

July/ August 2014 Newsletter

Welcome to our end of term newsletter

Months, days and hours are flying by and we can't believe another nursery year is coming to an end. This is our ninth year in operation and we are truly grateful for all our days. Every morning our nursery comes alive with the spirit of 42 happy energetic children. This sets the tone for the rest of the day. As soon as the children rush in, the nursery comes **alive and awake!**

Looking back at the year, we have achieved plenty: stories have been captured, new themes and concepts have been learnt and songs have been memorised. Reams of paper and craft supplies have been used. Every day we are inspired by whatever new comes our way, overcoming all challenges that have presented us and the years have taught us that **our small steps taken everyday come together to pave the path to life long skills!**

Our events such as: Colours, culture week, sports relief, male and female carers day, annual trips, end of year parties, celebrations, parents afternoons all require planning, co-ordination and lot's of energy, and yet we repeat them over and over again because we know they **create impressions, life skills and joyous memories.**

Comments from parents:

"We feel fortunate that our children are cared for in such a sensitive and supportive environment".

"A special thanks to Roof top staff who have an outstanding, calm collective demeanour, my child has excelled and grown up so much in the past few months, and we hope my younger child will benefit from the Gems they have at Roof Top". (Existing parent at Roof Top)

Comment from staff: "Roof top is like a second home for us here". "We **love** Roof Top nursery, it's a small beacon of light in Hackney, One from which we hope our future movers and shakers will emerge".

As a manager, I am very grateful for the endless energy and determination my staff have in their career.

Thanks & thanks again- All the Way Around!

Hafiza - Manager



Roof Top Nursery

Leavers Party

Last month we had to say goodbye to Eloise, Alfred, Saul, SherN'ya, Flora, Georgia, Keyaan, Rhea, Misty, Naima, Rita, Rihanna, This month we will be saying goodbye to Sumayyah, Kamron, Holly, Finnbar, Lillian and Rudy. We will miss all the leavers, many of whom started with us as babies in Sunshine Room. It has been a pleasure to see them grow and develop into such fine intelligent young children ready to embark into their new milestone in life. Remember to come back and visit us.



We would like to say a big thank you to all parents and carers for entrusting your child to our care and for donating and supporting the nursery in so many ways throughout the years.



We had a fantastic party for all the leavers on Monday 14th July to celebrate their achievements at Rooftop. They started the part with lots of food and left, party games and left with a leaving present from Hafiza.



Dexter's dad did a spectacular show for all the children on the play roof for 30 whole minutes. He performed a magic show and a superb juggling performance. The children and staff really enjoyed the show and he even managed to get a couple of the children to help with his performance! We can't wait to have him back!



Thank you to all the parents that donated food towards the party.

Please make sure you check the **Dates for your Diary** section at the back of the newsletter each month for upcoming events. Rip it out and stick it on your fridge if it helps! Important dates can also be found on our website and the events and holidays calendar that was given out at the beginning of the year.

We have made new photobooks from our trip to the zoo and Male Carers Day 2014. Feel free to pop into the office to have a browse!

The Comic Relief certificate is finally here. Keep an eye out for it on Star room 'Parents Information' board on star room window.

Nursery Photos are ready to order
Please drop by in the office to choose the pictures you would like to order before the end of term.



Parent e-mails

We send out e-mails regularly to parents to notify every one of events and updates. If you have not been receiving any emails, then please get in touch. Email: office@rooftop-nursery.com

Staff at Roof Top Nursery

Staff training

Guler- Health and Safety in the workplace
Asma- Renewed her First Aid training
Diana – Level 4 Key Times
Khadija is working towards her EYT this year.

Recruitment

We are proud to announce that we have recruited a number of long term students as supply staff. A big warm welcome aboard to Majeedah, Samira and Aatiqua. Samira & Aatiqua have completed their childcare Level 3 course during their placement here at Rooftop and will now be working with us.

