



# Early Years Newsletter



19/09/2025 Autumn Issue 1

#shineatpriorweston

Virtual tour @ <https://bit.ly/32RoLWi>

#unitedagainstbullying

**We aim high \* We are resilient \* We are curious learners \* We value diversity \* We are respectful**

Dear Golden Lane and Prior Weston families,

A warm welcome to families and children old and new.

We hope that the children joining us for the first time are settling in well, and that returning children are enjoying being back with their friends and the staff.

In this newsletter we have focused on 'The Characteristics of Effective Learning' and the different ways that children learn.

We hope that you are finding these newsletters helpful.

Happy reading!

Bev & Rae

Deputy Head & Children's Centre Lead

## Dates for your Diary

### October 2025

Friday 3rd October

Macmillan coffee morning

Thursday 16th October

International Food Festival– bring a dish

Monday 27th—Friday 31st October

Half term

### December 2025

Friday 12th December

Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 17th December

Class Parties & Festive performance at 2pm

Thursday 18th December

Festive performance at 9:30am

Friday 19th December

End of Term- 2pm finish



### Characteristics of Effective Learning

#### Playing and Exploring

**ENGAGEMENT**  
Finding out and exploring  
Playing with what they know  
Being willing to 'have a go'

#### Active Learning

**MOTIVATION**  
Being involved and concentrating  
Keep trying  
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

#### Creative and Critical Thinking

**THINKING**  
Having their own ideas  
Making links  
Working with ideas



## Playing and Exploring (Engagement)

### A Unique Child: What a child might be doing

#### Finding out and exploring

- Showing curiosity about objects, events and people
- Using senses to explore the world around them
- Engaging in open-ended activity
- Showing particular interests

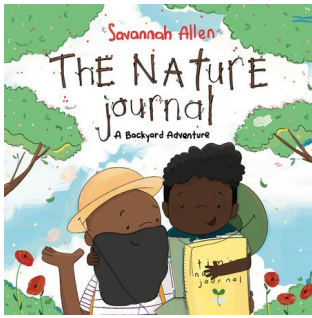
#### Playing with what they know

- Pretending objects are things from their experience
- Representing their experiences in play
- Taking on a role in their play
- Acting out experiences with other people

#### Being willing to "have a go"

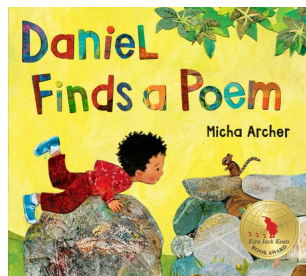
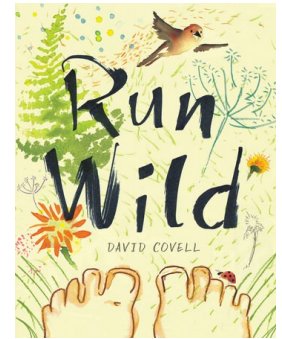
- Initiating activities
- Seeking challenge
- Showing a "can do" attitude
- Taking a risk, engaging in new experiences, and learning by trial and error





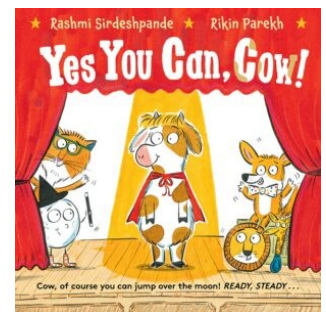
One day Tim finds inspiration from his dad's nature journal and begins to record all of his findings and collections just like him! But when his dad is too busy to see what he found, Tim falls asleep and goes on adventures another way. Follow the delightful journey of Tim and his dad as they reconnect through their shared love of nature. A must-read for little explorers and nature enthusiasts!

This book starts out grey and dreary, with a boy hunched over a screen. But a girl runs by his window and shouts, "Hey, you! Sky's blue!" and changes everything. The boy runs out after her, leaving his shoes (and screen) behind, and into a world of sunshine and adventure. They chase rabbits, stomp in mud puddles, float in water, and run with the wind. It's a wonderful reminder that there are so many adventures to be found when you put down the screen.



