



Hythe Bay Children's Centre Nursery
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Charity Number: 1175752

Ofsted URN: EY556679

COVID-19 PARTIAL CLOSURE UPDATE 05/06/2020
FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE NOT YET BEEN INVITED BACK TO NURSERY

We hope you are all well! Here is a brief update on our gradual reopening strategy:

Throughout this partial closure, we have prioritised nursery spaces for key worker and vulnerable families who needed a nursery space from June 1st. We were then provisionally offered a few of the unused spaces to additional children; children who will be going to school in September and whose parents had requested a nursery space for their child from 1st June. Unfortunately we have now filled all available slots, as all of our nursery 'bubbles' (capped groups of children) are full.

We initially only opened four coloured 'bubbles', with a view to increase to six bubbles if or when it is practicable. If we are able to open more bubbles before reopening completely, we will work our way through our waiting lists to offer nursery spaces to more families. In order to do this, we would need to have more staff available to work, and children and staff members' interactions would be increased. We are forming plans so that we are ready for this to happen, with safety precautions in place, as soon as it is safe to do so. We are continuously reviewing the situation and will let families know if a space becomes available to their child to return to nursery for some of their sessions.

I appreciate that it is inconvenient for many families that we are currently only offering sessions to a third of our nursery children, but we have capped our nursery spaces this way to promote the health and safety of our nursery staff members and children, and their families. We miss you all and have enjoyed seeing your photos and comments on ParentZone and on our Facebook group! Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support you and your family while you are at home.

Here are some contacts and links that you might also find useful:

- **Hungry Little Minds** (Simple, fun activities for kids, from new-born to five):
<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>
- **Health Visitor Team** (child development, behaviour, sleep, etc.): 0300 123 1240
kcht.shepearlyyears@nhs.net
- **Home Start / Big Hopes Big Future** (work with families to build on their strengths and give them the support parents say they need): 01303 244836 shepwayoffice@googlemail.com
website: www.homestartshepway.org.uk
- **Early Help and Preventative Services** (provide services to help families to do well, stay safe and resolve problems at the earliest possible opportunity, before they become more serious):
https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/88865/EHPS-Leaflet-for-Families.pdf Please contact the nursery if you'd like to use this service.
- **National Literacy Trust Family Zone** (fun things to do): <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/birth-4/>
- **BBC Tiny Happy People** (play ideas to help you develop your child's communication skills):
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

Stay happy and healthy and we hope to see you again soon!

Vicki and Hythe Bay Nursery Team