Renovations

The bathroom has been repainted and new cupboards were installed. Metal wiring has been put up in the garden to support vines to grow up to the play roof to help us create an internal garden space. We hope to refurbish our toddler and pre-school room in the near future; we will keep you updated with the progress.

Health and safety & messages: We would appreciate if ALL parents can do the following:

- ✓ NO mobile phone policy: We have noticed that parents are still sometimes bringing in the phones in the nursery in front of the children. Please put your phones away once you enter the nursery premises.
- ✓ Kindly like to remind parent's breakfast starts from 8.05 until 8.50. If you wish for your child to have breakfast please arrive on time.
- ✓ Provide plenty of spare clothes for the children that are toilet training and appropriate summer clothing
- ✓ Ensure your child has plenty of nappies and wipes if they are in nappies.
- ✓ Please check your child's pockets to ensure they do not bring in coins
- ✓ Close the gate behind you upon entering and leaving the premises.
- ✓ Ensure your child has slippers and outdoor shoes at nursery
- ✓ Parents are welcome to donate clothes to the nursery
- ✓ Sign your child in and out daily on the register.

Eid Mubarak

Eid Mubarak to all the parents and children. The month of Ramadan has ended with the celebration of Eid. Muslims celebrate Eid twice a year, once in the end of Ramadan and then again a couple of months later during the Hajj season.

Play, Learning and Development

Rainbow room

What has been happening in Rainbow Room?

Transition to star room

As you may be aware, some children from Rainbow room will be moving into Star room around mid July and in September. To ensure a smooth transition, Rainbow room staff have been working closely with star room staff to provide opportunities for the children to spend time in Star room. Every Tuesday and Friday morning, Rainbow room children have been going into Star room to familiarise themselves with Star room's routine, get to know Star room staff and children and start forming attachments with their new Key Person or other new staff.

Star room staff have been coming into Rainbow room to talk to the children about Star room and about all the exciting things they do such as *Show and Tell* and book bags. They have also been using transition books to support the children's understanding. These transition books have pictures of the new rooms' layout, facilities and routines.

School theme

It is very important to make children aware of any changes that are happening around them such as going to a new setting or being around new faces, as it can both exciting and challenging for them.



To ensure smooth and happy transitions from Rainbow room to either Star room or to school, staff set up a school theme in Rainbow room in the home corner. This included school uniforms, school bags, chalks boards, computers, and school transition books to help them to become familiar with the new setting and what will be expected of them. They dressed up in school uniforms and carried backpacks pretending to go school.



All Key Persons have been talking to the children about school or Star room during language group sessions to help the children prepare for their move.

Some of the things Rainbow room children did for the School theme:

The children practised using their tripod grip to colour in templates of school bags and school uniforms.

They worked together as a group to make a large-scale model of a school using junk modelling. They created

their school using cereal boxes, brown, black and grey paper and they added small details such as doors and window to the school.

World Cup

Last month, Rainbow room children were focusing on football, which was extended from their interest and suggestions.

Physical Development

Before the football session, the children and staff had a warm up session; they jogged around the play roof and did few stretches.

The children then participated in a football match, which was exciting for both the children and staff. The children formed two teams. Amaya and Misty were the team captains, who then selected their team players one by one with help from staff.

The football session supported the children's' movement skills and development for example, their running, kicking, walking and bouncing skills. Through the session, they also began to learn to control their speed; going fast, slow, stopping, improve their listening skills by following instructions like 'start', 'stop'. 'slow down', and mirroring movements, and improve their coordination and direction e.g. forward, back and aiming.



They took turns during a penalty shoot-out as well. At the end of the session, all the children got certificates for taking part.

Expressive arts and design

To extend on the world cup theme, the children created various collages of football, trophies and different country flags using different media and materials such as crepe papers, colouring tools and glitters. They created a 3D football using papier-mâché and once that dried, they painted it using colours of their choice.

