



Sandra Spear and the children attending Marwood Pre-school, summer 2015

L-R Sandra Spear, Philip Quick, Emilie Young, Charlotte Lerwill, Harry Adams, Charlotte Cove, Bo Nixon, Kitty Phillips, Emily Lerwill, Violet Quick, Thomas Jeffery, Jack Hopkins, Wilson Jeffery, Amilie Barfield.

Marwood Playgroup and Pre-school 1975 - 2015

MARWOOD PLAYGROUP AND PRE-SCHOOL

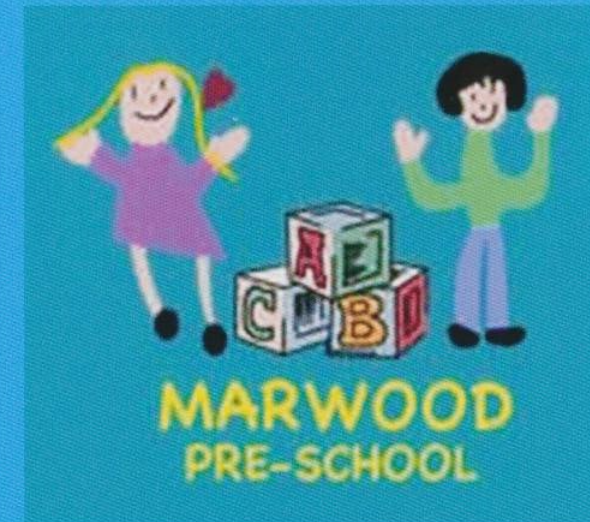
1975 - 2015

This book gives a snapshot of how Marwood Playgroup has developed over the last 40 years. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this record possible.

From the last OFSTED inspection of Marwood Pre-School, November 2011 Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding. Children's individual needs are met extremely well overall. They benefit from an immensely inclusive environment where individual children are valued and supported very well. As a result, children make excellent progress towards the early learning goals, relative to their starting points. The setting has excellent systems of self-evaluation. These are used most effectively to make action plans for the future that focus extremely well on promoting and sustaining very good quality outcomes for children. As a result, the setting demonstrates the capacity to maintain continuous improvement in order to sustain their very high standards....



Violet Quick
Graduation Day July 2015



Our aim is to provide a safe and happy environment, where child-centred activities enable our children to not only enjoy their first steps into structured play but to grow in confidence, self esteem and independence.

2015

**Marwood Pre-School,
Methodist Church Hall, Guineaford,
EX31 4DX**

The Beginnings of the National Pre-school Playgroup Movement in the 1960s

Belle Tutaev and her family lived in a flat in Central London and after her son went to school her 3 year old daughter Mary was lonely. She wanted friends to play with and the family had been turned down from any state nursery education because they weren't needy enough. With 6 friends Belle managed to hire a local hall, initially for two hours. Mary loved it, playing alongside the other children. She didn't realise how extraordinary it was at that time to have that kind of provision.

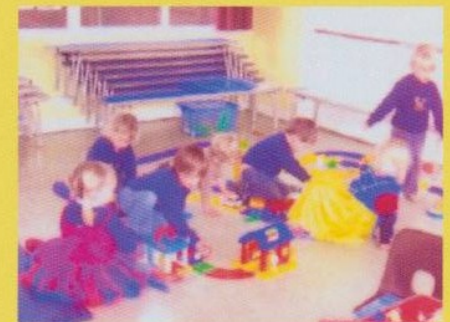
Belle was a trained nurse and her husband at that time was a journalist. In August 1961, she decided to test National Opinion and The Guardian newspaper published a letter from her asking for signatures to a national petition appealing for 'more nursery schools and play facilities for children under 5'. Belle's inspired response to the many concerned replies she received was to set up a journal called Contact that linked parents, mostly mothers, from all over the UK, and helped to share information about how to set up and run playgroups.

In July 1962, 150 of these people met together and formed the Pre-school Playgroup Association. The PPA had an enormous influence on the lives of thousands of children and their families. It was a unique organisation at that time, based in local communities, but linked nationwide. Volunteers were the key driving force in the PPA, supported by paid staff at all levels. There had been stumbling blocks on the way for Belle but she was determined! She knew what was needed but all of the government ministers and politicians she met at that time were men who didn't see any need for change. Despite this by the middle of the 1960's, there were over two thousand members of the PPA.