A little boy observes what's around him in a park and, with the help of some animal friends, begins to see the natural beauty in things he'd never really noticed before (the crunch of leaves, a cool pond, warm sand, bright stars). With bright, eye-catching collage illustrations, this sweet picture book offers a simple introduction to the concept of poetry, all while encouraging kids to keep their eyes and ears open to the sights and sounds of nature.

Yes, you can, Cow! We believe in you! READY . . . STEADY . . . GO . . . It's the Nursery Rhyme's big performance, but Cow is having second thoughts. She's too scared to jump! What if she crashes? Will everyone laugh? The curtain's almost up and the audience are waiting. Can Cow overcome her fear of failure and become the star of the show? A gorgeous, heart-warming story about believing in yourself and doing your best based on the ever-popular nursery rhyme 'Hey Diddle Diddle'.



This is a truly charming picture book with an empowering message about the power of self-belief, perfect for EYFS and KS1. At the beginning of the story, George the rabbit sits on a tree stump watching his woodland friends busy doing all sorts of clever and fun activities like painting, roller-skating, knitting and dancing. Believing that he can't do anything like that, George leaves himself with no option but to sit and watch. That is, until a wise old bear observes George's no-can-do attitude and decides to help him to cultivate some important self-belief.

This is an endearing picture book that encourages young readers to have the confidence to try new things using the 'magic' of a positive attitude from within themselves.

### Characteristics of Effective Learning

#### Playing and Exploring

##### ENGAGEMENT

- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what they know
- Being willing to 'have a go'

#### Active Learning

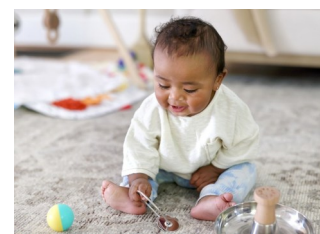
##### MOTIVATION

- Being involved and concentrating
- Keep trying
- Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

#### Creative and Critical Thinking

##### THINKING

- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Working with ideas



## Active Learning (Motivation)

### A Unique Child: how a child is learning

#### Being involved and concentrating

- Showing a deep drive to know more about people and their world
- Maintaining focus on their activity for a period of time
- Showing high levels of involvement, energy, fascination
- Not easily distracted
- Paying attention to details



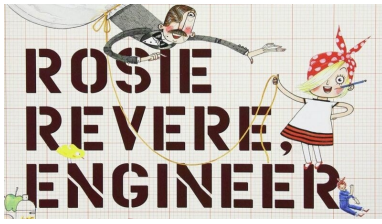
#### Keeping on trying

- Persisting with an activity or toward their goal when challenges occur
- Showing a belief that more effort or a different approach will pay off, and that their skills can grow and develop (growth mindset)
- Bouncing back after difficulties

#### Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

- Showing satisfaction in meeting their own goals (I can!)
- Being proud of how they accomplished something – not just the end result
- Enjoying meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external rewards or praise (intrinsic motivation)

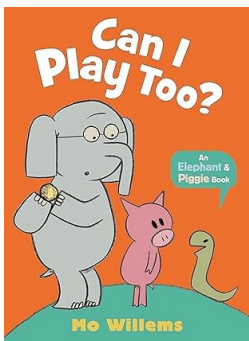
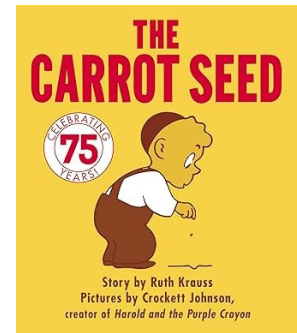




The story telling is wonderful and perfectly captures how important it can be how we talk to children about their dreams and goals. Rosie has a drive inside that she just naturally follows – taking other people’s trash and turning it into engineering treasures. She wants to help. But when one of her quirky inventions is laughed at by an even quirker uncle, she thinks she ought to shut up shop on that particular dream. Luckily, an extremely accomplished great aunt is on her way with some mentoring up her sleeve. A tale of embracing ‘failure’ as but a stepping stone to success with utterly wonderful and unique illustrations.

When a little boy plants a carrot seed, everyone tells him it won't grow. But when you are very young, there are some things that you just know, and the little boy knows that one day a carrot will come up. So he waters his seed, and pulls the weeds, and he waits...

This beloved classic celebrates patience, determination, and believing in yourself. First published in 1945 and never out of print, the timeless combination of Ruth Krauss's simple text and Crockett Johnson's eloquent illustrations creates a triumphant and deeply satisfying story for readers of all ages.



