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The supported and shared play sessions provide opportunity for children and parents to experience both familiar and new activities, both independently and alongside staff.

Activities may include the use of paint, shaving foam, jelly, cornflakes, musical instruments, light-up toys, ball-pond, switch-operated toys, scented objects, and many other activities that provide a stimulating sensory experience for the children.

Each individual activity provides important opportunities for communication with the children, through a variety of strategies and techniques, together with the on-going singing and signing throughout the session, which provides encouragement in developing communication, language and social skills with them.

‘What’s in the Bag?’ provides further opportunity for the children to explore different textures and objects, and also to develop their skills in making choices through a variety of communication methods.

Tea/coffee break offers an opportunity for informal discussion about matters that may be of help for parents or carers, or simply for general conversation in a relaxed environment. However, staff are always available to discuss any matters with parents and carers during the sessions.

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We respectfully ask that if you are not able to attend any of the sessions due to illness, please contact Claire Spokes on 01582 393440 before the session is due to start.

Flying Start Luton Central

**Little Explorers**

**Group**

at

**Denbigh Children’s Centre**

Next door to Denbigh Pre-School

Cavendish Road, Luton (LU3 1JG)

on

**Thursday Mornings (Term Time Only)**

10am to 11.30am

By appointment only

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By appointment only

September 2019

**Group Programme**

Please arrive at 10am ready to start promptly

* Themed exploration activity
* ‘Hello’ session
* ‘What’s in the Bag?
* Singing and signing session
* Supported play session
* ‘Where are you?’ session
* Tea/coffee break
* Shared activities
* ‘Goodbye’ session

From 10am, while we await everyone’s arrival, the children will have opportunity to explore various different objects each week. Themes will include different textures, noisy toys, textured books, small musical instruments, objects of different colours or aromas etc.

The ‘Hello’ session is a valuable shared activity, and indicates the formal start of the session to the children. This, and the ‘Where are you?’ session encourage the children’s awareness of self and others through songs and other activities.

Similarly, the ‘Goodbye’ session and song indicates to the children that the session has ended and again reinforces awareness of themselves and others.

The group provides opportunities for children to participate in a wide variety of activities with their parents or carers, and to encourage awareness and understanding of their environment, themselves and others, through sensory experiences - hearing, taste, touch, smell and vision – at their own pace.

We provide a flexible approach to group sessions, recognising the unique qualities of each child, and working closely with parents and carers to deliver appropriate activities which are accessible for each child.

We aim to provide information, advice and additional support as appropriate for each child, with opportunities for discussion with parents and carers as and when necessary.

From time to time professionals from other agencies will be invited to attend the group, such as Physiotherapists or Speech and Language Therapists, who can offer further relevant advice and support.

Further advice and support may be accessed through referral to other agencies (such as those mentioned above) if appropriate.

Attendance at the group is by invitation only. The number of places in the group is limited so that we are able to give as much support as possible to each child and family.