The PPA, later the Pre-school Learning Alliance (PLA), gained in national standing too. It was in the 1990s that the campaign to provide more nursery education and pre-school playgroup provision for the under-fives really took off. Labour, when it came to power in 1997, pledged to provide a nursery place for every three and four year-old whose parents wanted them to have one.

Taken from www.playgroupmovement.org.uk

The Pre-school Learning Alliance realises the debt of gratitude it owes to Belle Tutaev and people like her who have fought for better provision for the under-fives over the decades. Marwood Pre-school carries on today, with its Outstanding Ofsted standard. It still delivers a service for the community by the community. The parents, too many to name, throughout the 40 years have played a vital role in how this provision is delivered to their children.



The First Year by Dorothy Croft

Marwood playgroup was started in 1975 for reasons that will probably resonate today as they did then: mums feeling isolated from other adults, knowing their children would benefit from interaction with others.

Sally McDonald and I both lived in Kingsheanton at the time, started chatting and came up with the idea of starting a playgroup. We began by knocking on doors. The first call was to Carol Edwards in Guineaford who was very enthusiastic - a fabulous start to our enquiries! From there we enlisted Sarah Bailey and Jan Beaman, both from Prixford - people full of energy and ideas.

We registered the group with the Pre-School Playgroup Association, paid the insurance and over a time attended courses.

We were starting the project with no grants and no money at all! Our first job was to find a venue. Marwood Church Hall, at the time a chilly, damp place, was selected as the venue with space both for children and equipment. What equipment? Well - we raided our own boxes and headed for every jumble sale we heard of. We bought decorators tables and cut the legs short so that the children could paint, junk model etc. We held coffee mornings and Bring & Buy sales to raise money for toys and resources. The equipment, toys, trucks cars etc. were all kept in the store below the hall and had to be brought in from outside every session regardless of the weather. On some of the coldest days, before the overhead heaters were installed in the hall, some sessions would be held at Highfield, in Guineaford. At least Carol Edwards didn't have to go out to supervise a session on those cold days.

At each session there would be a playgroup leader and playgroup assistant who were eventually paid to run the sessions once there was enough money coming in. There would be a mother helper on a rota basis. Our sessions were always structured but giving the children freedom to take part in everything they chose. We usually had a theme for the week which might encourage children to bring objects in to 'show and tell' or be included in pictures or gluing. We had a big rug in the book corner, and Sarah Bailey made a long snake cushion for comfort. There was a 'house' corner which might also be a shop or a hospital. There was a rail of dressing up clothes and some hats too which the children loved. There would always be painting, sticking or junk modelling at every session. We always celebrated special days by making cards for Mother's Day, Father's Day etc. when all the children would be encouraged to 'make'. Lots of jigsaw puzzles were acquired and other board games to stimulate little minds. There would be playdough and sometimes clay modelling. We had a wooden train set and a big plastic train set. We would set the tracks out to allow lots of children to have their own part of the track. We had a garage and cars. There was a sand pit which would be alternated with water play. We would clear part of the hall at some point so the children could have a noisy time with ride-on trucks and cars. We would also play games with them.

About 10.30am we would have a break when all the children would sit down on the snake and take part. We would have milk, delivered by George Steadman, and biscuits and fruit. This is the time we would sing songs and rhymes, before going off to play some more. Towards the end of the morning the children would all go to the book corner for a story which would end the session. All of this happened at every session.

We put a lot into each session and hoped the children got a lot out of the experience too. DC

Dorothy Croft at the piano with Tanya,
Christmas 1975





In the photos of that first Christmas 1975 you will see Sarah Bailey and Jan Beaman in the centre of the photo on the left and Carol Edwards on the photo above. These were, with Dorothy Croft, the mainstay of the original group of parents who started Marwood Playgroup.

For the next 20 years parents and children learnt together and followed the ethos set up by the original leaders. Mums with many skills put themselves forward (sometimes encouraged!) as leaders and assistants and the weekly mix of personalities reflected this. At one time Mrs Adams came as a 'wonderful Granny', who read stories all the time, when Rosemary Booth was supervisor! Dr Smart's Garden and feeding the ducks was a favourite place for breaktime when the weather was good but photographic evidence is sparse during these first years without digital cameras!