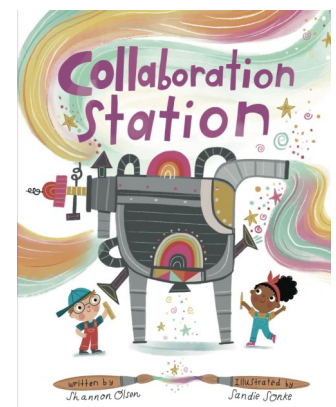
Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can. Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to. Gerald and Piggie are best friends.

In *Can I Play Too?* Gerald and Piggie meet a new friend, Snake, who wants to join in a game of catch. But don't you need arms to catch...? Mo Willems creates another hilarious escapade starring the award-winning duo that will have early readers breaking into laughter from the first page.

*Collaboration Station* is designed to guide young learners through the process with clear guidelines, cooperative learning strategies, and engaging visuals that capture their imagination.

It addresses the common challenges that can arise when students work together, and helps inspire kids to WANT to be a valuable member of their team!

Working well with others is one of the most important skills that kids can learn, and continue to apply for years to come. With whimsical illustrations and engaging rhymes, *Collaboration Station* helps instil the mindset and skills that are essential for preparing students to thrive in group settings.



### Characteristics of Effective Learning

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##### THINKING

- Having their own ideas
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- Working with ideas



## Thinking Creatively and Critically (Thinking)

### A Unique Child: how a child is learning

#### Having their own ideas (creative thinking)

- Thinking of ideas that are new and meaningful to the child
- Playing with possibilities (what if? what else?)
- Visualising and imagining options
- Finding new ways to do things



#### Making links (building theories)

- Making links and noticing patterns in their experience
- Making predictions
- Testing their ideas
- Developing ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect



#### Working with ideas (critical thinking)

- Planning, making decisions about how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal
- Checking how well their activities are going
- Flexibly changing strategy as needed
- Reviewing how well the approach worked

## News from baby room

This term, we are excited to warmly welcome our new babies and their families into our wonderful environment. We understand how important it is for both children and parents to feel secure, which is why we have been focusing on our book of the month, "Owl Babies." This gentle story resonates with little ones, providing them comfort and reassurance that their parents will always return at the end of the day.

Additionally, we have been enjoying delightful cooking sessions where we create nest cupcakes together. This fun activity allows the babies to explore their senses while also helping them build essential fine motor skills. We look forward to sharing these precious moments with all of you!



## News from Toddler room

Toddler room is blossoming from the return of our lovely toddlers. They have been busy bodies venturing of and exploring all the exciting activities which are on offer. Our book of the month is 'The Owl Babies' as we feel this would be the best fit easing the children back into settling and new transitions. The children have really been exploring all the messy play on offer which helps develop on their creativity, imagination and fine motor skills. To add, the children have loved the physical obstacle courses helping develop their gross motor skills.



## News from Nursery

In Nursery we have had a busy start to the term welcoming all our new friends.

Our topic this half term is 'All about us'. We have been creating self-portraits, getting to know all about our new friends and things we have in common, and earning Nursery routines.

Through using the book 'The Colour Monster' we have also been exploring colours and how those colours can help us express our feelings, We have been looking at all the words we can use to help us understand how we are feeling.



## News from Reception

We've had a fantastic start to the Autumn term in Reception! The children have settled in brilliantly and are already getting into the routine of the school day. It's been lovely to see everyone exploring their new classrooms with such excitement and curiosity.

In maths, we've been learning about *subitising* – recognising small amounts without needing to count – and have had lots of fun helping our class toy 'Maths Mole' become better at counting too!

Our daily phonics sessions are now underway, and we've begun learning the Set 1 sounds: **m, a, s, d, t**. The children are already showing great enthusiasm and are picking up the new sounds really well.

We've also had our first PE session with William, our PE teacher, and started our music sessions with our Music Master teacher, Rachel – both of which have been a big hit!

Last week we enjoyed our first baking session – the children loved measuring, mixing, and of course, tasting what they made!

It's been lovely getting to know the new friends who've joined us from other nurseries. The children have been so welcoming, and it's wonderful to see new friendships already forming.

All in all, it's been a brilliant start to the year!



