goldilocks**, the **Hokey Cokey**, and later on in the term we'll be guessing the nursery rhyme with the help of some props! Using props in this way stimulates the imagination and aids concentration, as well as **giving the younger or less confident children the chance to participate by being offered a prop.** It also promotes the idea of turn taking for older children.

You can use music in so many different ways – to stimulate, to sooth or calm. Dancing and singing are fun ways to spend time with our children – **use them as often as you can!** Hopefully our sessions will inspire you to play musical games at home, make instruments and make up your own stories and songs.

### Song Words

You can get song words termly by email if there's a song you're just itching to sing!

### For Sale

Remember you can buy CDs, instruments and T-shirts! Songs featured on the CD from this term are: Music Makers Band, Shopping Song, ZooBoogieZoo, Surprise Song.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for all your support this term. Booking forms for the summer term are out this week. We do hope you continue with us and tell your friends about us too. Any queries please contact Asha on: **07811 460282** or **asha.bongalong@googlemail.com**