Mums rarely went back to their original jobs as these were only kept open for 3 months after the baby's birth - an impossibly short time. Many parents were on the supervising rota in the early years and everyone benefited from the experiences, friendships and sharing of ideas. We also tried to give our own children at least one session a week without us being there. Many aspects of Marwood life haven't changed over this time but the technology certainly has. None of us had a mobile phone or a computer in the beginning so signal was never an issue. Landline or nothing!

1978

Back row: Marcus Kiff, Tanya Croft, Jason Kiff, Matthew Bailey, Gordon Penfold, Megan Edwards, Neil Tamlyn, Stephen Tamlyn

Front row: Graham Huxtable, Fergus McDonnel, Richard Pegg, Nathan Beaman, Crispin McDonnel Dean Anton

Christmas 1978

Sarah Bailey, Linda Neaves and Lin Penfold (below), shared responsibility with others, as assistants and leaders for the playgroup at this time.



Starting the Playgroup required a lot of commitment from a dedicated group of people. For the first two terms nobody took any wages and the children paid 35p per session. After Easter 1976 a supervisor was paid £1.30 per session and an assistant £1.05. Another parent did a duty at each session as well.

Children started at Playgroup when they were 3 and in 1975 children went to school the term after they were 5. By 1978 children could start school the term they turned 5 and by 1985 there was a 2 point entry and all the younger children in the school year had the option to start after Christmas. By 2010 there was the option of the single point of entry into school in the September for all children who were 5 during the school year. This meant there were significant fluctuations of numbers to account for and cater for each year.



June Tamlyn (Playgroup Leader), with our Playgroup Birthday Cake, September 1984. The tradition lasted for years. This time Katherine Greenslade would have had a packet of Smarties and given everybody one. She then had the rest to take home!



1985 - Pauline Williamson (Playgroup Leader) and the children making use of the snow in the Church car park!

Below: Fundraising at the Village Sports 1985
Right: Christmas Party 1985





1985 Group with Pauline Williamson

Back: Fabien Von Dallwitz, Gary King, -, Matthew Buckley, Pauline with Rob Williamson, Adam Holder, Craig Tamlyn, Kelly Marie Briggs.

Front: Hal & Robbie Keast, James and Emma Kiff, Christopher Chugg, Fiona Crocombe, Henry Sowdon, Robert Moore.



1986 and the Royal Wedding in Marwood - just like Prince Andrew's ! The Rev Bob Cranston officiated.



Playgroup Sports and Toddler Race at The Old Rectory - 1987



Above: Sam & Shane Stevens (Playgroup Leader) Simon Daly, Holly & Rose Skeet with Simon Daly and Lizzy Farwell in the foreground.

Below: Margaret Greenslade (Playgroup Leader) hosting a special Teddy Bear Party for the children.





1990 The Playgroup snake is still being used after 15years! Among the children are Sam Williamson, Debbie Button, Ellie Spencer, Richard Crocombe, and Sam Stevens.

Below: Another treat to be enjoyed



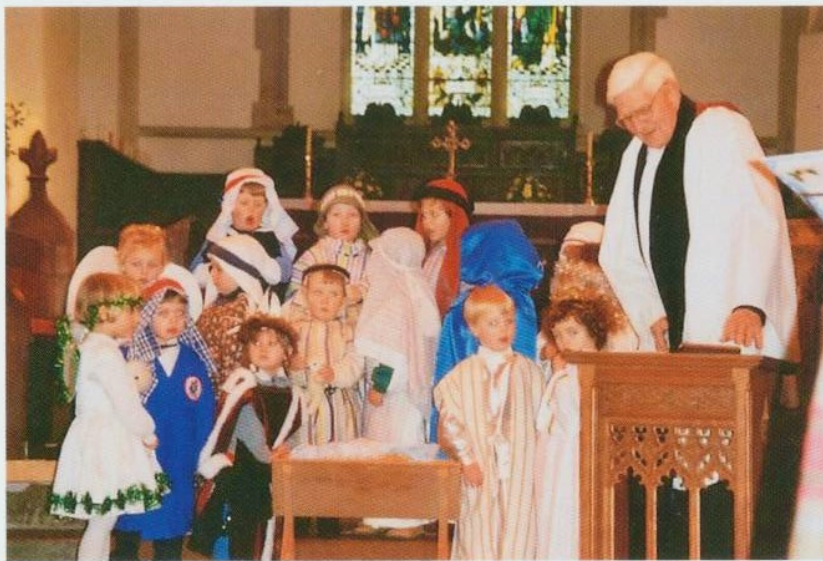
Katie Spicer, Samuel Stephens, Rosie Bowden, Francesca Wren, - , Lee Skeet, Dean Delahaye Holly Skeet, Catherine McDonald, Jennifer - , Thomas Darling, Claire Stevens, Yovana Edwards, Richard Crocombe. 1990/91 Group