### Starting Primary School information

If your child was born between 01/09/21 and 31/08/22 you need to apply for a place in Reception to start in September.

All admissions are done online through Islington

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

### The deadline is 15th January 2026

If you have any questions or need support with your application we are happy to help. Please speak to the office.



### Apply for a primary school place

If your child is due to start primary school and lives in Islington, you must apply online.

### Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow



Every School Day Counts!

### Child Absences

We look forward to welcoming in all our children everyday. If your child is unable to attend for any reason, i.e. they are unwell or have an appointment or you they will be in late please contact the office on 0207 786 4800, via parentmail or email of [office@priorweston.islington.sch.uk](mailto:office@priorweston.islington.sch.uk) and we will pass the information on to their room.

#### Important Dates

The academic calendar for 2025/26 is available on the school's website. Please check it regularly to stay informed about upcoming closure dates and event days.



#### VITAMINS FOR MUMS & CHILDREN

Collect your **FREE** Healthy Start vitamins.



#### Collecting Your Child

If a different adult is collecting your child, please inform a staff member in the room and the receptionist at drop-off. The adult **must** also have your child's password.



# What to expect, when?

Guidance to your child's learning and development  
in the early years foundation stage



Supported by  
  
Department  
for Education



[https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/what\\_to\\_expect\\_when.\\_a\\_parents\\_guide.pdf](https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/what_to_expect_when._a_parents_guide.pdf)

In this guide, your child's first five years have been divided up into six age bands which overlap. This is because every child is different and children do not grow and develop at the same rate. It highlights what you might notice your child doing at these points. Children learn and develop through playing, exploring, being active, creative and being asked questions to help their thinking. After each age band we give you an example of some ideas and tips as to how you can help your child's learning and development. Page 34 details where you can find out more.



## Worries and Parenting

**WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER**  
**9:30-11:30**

Many parents with young children find themselves worrying a lot. Sometimes this worry can feel difficult to manage.

**Come and join us!**

Meet other parents to learn about some practical strategies on how to manage parental worry.

**Click on this link to find our events or scan our QR code:** [Worries and Parenting Tickets, Wed 22 Oct 2025 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Free NHS Workshop

LOCATION

Bemerton Children's Centre

Creche Available

For parents with children aged 1-5 years and parents who live or have a GP in Islington

Address:  
1A Coatbridge House,  
London N1 0DX

For further information, call  
Liz Mawle on 020 3316 1824





## MOTHERS GROUP WITH BABIES UP TO SIX MONTHS OLD

[Tweet](#)

New mothers group with babies up to six months old. Every Wednesday from 10-11.30am, term time only.

A safe place for new mums to meet and share experiences.

Peer support in partnership with Whittington Hospital.

Please reserve your place in advance with reception or call **020 7549 8181** or email [info@slpt.org.uk](mailto:info@slpt.org.uk)

**Starts** Wed Sep 17 2025, 10:00am



 St Luke's Community Centre

# GARDENING & NATURE CLUB!

Wednesdays 3:45 - 5:15pm

For south Islington Adults and Families (Children must be accompanied)

NO NEED TO REGISTER- JUST COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN!

Plant



Grow & eat



Improve wellbeing



Time in nature



Support sustainability



Building a stronger community through learning, wellness and connection in south Islington.

St Luke's Community Centre, 90 Central Street, London, EC1V 8AJ  
T: 020 7549 8181 [www.slpt.org.uk](http://www.slpt.org.uk)

 @StLukesTrust

Registered Charity Number: 207497





All sessions are drop in, no need to book

[brightstart@islington.gov.uk](mailto:brightstart@islington.gov.uk)  
020 7527 4089

