



## Summer Celebrations

### marking the end of term in our Parent Toddler Groups

The end of the summer term is an opportunity for celebration and may also be a time for saying goodbye to some children (and their parents) as they move on to pre-school or reception class.

Lots of groups mark the end of terms with a Teddy Bear's Picnic - in the open air or in the hall they use on a regular basis.

#### Its 'Party Time'!

'Have you noticed how little needs to be done for children to understand and enjoy the idea of a party? It doesn't take too much to create that special party atmosphere for little tots.

Lunchtime picnics are often popular but with morning sessions ending at around 12, lots of the babies are ready to go off for their snooze (as well as the mums!) and the midday summer sun is a concern when we're all outside.

Some groups have a major party session with face painting, bouncy castle, puppets and picnic. Its wonderful and very rewarding if you are part of a team but when energy levels and volunteers are ebbing a little and the holiday season has already got underway for the lucky ones who can go away in term time, the simpler solution can be very appealing!

#### End of Term Toddler Praise Services

Celebrating God's wonderful world, families and friendship, a big picnic (feeding the 5000), 'Jesus welcoming little children' or 'God is with me wherever I go - Psalm 139' could be used as bible themes.

#### Starting School ■

Some groups hold a simple 'graduation' celebration as they say farewell to those who are leaving - with special privileges on their last day!

Don't forget the SU pack '**Ready Steady School**' by Marjory Francis as an ideal leaving gift for the 'Rising 5's'

#### Bubbles as a gift ■

We saw the effectiveness of using bubbles for 'bubble prayers' For an end of term, a gift- wrapped pot of bubbles for each child would be very well received (assuming parental supervision). Bubble machines can be purchased a reasonable price. Make sure you have a non slip floor or lay down a rug to prevent slipping on the bubble liquid and remind children not to look up into the bubbles a they try to pop them!



#### HEALTH & SAFETY

Remember you are in a different setting - perhaps a garden or in the summer sunshine. As said earlier it is essential to assess and take precautions for extra risks in introducing new things or a new setting - using a bouncy castle, parachute games (learn how to do it properly!)



## Sun Safety

Don't forget tots' delicate young skin in the summer sun when planning events.



## Strawberries

Delicious strawberries are a treat but some children may be allergic. Do be aware.



## Wasps and plants

Being out in the fresh air may mean you need to do a separate assessment of safety and take extra safety precautions. Things you may take for granted indoors in your familiar setting may need extra consideration.



Don't forget to think from a child's perspective re assessing risks.. do a garden check for juicy (poisonous berries etc)

Garden equipment, ponds, tripping slipping etc. Have a good look round beforehand to make sure you have taken adequate precautions.

## Face Painting - Helpful Tips

Important to consider cross-infection issues and hygiene generally when providing face painting for end of term celebrations.

Apart from the usual toddler sniffs and snuffles, impetigo and staphylococcal infections can spread very easily.

Provide copious quantities of foam sponges (or cut sections) and cotton wool balls for one per child and don't be afraid to offer designs on hands as an alternative if necessary. Reputable suppliers will be hypo-allergenic products and you can follow good practice drafted by the **UK Face Painting Association** [www.facepaint.co.uk](http://www.facepaint.co.uk)



## Holiday breaks

Although leaders and helpers may welcome a long summer break, the families often see them as a daunting prospect. You could encourage the parents together in the holidays with a meeting in the park or even an outing.

Some groups (not many) continue meeting during the holidays. Others offer occasional sessions during the summer...perhaps a garden party with a summer theme.

## Parachute Games!

If you have access to a parachute, this is an ideal time of year to use it! Get out into the open (safety in mind of course! Bounce teddy up and down, hide underneath etc. Its great fun if you know how to use them safely with little children.

## Always with me...

Some children may not be going anywhere different in the holidays. Not all families go on holiday. Don't make assumptions. However you could mark

the end of the term by using Psalm 139 – ‘**God is always with me**’. Use the Pupfish Book ‘Always With Me’ by Susie Poole to explain that God is with us on our to-ing and fro-ing. Use a teddy on his travels or going to bed and having his breakfast, dinner and tea (perhaps this would be at a teddy bear’s picnic)

### **Beach Party**

Have a seaside theme for your end of term party.

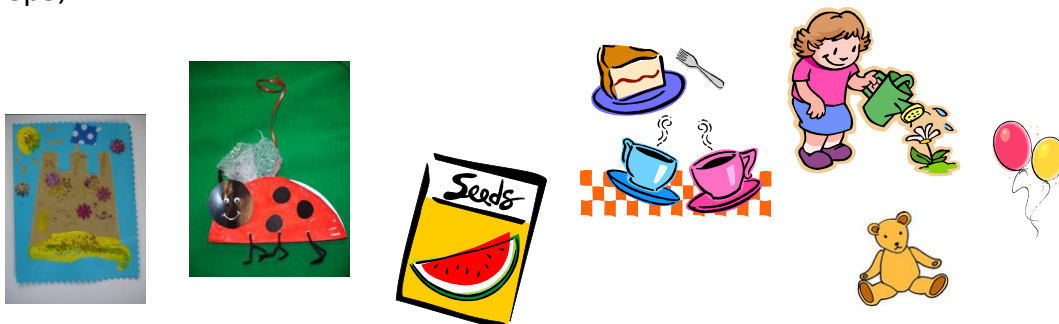
### **Sandcastle Pictures**

Use real sandpaper to cut our sandcastle shapes to decorate with paint thickened with flour and some PVA glue to help it to stick, paper flags, sequins etc. Sing ‘**Joy is the flag flown high from the castle of my heart...**’

Or a **Garden Party** celebrating God’s Creation in the Garden – or ‘sowing and growing’ linking with bible themes.

You can buy mini wooden mobiles with wind chimes attached from Yellow Moon or Baker Ross (also bird boxes) These can be painted and perhaps glittered as a summer term special . (perhaps at a party)

Make a paper plate ladybird mobile (enlarge image to see how it is made) . Ice some buns or biscuits (but not outside in case they attract wasps).



Teddy Bears’ Picnics – see separate sheets for Teddy Bear Extra