1993 Group on the right include Daniel Squires, Henry Darling, Bronwen Edwards and Andrew Stevens.

1994/5 Group below
Back: Stephen Moore, Rebecca Pearce, Jill Haywood (Playgroup Leader) with Vanstone, Katie Spear, Sarah Pearce,
Front: James McFerson, James Spear, Victoria Kiff, Hannah Vanstone, Harriet Watts.





James & Katie Spear, James Wallis, Steven Moore, Becky Pearce, Darling, Ryan Marsterson

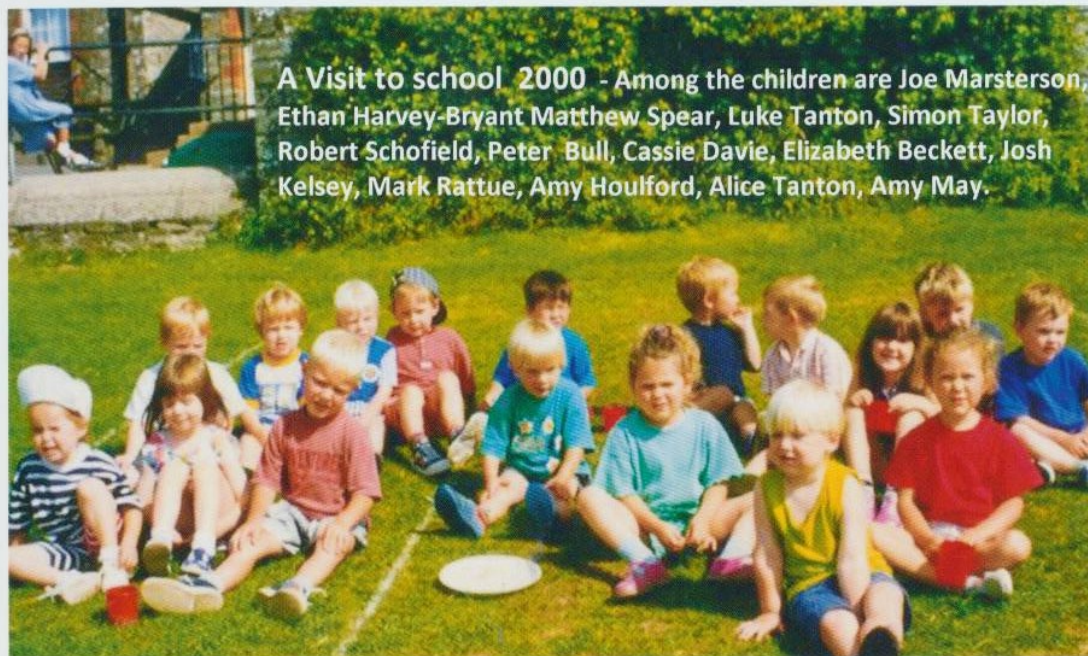


Matthew Kelsey, Edward Liddon and Matthew Bull

In 1994 Marwood Playgroup was registered for up to 17 children 3-5 year olds, as a sessional day care facility under the Children Act of 1989. It moved to Marwood School in February 1995 and was assessed as a valuable resource with good accommodation. Jill Haywood took a significant supervisory role at this time and Julie Muggleston also led a session each week with Sharman Von Dallwitz supporting both Jill and Pauline Williamson.