Understanding the world

Ramadan

As there a few Muslim children in Rainbow room whose family observed the Islamic month of Ramadan, Rainbow room children explored Ramadan through various creative activities.

To introduce the Ramadan theme, Rainbow room staff created a display table for the children to investigate materials and objects relating to Ramadan such as multicultural puzzles, prayer mats, pictures of mosques and Muslim children, and symbolic food that are eaten during Ramadan such as dates.



The Ramadan theme was extended to construction play. The children used building blocks and tools to create structures of mosque and minarets like those they viewed in the pictures in the display table. Role-playing was also encouraged in the dressing up corner; the children had a range of Islamic clothing displayed to choose from and dress up in.

Rainbow room children took part in date tasting which had mixed feedback from the children as some children enjoyed the taste whilst others said they didn't like it and that it was too sticky.

Whilst holding a date Lucian said "what's that? He then takes a bit and said, "Don't like it"

"I got dates at home" (Tara)

"It's too sticky" (Amaya and Rueben)

"It's too sweet" (Ayla)

"I don't like it" (Sylvia)



Cooking session

During the Ramadan theme the children made vegetable pastries. They rolled out the own pastry and with support from staff, they filled their pastry with vegetable filling. Once cooked the children took they pastries home to share with their loved ones.



Language and communication

During language group, the children listened to Islamic songs and talked about Ramadan as some children were questioning why the adults were not eating with them. The staff members explained why they were not eating during the day which opened the discussion for children to ask further questions and contribute their thoughts, which encouraged the children to engage in conversation.

“My daddy prays at home” (Noor)

For their **expressive arts and design** activities, the children created a large collage of a mosque using blocks and brown paint to create brick effect. They also decorated paper prayer mats, star and moon templates using sequins, glitters and coloured crepe paper. Since they talked about the different food people eat during Ramadan, the children went onto creating their own plate of food drawing food they would choose to eat.



Cooking session

Play dough fun!

Whilst exploring play dough in Rainbow room, some children went up to staff and asked if they could make play dough and take it home. Therefore, Rainbow room children got together in a large group and took turn in mixing the play dough ingredients together. Most of the children are confident making play dough so they were able to tell staff what ingredients and colour they needed to make their play dough.

“We need flour” (Amaya)

“Need flour, oil and colour” (Tara)

“We need water” shouted Reuben

“We don’t need egg in play dough” say’s Ayla.

With support from staff, the children wrapped their play dough to take home at the end of the day.



Whilst listening to gingerbread man story during circle time, the children showed interest in making their own biscuits.

They went onto exploring the ingredients needed to make biscuits such as flour, sugar and butter. Edon picked up the flour bag and said to Akki “it’s too heavy”, Ayla said the “butter is yellow”, and Amaya said “I have butter at home”.

Fun in the pool

As the weather is very warm, Rainbow room had a paddling pool session on the play roof, which was great fun for the children. The children enjoyed a splashing water on to each other. They will be doing this once a week until the summer holiday. Rainbow room staff will keep you informed as to which day the session will take place. You are welcome to bring swimsuit and towels for your child and if for any reason you cannot then the nursery will provide spare clothes for them to use.

Star Room

- ❖ Show and Tell: 1st week of every month. Please ensure children bring in toys ONLY during the first week of the month and not any other time as this upsets some of the children who do follow this rule.
- ❖ Ensure your child has plenty of spare clothes.
- ❖ Congratulation to Kamron’s mum who had a baby girl, Janai on the 4th of July. Hope the new arrival is doing well!

What did Star room do last month?

Child-led activities

Most of the activities last month were child-initiated; suggested by the children themselves and extended though their interest such as the animals mask making and transport theme. Star room

children show great confidence in suggesting ideas, initiating activities and leading their own play signifying a growing independence in thought.

