**Opportunity**

**Group**

The supported play session provides opportunity for children and parents to explore familiar and new opportunities alongside staff.

The ‘free play’ session allows the children to explore other activities spontaneously and with support as necessary.

The on-going singing and signing opportunities throughout the session provide encouragement in developing communication, language and social skills.

‘What’s in the Bag?’ provides further opportunity for the children to explore different toys and other objects, and also to develop their skills in making choices.

Snack time is spent together and provides opportunities for children to try both familiar and different foods. Children who are not able to eat food by mouth also join the group to sit at the table as the experience of sharing in this social activity is valuable in itself. Children who are ‘fussy eaters’ may eventually try other foods simply after observing other children eating.

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Places in the group are limited to six children accompanied by a parent or carer. This limited number is so that we are able to give as much support as possible to each child and family.

If you are not able to attend due to illness please contact either Eileen Alderton 07738 114063 or Melanie Robinson 07738 114068.

**Tuesday mornings (Term Time Only)**

**1pm to 2.30pm**

**at**

**Flying Start North, Limbury**

**Icknield Pavilion**

**Icknield Way**

**Luton**

**LU3 2JR**

**OR**

**Wednesday afternoons (Term Time Only)**

**1pm to 2.30pm**

**at**

**Flying Start Central, Denbigh Primary School**

**Entrance on Cavendish Road,**

 **Luton (LU3 1JG)**

**By appointment only**

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September 2019

The group aims to provide an opportunity for children who require additional support, to participate in a wide variety of familiar and new activities with their parents.

Attendance at the group is by invitation only.

Each child is invited to attend for a period of 6 weeks initially, during which time their progress and areas requiring additional support will be monitored.

A key focus is joint working between parents and staff, with opportunities for discussion as and when necessary.

We aim to provide information, advice and additional support as appropriate for each child, including strategies for encouraging each child’s development in specific areas.

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

Following each six week block of sessions, parents and staff will discuss further options together. These options may include a further six week block being offered, or your child attending one of the Stay and Play sessions offered by Flying Start at other venues. Further advice and support may be accessed through referral to other agencies, with other options being considered as appropriate.

**Group Programme**

* Please arrive at 10am ready to start at 10:15am
* Themed exploration activity
* ‘Hello’ session
* ‘What’s in the Box?
* Singing and signing session
* Supported play session
* ‘Where are you?’ session
* Snack time
* ‘Free play’ session
* Shared activities
* ‘Goodbye’ session

From 10am, while we await everyone’s arrival, the children will have opportunity to play with and explore different objects each week. Various themes will include different textures, noisy toys, books, musical instruments, different colours 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.