1995 James Masterson Sarah Pearce Hannah Vanstone Rebecca Pearce Ian Tossell - Hiding?



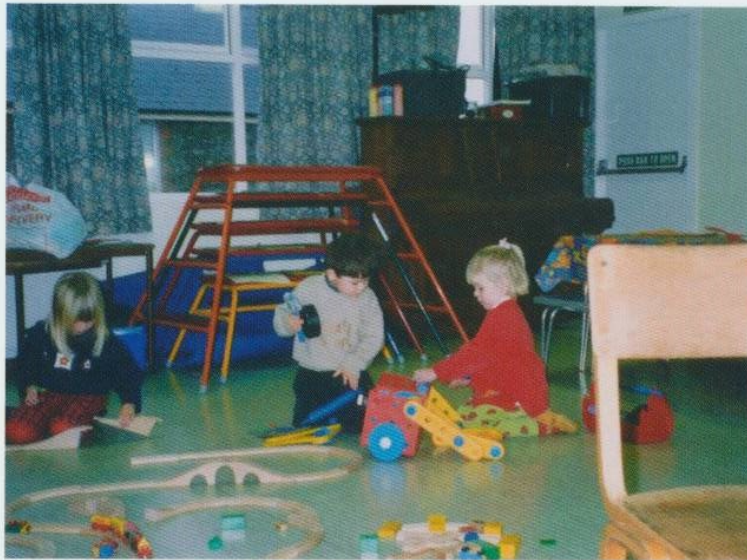
Sponsored Trike Ride 2002

Eggesford Outing 2003 and another good picnic!

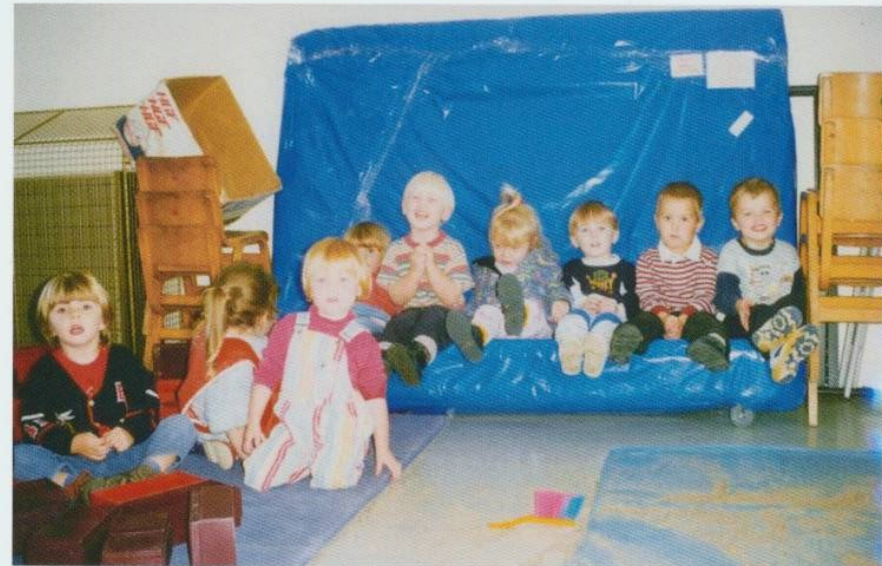


July 2004 Group

Back row: Scott Mccoy, Callum Nicoletti, Danny Roberts, Bob Whittiker, Ellie Down, Emily North
Front row: Holly Blackmore, Elizabeth & Stefania Barbeary, Kristian Page-Dove, William Gale



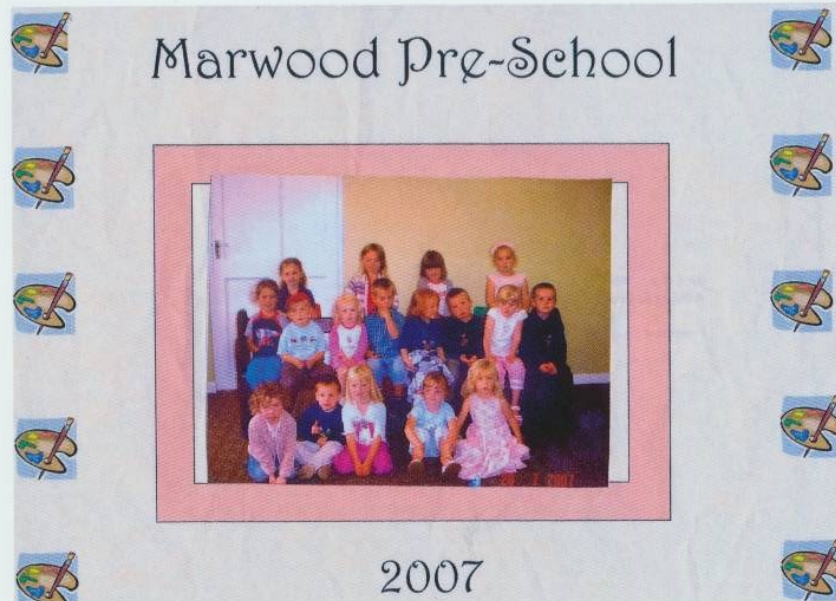
Emily Cobley, George Houlford, Victoria Ansdell