Animal masks showing creativity

The trip to London Zoo seemed to have a lasting impression on the children. They continued to show interest in different types of animals and some of them have related it back to the trip. Jonah suggested to make animal masks so all the children made their individual masks. They had different animal mask templates to choose from, cut around the template, and decorate using various media and materials. In this way the children's play and activity was lead



Transport

Last month, Star room children looked at different modes of transport following Rafael's interest in the topic. During the fortnightly music session, Rafael was very excited by the driving role-play using plastic plates as steering wheels. Following this, during circle time, the children discussed how they travelled to the nursery.

"My mum has a silver car and she drops me to nursery" (Kamron)

"My mummy and daddy has a BMW but I come to the nursery with my scooter and helmet" (Rafael)



Getting creative

Following on from their discussions, Star room children made a large cardboard car using green paint. Whilst they were painting, Rudy suggested, "We need traffic lights" which lead to a traffic light topic to extend their understanding of road safety. As a group, Star room discussed what the traffic light colours represent.

green is go go go" to which Amelia only green man is go". Tamanna then children that they are both right and difference between each symbol and

They then went on to making a using various media and materials poms, glitter, tissue paper and

decorate their car. Adam said, "I only want to colour in black and make my mummy's black car". Millie said, "I want to use glitter and write, "I love mummy on my car!"



Rudy said: "Red is stop and responded "But explained to the explained the colour.

collage of a car such as pom sequins to

Getting messy

During these discussions, Jonah spoke about how his daddy washes his car so Star room staff extended Jonah's experiences through play car wash activity. They went to the rooftop, got out all the bikes and the car and washed them using soapy water and sponges. They really enjoyed this session, as it gave them the opportunity to role-play something that they have observed adults doing.



Trip to the pet shop

Star room children made a visit to the pet shop to buy some goldfishes for their fish tank. On their way, they looked at the different modes of transport, compared the sizes, and named the colours to continue making links between what they discussed on the classroom and what they can see outside in the real world. Once they got back, the children named the goldfishes Star, Rosie and Mariam. Unfortunately, by the time this newsletter had been written the poor fishes have left us. Rest assured, the children themselves respectfully buried them in the garden area with the help and support from the staff members.



Jolly Phonics Update

Star room children have been engaging with a jolly phonics video, where they listened to the sounds of set one letters and repeated along as a group. They were able to link the letters to the sounds.



Learning about Ramadan

Towards the end of last month, Star room children explored the Islamic Holy month of



Ramadan through various different activities. Adam's mum, Salma, very kindly volunteered to come into the nursery for a circle time session to talk to Star room about Ramadan. She brought in lots of materials to help the children understand what Ramadan is about and what Muslims do during the month.

Salma explained what fasting is, and how Muslims break their fast by having dates and water. Jonah then said, "Salma's dates are sticky, we tried them!"

The children tasted dates with their friends and described what they thought it felt and tasted like.

Salma also brought in traditional Islamic clothing for the children to try on. Albert put the boys clothing on and said, "Its like a wedding dress!" She also brought in a small prayer mat for the children to see.

Asma then explained what Eid is and what Muslims do during Eid. Sumayyah shared her experience of Eid "If I be good, my mummy will give me loads of presents for Eid"

Salma ended the session by reading a book to he children about Ramadan and Eid. Star room would like to say a big thank you to Adam's mum for holding the circle time session and taking the time out to prepare all those lovely resources for the children to explore.



The children went onto making their own Ramadan display. They painted in pictures of mosques using their handprints and once that dried, they decorated it using shiny paper. Star room children also decorated their individual paper prayer mats using different arts and craft materials like pom poms and glitter. Sumayyah brought in her own prayer mat from home, which she called a *musallah*, to show her friends; "I pray on this and copy my mummy"

These activities were a very engaging way for some of the children to share their experiences with their friends and help their friends learn about a different religion and celebration.

Transitions

Star room ended the month focusing on transitions as many of the children are leaving Star room to start school. Star room practitioners have been working very hard to help the children prepare for their move to a school through various activities to make the transition as smooth as possible. The home corner was transformed into a school area with many school related items displayed such as book bags and uniforms to encourage the children to explore and role-play.

