

Dear all! Welcome to the autumn term of Bongalong. I hope you and your babies/children are enjoying the sessions so far this term. A newsletter comes out each term, giving practical information and talking about in what ways the session content is supporting your child/ren's development.

As most of you know this has been my first term with Bongalong and I would like to **thank you** so much for all your support .

Comments Please!

Do please let me 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.

Under 1's!

The under one's session on Thursday's at 1.30pm is growing and seems to be going well. Those of you with babies coming up to the age of one might want to join our mixed under fives sessions. If this is the case just follow the information on next term's booking form when it comes out or call and have a chat with me if you are not sure.

At the beginning of this term our **Music Makers Band** made an appearance, along with Mrs Loudly and Mrs Softly, exploring how to make loud and soft sounds (dynamics) and turn taking, a necessary and sometimes tricky skill to learn for under fives!. We've also explored different drums: the big bass drum, the slit drum and the lollipop drum. This has involved performing, taking turns and listening to and changing the sounds we make. Playing guess the instrument encouraged the children to use their listening skills - A great game to play at home. We also thought about different kinds of **weather**. We sung whether the weather, played the instruments to create weather music and moved our bodies too. It's been windy, rainy and then there was a big storm. Thinking about the weather helps in learning about the world around us and playing the instruments in different ways develops fine motor skills. Of course, we always sing our weather song at the beginning of each session, once we've decided what it's like that day. Holding the weather sign is the beginnings of performing and for some children it takes time for them to feel confident enough to come up.

We've also had great fun with our **bodies**, making different shapes and finding different bits! We have sung about clapping and tapping, jiggling and wriggling and we wondered if your ears hang lo-o-o-w. Several of you told me your child loved singing Do your ears hang low? The silly fast slow song really got us moving. Repeating movements and following sequences helps develop **co-ordination** and balance and helps to create confidence in the group as a whole. We sang If you're happy and you know it, and Me and you and **celebrated** the things we can do. There's been a lot of dancing, including listening to different kinds of music and thinking about how they made us feel. We enjoyed thinking about size and shape in order to mend the hole in my bucket, helping to develop **vocabulary** as well as problem-solving. We use a lot of visual props to help develop imagination and role play. We've also been down in the jungle and at the baker's shop and had a busy, busy day.

Listening to your mum or dad's voice and being sung to is a comforting experience for babies and young children and makes them feel very secure. We sang Golden Slumbers and Tell me a story. Singing lullabies is a lovely way to spend some sleepy time, having a cuddle and relaxing together.

Instruments for sale

It's great to have a few 'real' instruments at home that you can get out for a special music session They make lovely gifts for birthdays or Christmas. Your child could be the session leader with their own tulip block! If you would like to purchase any instruments do talk to me about it or look on the website www.bongalong.co.uk

NEW SESSION

I am thinking about starting a session at St Gabriel's on Thursdays at 11am. If you would be interested in moving to this session please let me know, if there is enough interest I can get started.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for all your support this term. Booking forms for the spring term are out next week. We do hope you continue with us and tell your friends about us too. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year, Any queries please contact Fiona on: **07811 460282** or fiona.bongalong@gmail.com For further information look at www.bongalong.co.uk