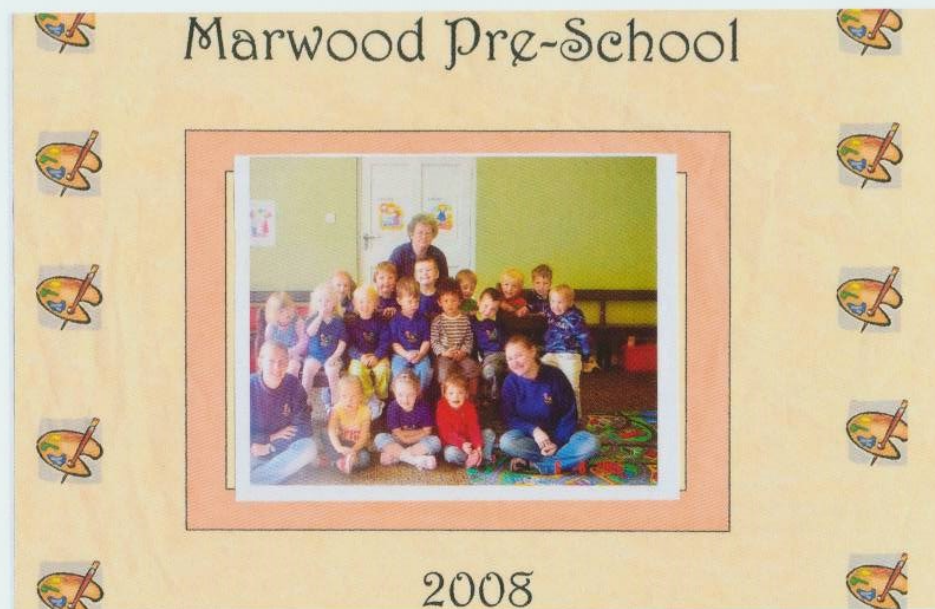
Louise Kennard, Louisa Van de Sande
Victoria Ansdell, Jamie Green, Luke
Tanton, Peter Bull—a new mat to
eventually unwrap!

Throughout the 40 years of our history everybody has enjoyed
the beach and a picnic with friends!





Back row: Alexandra Barnes, Tamsin Dark, Hannah Wallis, Kate Hill Anning
 Middle row: Grace Eckford, Louis Bartlett, Harriet Blackmore,
 Nathan Pollard,
 Holly Burrell Sam Allix, Cara Lethaby, Cameran Nicoletti
 Front row: Hector Darling, Callum Hill, Tamsin Hunt, Mia Gort, Evie
 Chittock



Back row: Holly Burrell, Sam Allix, Cameron Nicoletti, Nathan Pollard,
 Jack Argent, Joshua Tollervey,
 Middle row: Celia Lethaby, Harriet Blackmore, Abigail Turner, James
 Nancekivell, Francis Furse, Callum Hill, Louis Bartlett.
 Front row: Gemma, Evie May, Mia Gort, Ava Lea, Helen

In 2004 the Preschool was in the school hall, an Early Years Curriculum was followed and all the children's development was tracked in a folder of Pre-school memories and achievements. Recording first the nationally tracked 'Stepping Stones' and then the 'Early Learning Goals' has been done since 1999 and in 2015 still continues.

**For several years the children
graduate and receive their
individual books full of their
achievements while they have
been at Marwood Pre-school.**



MARWOOD PLAYGROUPO

GRADUATION



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

.....*Callum Nicoletti*.....

HAS GRADUATED FROM MARWOOD
PLAYGROUPO AND WILL NOW BE
TAKING THE BIG STEP OF STARTING
SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2004.



Making Sandcastles.
enjoys playing with
sand and water, making
castles and road tracks.



Callum can move around
aware of his/others space

with Liz, Emily, Daniel, Scott
William, Emily, Stefania and
Elizabeth.

Callum can throw
a bean bag with
accuracy. Uses left
hand.



The Pre-school keeps records of what has been happening during the daily sessions - the camera is always at hand!

Self care.



Ciaren is showing a sense of pride in his own achievement.
PSED Asp4 SS2.

Lily, Ciaren & Daisy
Sought out each other
to enjoy playing in
our Sea Cave.
PSED 3 SS2.



