

Sunshine Children's Centre the story so far!

During the summer period the Sunshine Children's Centre has actively engaged with the local community to provide positive activities for the under fives as well as consult with their parents to ensure that the initial planning and delivery of activities is parent centred

Wacky Wednesdays have been a great success with 2 sessions running each Wednesday over summer. We have undertaken eight sessions so far with an average of 20 under 5's attending. The sessions have been open to families with a child under 5 and on average we have had 5 over 5's attending each session too. There is a theme to each day which has included, animal experience, junk modelling, clay, messy play, physical games and den building.

During the Wacky Wednesday's we have undertaken consultation with our parents to identify their needs and aspirations. Using a consultation wheel they have been able to place up to 5 votes for activities they would like to see delivered; these included positive parenting, music, cooking, dads group and many more. Following on from the outcome of these we have now booked some sessions for the autumn to include Fun Music programme, Sing & Sign, Wacky Wednesday's to continue and positive parenting sessions. For half term and Christmas we are booking trips out which the parents are voting for at present and of course our biggest piece of consultation was to decide the name of the Children's Centre.

We joined up with the Malvern Gazette to run a text factor type event to choose the name for the centre, they were given 5 names to choose from and could either text in or vote at the centre. Sunshine came out on top by a large margin.

Many professionals and groups have been contacted and to date we have arranged to partnership work from the centre with:

- The Worcestershire hub who will run an outreach service
- Citizens Advice Bureau to run a 2 weekly session
- Plumbtree Women's refuge to run a weekly drop in
- Childminders Support group monthly
- Job Centre Plus
- Family Information service Once a month
- Children's Librarian to attend once a month

We are also looking to conduct a Freedom programme for women affected by domestic violence to be followed by a Making Changes programme for all parents.

Excellent links have been made with Health Visitors who are referring families to us, Homestart who we are referring families too, Space and Turning point have been offering drug advice and support to some of our families, Elgar Housing joint delivery to support stay and play group on Poolbrook estate, Social Service have been undertaking contact visits and family observations within the children's centre too.