South

Monday	
9.30 – 11am	<b>0-5's Stay and Play with Information, Advice and Guidance,</b> Moreland Children's Centre, EC1V 8BB
9.30 – 11am	<b>0-5's Extra Boost (SEND)</b> Golden Lane Children's Centre, EC1Y 8JA
9.30 – 11am	<b>Child Health Clinic,</b> Family Hub South at Bemerton Children's centre, NI 0DX
1.30 – 3pm	<b>Under 1's Stay and Play,</b> Family hub South at Bemerton Children's Centre, NI 0DX
1.30 – 3pm	<b>0-5's Stay and Play with Information, Advice and Guidance,</b> Golden Lane Children's Centre, EC1Y 8JA
Tuesday	
9.30 – 11am	<b>Under 1's Stay and Play</b> Paradise Park Children's Centre , N7 8SE
10 – 11.30am	<b>Little Seedling (Term-time ONLY) Starts 16 September</b> Barnard Park Wildlife Garden, NI 0ER
10 – 11.30am	<b>Childminder Group (Term-time ONLY)</b> Golden Lane Children's Centre, EC1Y 8JA
11am – 12noon	<b>Family Fitness</b> King Square Community Centre, EC1V 8DY
1.30 – 3pm	<b>Under 1's Stay and Play</b> Golden Lane Children's Centre, EC1Y 8JA
1.30 – 3pm	<b>0-5's Stay and Play with Information, advice and guidance,</b> Family Hub South at Bemerton Children's Centre, NI 0DX
1.30 – 3pm	<b>Breastfeeding Support Group</b> Family Hub South at Bemerton Children's Centre, NI 0DX
Wednesday	
9.30 – 11am	<b>Under 1's Stay and Play</b> Family Hub South at Bemerton Children's Centre, NI 0DX
9.30 – 11am	<b>0-5's Stay and Play</b> Moreland Children's Centre, EC1V 8BB
3 – 4.30pm	<b>0-5s outdoor Stay and Play</b> Barnard Park Wildlife Garden, NI 0ER

Thursday	
9.30 – 11am	<b>Child Health Clinic,</b> Moreland Children Centre, Gard Street, EC1V 8BB
10 – 11am	<b>0-5's Song and Movement</b> Betty Brunker Hall, EC1V 8BG
10 – 11.30am	<b>0-5's Outdoor Stay and Play</b> Barnard Park Wildlife Garden, NI 0ER
10 – 11.30am	<b>Breastfeeding Support Group</b> St Lukes Community Centre, 90 Central Street, EC1V 8AJ
10am – 12.30pm	<b>Sling Library,</b> Paradise Park Children's Centre 164 Mackenzie Road N7 8SE. <b>11 and 25 September, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December</b>
1.30 – 3pm	<b>0-5's Stay and Play,</b> Family Hub South at Bemerton Children's Centre NI 0DX
3.45 – 5pm	<b>0-5's Twilight Stay and Play</b> Golden Lane Children's Centre, EC1Y 8JA
Friday	
9.30 – 11am	<b>Under 1's Stay and Play</b> Moreland Children's Centre, EC1V 8BB
10 – 11.30am	<b>0-5's Outdoor Stay and Play</b> King Square Gardens, Lever St EC1V 7AN
3 – 4.30pm	<b>0-5's Stay and Play</b> Paradise Park Children's Centre, N7 8SE
Saturday	
10am – 12noon	<b>Father and Male Carers 0-5's Stay and Play (partners welcome)</b> 1st Saturday of every month. Family Hub South at Bemerton Children's Centre NI 0DX
10am – 12noon	<b>Family 0-5's Stay and Play</b> 3rd Saturday of every month. Family Hub South at Bemerton Children's Centre NI 0DX

Weekly timetable  
Wednesday 3 September – Friday 24 December 2023

South



# Friends of Fortune Street Park's Community Day

## Event Schedule Saturday 20th Sept 12—5pm

Your guide to all the fun  
on our 20th year!

FREE and open to everyone.  
Bring your family, friends,  
neighbours and a picnic  
Let's celebrate together!

Fortune Street Gardens  
EC1Y0SB



 ISLINGTON

Supported by Islington Council  
Local Initiatives Fund

[fortunestreetpark.com](http://fortunestreetpark.com)

## Incredible Years Parenting Groups

A course for parents who want to learn how to get the best behaviour out of their children

**Incredible Years Toddler:**  
 Parents of children aged 1-3

**Incredible Years Early Childhood:**  
 Parents of children aged 3-6

**Incredible Years School Age:**  
 Parents of children aged 6-10



Incredible Years Groups are for parents and carers of children aged 1-10 years. There are three groups depending on your child's age:

**Incredible Years Toddler:**  
 Parents of children aged 1-3

**Incredible Years Early Childhood:**  
 Parents of children aged 3-6

**Incredible Years School Age:**  
 Parents of children aged 6-10

Incredible Years Groups are for parents and carers who want to:

- \* Improve their child's behaviour
- \* Learn more about what behaviours are normal for children
- \* Meet other parents
- \* Learn parenting skills
- \* Feel more confident as a parent
- \* Feel less stressed about parenting

### Who is the group run by?

The group is run by either a Family Support Practitioner or Family Engagement Worker and a CAMHS Clinician from Islington CAMHS. Both facilitators are experienced in running groups and helping families.