The children also watched a clip on children starting a new school, exploring the emotions children might feel going to a new setting, meeting new friends and having new teachers. This helped open discussion amongst Star room children about how they feel about starting school.

Transition books

Star room has transition books for different schools that they will be going to. These books are stored in the children's bookshelf, so they are easily accessible by the children themselves to look at as and when they wish. These books have pictures of the children's new schools to enable the children to familiarise themselves with their new environment.

Sunshine room

- Congratulations to Hazel's mum who had a baby girl on 24th of July.
- Settlers: A warm welcome to William, Oliver Kiff's little brother who has joined Sunshine room.
- Birthdays: Sunshine room celebrated Billies 1st birthday in July. Sunshine room children all helped to make a cake for Billie.

Ramadan

As part of celebrating different cultures and religions, Sunshine room children have been engaged in activities relating to Ramadan.

Sunshine room children created their individual plate of foods using paper plates and pictures of different types of food that some Muslims choose to break their fast with.

The children made their plate of food by spreading glue on a paper plate and then sticking images of dates, fruit and rice.

The children took part in a mark making activity. They each had a template of a mosque, which they coloured in using different coloured crayons.

Sticking activity

Sunshine room children also decorated their own prayer mats. They each had a prayer mat paper template and they spread glue on it and then chose from a selection of tiny coloured tissue paper



cut outs and fabric pieces to choose from and stick on.

Date tasting

As Muslims break their fast with dates during Ramadan, Sunshine room children took part in a date tasting activity. They use plastic knives to cut the dates into small pieces with adult support and were able to explore the taste, texture and smell.



Caring for babies

Sunshine room staff have been providing activities and play areas relating to *caring for babies*. This theme was an extension of some of the children's personal interest after the staff observed some of the older children in Sunshine room role-playing with the baby dolls. It was also a means of supporting a few of the children's individual needs as they are expecting or have new siblings.

The practitioners in Sunshine room set up a baby corner which included baby dolls, a baby bath tub, a baby cot, small nappies and changing mats, clothes, bibs, food and milk bottles to encourage role playing. The baby corner encouraged the children to act out things they may have seen their parents do at home or observed in the nursery. They got an opportunity to bathe the dolls, feed them, change their clothing and put the babies to sleep.

Bathing Babies

Sunshine room children bathed the dolls outside in the garden area too. They had a large black water tub filled with water and sponges to clean the dolls. This gave the children the opportunity to have messy play with water and role-play with their peers as well as support their physical development.

Making bibs, bottles and dummies

Sunshine room had been very creative last month making many different things using a variety of creative methods to encourage their fine motor skills. They made bibs using a printing technique. Using a bib template, they dipped blocks into paint



and then made prints on the bib to add colour. They decorated dummies by spreading glue onto the dummy templates and sticking coloured tissue paper onto it. They also used the more conventional method of painting using paintbrushes to colour in baby bottles. These different methods and techniques allow the children to use their muscles in different ways and support their hand eye coordination. As there was such a wide range of creative work in Sunshine room demonstrating a range of techniques, their work was used to make hanging mobiles in Sunshine room.

Physical development and play

Sunshine room children have continued their sensory sessions in Linden Children's centre, which widens their opportunity for sensory play and chance to explore various textured materials.

Within Sunshine room, the children have been exploring textured play; they have been playing with boiled rice and pasta. As the hot weather continues, Sunshine room children have been engaging in water play both indoors and outdoors. Water play is a great way of getting the children to splash around freely and getting their hands and feet wet.



Dates for your Diary

Last day of Nursery

Wednesday 13th August
Nursery closes at 4pm

Nursery re-opens

Tuesday 2nd September 2014

Nursery re-opens for term time children

Wednesday 3rd Sep 2014

Eid Holiday

1 day around the 3rd or 4th Oct 2014