Georgina, Lily & Scott are accepting the needs of others by allowing Bob the chance to talk when he is holding the pre-School teddy.

PSED 3 SS4.



By planning in painting both as a core provision and central focus activity, we give children the chance to make marks and sometimes ascribe meaning to them.

CLS SS1



State funding for 3-5year olds started in 2002 and in 2015 the hourly contribution from the state is £3.70 an hour for a maximum of 15 hours per week.

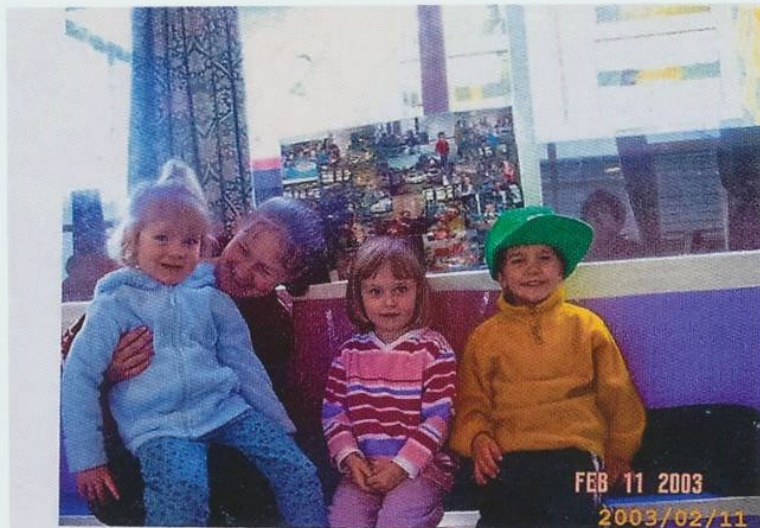


25th November 2011

We went to Tescos to buy the ingredients to make our Christmas cake. The children had individual ingredients to find. KOW

In 2008 the Pre-school changed venue for a third time in its history to Marwood Methodist Hall. Today The Early Years Foundation set out areas of learning as well as setting out its welfare and safeguarding standards. Since 1999 Sandra Spear has led the work with the children, supported by a team of assistants. They have achieved excellent results, supported further by the parents.

(The expectations of recording and achievement of these Foundation Standards are inspected just as rigorously in a pre-school like Marwood as they would be in a nursery attached to a school.)



Francesca, Emma and Joe are feeling Safe & Secure in playgroup.
PSED Asn 3.551

Christmas Party

December 2011



The children dress up for the church service.

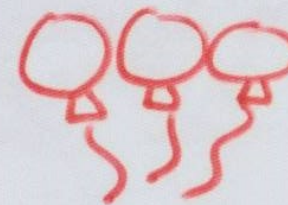
Lizzy - Mary, Theo - Joseph
Zara angel. (in photo) above



Bubbles music in the xmas party

PSED,
CLL,
PD,
CD,
KuW.

2011 Christmas Party



"Yummy food"





May 2011
A Day in the
Life of a Police Man
we visited Barnstaple
Police station.
Kw5 1, 5, 6.



Hannah Turner, (Pre-school
assistant in the helicopter) is
definitely enjoying this activity!



CELEBRATIONS FOR THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE - 2012

Lots of preparations took place - we decorated crown
biscuits, we made our own crowns and flags. We had a
party and Mrs. Darling gave everyone a special coin from
the Parish Council.



Always aware of Ofsted
and the need for
accountability this
celebration of a very
special milestone in our
National History also
created a lot of recorded
evidence of learning.





MARWOOD GARDEN VISIT

finding
fish



24/9/2013



exploring,
looking at flowers
/features,





Marwood Pre-School



2013



Back row: Kit, Violet, Poppy, Charlotte, Anna, Sasha, Barnaby, Amy, Henry.

Front row: Fergus, Brianna, Esme, Isabelle, Chloe, Sam, William, Lenny, Joshua, Charlie.