Islington CAMHS  
 Phone: 020 3316 1824  
 Date published: 06/09/2023

**Bright Start Central  
 Toddler 1 - 3 years**  
 Tuesday mornings from 30<sup>th</sup> September – 20<sup>th</sup> January  
 New River Green Children Centre  
[Brightstartcentral@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Brightstartcentral@islington.gov.uk)  
**020 7527 8465**  
 Amanda Lydon (Family Engagement Worker)  
 Jill Cheever (CAMHS Clinician)  
[jillian.cheever@nhs.net](mailto:jillian.cheever@nhs.net)

**Bright Start South  
 Toddler 1 – 3 years**  
 Thursday mornings from 2<sup>nd</sup> October – 22<sup>nd</sup> January  
 Bemerton Children Centre  
[Brightstartsouth@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Brightstartsouth@islington.gov.uk)  
**0207 527 4089**  
 Tina Bailey (Family Engagement Worker)  
 Anne-Marie Reid (CAMHS Clinician)  
[anne-marie.reid3@nhs.net](mailto:anne-marie.reid3@nhs.net)

**Bright Start North  
 Early Childhood 3 – 6 years**  
 Friday mornings from 3<sup>rd</sup> October – 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
 Ambler Children's Centre  
[Brightstartnorth@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Brightstartnorth@islington.gov.uk)  
**020 7527 8441**  
 Daniqua Chen (Parent Programme Coordinator)  
 Maria-Clara Vejarano-Brill (CAMHS Clinician)  
[m.vejarano-brill@nhs.net](mailto:m.vejarano-brill@nhs.net)

**Bright Futures 5-19  
 School Age group 6-10 years old**  
 Tuesday mornings 7<sup>th</sup> October – 27<sup>th</sup> January  
 Dame Geraldine Hall, Manor Gardens  
 Emma Clarke (Family Support Practitioner)  
 Amal Ali (CAMHS Clinician)  
[amal.ali10@nhs.net](mailto:amal.ali10@nhs.net)

### What parents have said about the groups

*"This course is not a lesson on what as a parent we are doing wrong – more so an insight as to how we can improve"*

*"Oh my! What changes haven't I seen?! It has become a joy to be a parent again and to enjoy my children the best way"*

*"I am feeling much more confident as a parent. I know how to react to specific situations. My child is behaving better. It was life changing for me"*

*"I have learned so much from sharing with the group and hearing about their experiences"*

### How can I find out more?

To register your interest you can contact talk to a Family Engagement Worker at your local children's centre stating the group you are interested in. The timetable is also on the Family Information Service website.

### About Incredible Years

#### Programme aims

- \* Promote children's all round development (social, emotional, language & behaviour)
- \* Support parents' developing effective parenting strategies
- \* Increase parents' support networks
- \* Strengthen parents and children's relationships
- \* Provide a safe, non-judgemental space to think about and share ideas with other parents

#### Topics

- \* Parental attention and child directed play (promoting positive relationships)
- \* Child-directed coaching
- \* Social and emotional coaching
- \* Praise and encouragement
- \* Rewards & Incentives
- \* Rules & Routines
- \* Effective Limit Setting
- \* Handling misbehaviour

### About the group

- \* The group will run for 13 or 14 weeks, term time only, at the same time each week

- \* There will be a maximum of 12 parents in the group

#### Before the group

- \* A group facilitator will contact you to think about whether the Incredible Years Group would be suitable.

#### During the group

- \* Each week we will focus on a topic, using a mixture of group discussion, watching DVD's of parents with their children and role playing ourselves
- \* There will be a home task each week to practice the strategies
- \* The facilitators will call you in the middle of the week to check how you are getting on and whether you have any questions about the material covered in the group
- \* As the group goes on, when you know one another a little more, we will encourage you to also make calls to a 'buddy' to help support each other.