**The children made this
rainbow picture together
for The Church Festival
2013**





Ice Experiment

The children added salt to the ice block to see what happened. We also added food colouring to watch it spread through the block. KOW 1 2013



Bicclescombe Park 18 July 2014

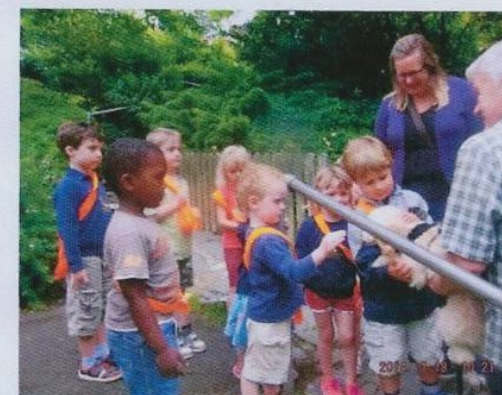
Today we went to Bicclescombe Park the children learnt:-

P.S.E. Adapt behaviour for change in situation /aware of boundaries

C.L. Follow instructions/directions ask answer questions

P.D. Aware of safety issues i.e. keeping with group, large /small muscle movements using climbing equipment

U.W. Observe talk about what we have seen





Sandra Spear in the centre and Rachel Munden, assistant, on the left
 The children, from right to left who graduated are: Amelie Barfield, Harry Adams, Violet Quick, Wilson Jeffery, Bo Nixon, Thomas Jeffery, Charlotte Cove, Jack Hopkins, Emile Young, Ronnie Barge, Izzy Kiff and Emily Lerwill. Philip Quick, Charlotte Lerwill and Lucy Perrin will remain in Pre-school for another year.

Top right - Izzy Kiff
 Bottom right - Violet Quick

The Graduation Celebration 2015

A very important annual occasion in Marwood for proud children and proud parents alike.

Pre-school 40 Years On!

Marwood is a small, friendly non-profit making organisation run by an elected committee of parents. (There is also a private nursery, Springfield, in Marwood, and children often successfully attend both settings as they approach school age if Marwood is their school of choice.) Marwood Pre-school is a registered member of Ofsted and member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance. We receive Early Years Funding for eligible three and four year olds. The Pre-school runs 3 mornings a week and we accept a maximum of 17 children at each session at Marwood Methodist Hall.

The aim is to provide a safe, happy and child centred environment with the objective being to ensure that by the time our children transfer to the reception year at school, they have made good progress against the Early Years Outcomes.



What We Do

A typical morning starts with structured free play, arts and crafts and then our main activity for the day. The children are encouraged to help tidy up and take turns to help prepare the fruit for the snack break and lay the table. Children are offered milk or water to drink and are offered a wide variety of fruit and salad to eat. When the children have finished their break, we have circle time and talk about the topic of the day. The daily and weekly plans are displayed.

The Pre-school has access to outdoor areas and we try to get outside every morning, weather permitting. The children play games, ride bikes, scooters and cart.

Our Objectives

Staff act as key workers, each with responsibility for a small number of children. This ensures that the particular needs of every child are recognised through close observation and liaison with parents and carers to provide individual care and attention for the children. We are keen to integrate children with special needs where our facilities and room can effectively meet the needs of the individual child.

We pride ourselves on excellent staff to child ratio which is possible because of a parent help rota. The parent help rota supports the staff and also enables parents and carers to get involved and see what we are all about. All helpers are CRB checked in line with Ofsted requirements. In conjunction with the toddler group we hold regular fundraising and social events. These events are an important part of our philosophy, helping to build a sense of friendship and community, as well as generating some extra income needed to buy new equipment or fund outings.

For more information contact marwoodpreschool@btinternet.com.

Toddler Group

Marwood toddler group is a friendly, informal group who meet every Tuesday morning in term time, between 9 and 11 o'clock, at Marwood Church Hall. The toddler group is suitable for children aged between 0 and 3 years. We have various toys, craft based activities, ride on toys, puzzles and play dough. We also have a nursery rhyme sing a long, musical instruments and a story time. A snack and drink is provided for the children and carers which is all covered by a small charge. The Toddler Group is strongly linked to Marwood Pre-school.

Many of you reading this short 'snapshot' history of Marwood Playgroup/Pre-school played a significant role in keeping the group going for its first 40 years. As well as those working with the children, if you served on the Committee it will have consumed hours of your time, especially as Chair, Administrator, Secretary or Treasurer. It may not have always been easy but many lasting friendships have been made, both between the children and adults. We have all learnt from each other and benefited in ways that may not easily be measured by an OFSTED Inspection and possibly will not be recognised until we are much older either!!

GOOD LUCK AND BEST WISHES TO MARWOOD

PRE-SCHOOL AND ITS INITIATIVES IN THE FUTURE - June Tamlyn