



Annual Report 2011-12 and Guide to Services

New Ark Play Association

Registered charity number: 1026751



**Nature Garden • Eco Centre • Adventure Playground
City Farm • Parent Toddler Group • Birthday Parties
After School & Holiday Play Scheme • School Visits
Preschool Playgroups • Play Support Service**



Let your child do something different for their birthday!



At New Ark, on weekends, we can hold birthday parties down on the farm



Your child can:

- help feed, groom and sponsor our animals.
- play in the adventure playground.
- take part in a treasure hunt.
- play party games and eat party food.



Charge £6 per child to include a farm visit and games. Minimum spend of £60 per party required.



Open to all - you do not need to be registered at New Ark.



To discuss your requirements or to book a party, email **info@newarkplay.co.uk** or phone Charlotte or Carolyn between 10am-12pm on **01733 340605**.

Introduction to New Ark

At New Ark Peterborough we know that play is the child's natural way of learning about the world, themselves and other people. Play makes life exciting, interesting and fun. We believe in the child's RIGHT to Play, as all children need a wide choice of good quality and safe play opportunities to help them develop fully and to get the best out of life.

Parents of New Ark Play Association, together with professional play and support workers, have worked together for over 30 years to create a special place where children of all ages - irrespective of gender, colour, race or disability - can enjoy all kinds of play safely under adult supervision, indoors and out, all year round.

New Ark do this by offering...

Toddler Group for children aged 0-3 and their parents/carers. Here they learn to play together and, with our special equipment, in our Eco Centre and gardens under the guidance of our playworkers.

Preschool Playgroups for children aged 3-5. Here children develop their learning and social skills through creative play with loose materials and toys of all kinds. Our trained playworkers provide a wide range of stimulating play activities.

Play Support Service which is operated by specialist staff from our

Resource Centre. Using all of New Ark's facilities, it provides support for individuals and small groups of children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Children are referred by schools or parents.



This mural painted at New Ark was designed by children and funded by Play England

After School and School Holiday sessions for school age children (or younger children if supervised by a parent). All registered children can attend our after-school sessions, and parents can arrange for our staff to meet children each day from the local Newark Hill school. During school holidays all registered children can attend our open morning and afternoon sessions. By prior arrangement we also offer closed access care for children of working parents to cover the early morning, lunchtime and/or early evening periods.

We hope you enjoy reading our Guide and Annual Report, and that you will enjoy seeing the children's artwork that is scattered throughout these pages.

Facilities at New Ark

Adventure Playground

The outdoor adventure playground offers activities such as digging, building, cooking, ball games, swinging and climbing. Much of our play equipment has been purpose-built using reclaimed materials. We also offer a wide range of indoor creative activities - including cooking, art and crafts - in our purpose-built building which includes a kitchen and workshop. Both our preschool and our after school/holiday club is based in our main building.

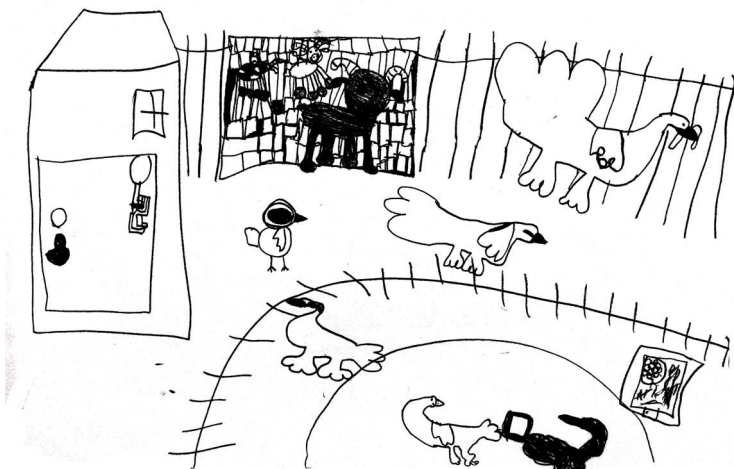


Water Slide and American Swings, by Kinga aged 7

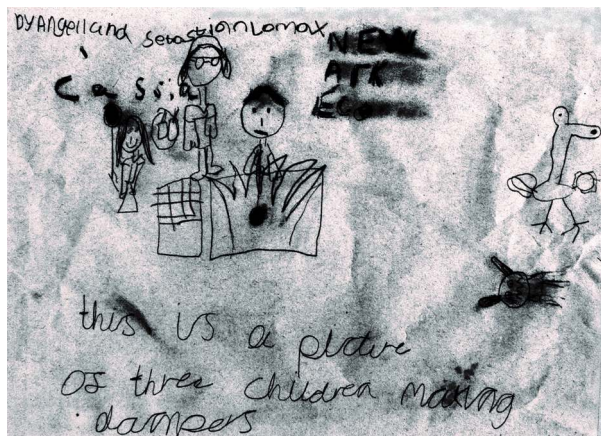
City Farm

Here children and their families can get to know farm birds, animals and small pets. They can sponsor and name an animal at birth and take eggs home from the farm birds. A trained worker helps children to care for the creatures. Families are encouraged to volunteer for feeding and caring duties outside normal opening hours. Ours is the only city farm in the Eastern Counties.

SKYE 9



*New Ark Farm,
by Skye aged 9*



This is a picture of three children making dampers, by Angell and Sebastian.

Picture drawn using charcoal, which the children had made earlier in the Eco Centre

Eco Centre

This is designed to offer a wide range of environmental experiences and activities. There is an orchard, herb garden and forest area. Children observe the life cycles of wild creatures and learn to appreciate the colours, shapes and scents of the plants. All our playgroup children attend a session every week in our Eco Centre and garden, where the emphasis is on outdoor play. Sessions for older children are offered in school holidays. We run a weekly toddler group in the eco centre.

New Ark Resources

This is where we run our play support service for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. With a small garden for outdoor activities, and a large indoor room for games, books, cooking and crafts, the children also have daily access to the city farm. A range of play therapy experiences are provided including sensory play, discussion circles and developing life skills.



Resource Centre, by Jade aged 9

Our mission statement

New Ark Play Association aims to provide stimulating and exciting play opportunities for children of all ages, at affordable prices, always meeting Ofsted requirements.

And here we are in action...



Children love to feed and care for our farm animals



On a hot summer's day we make a water slide for the holiday club children



Children make their own decisions on how they use the play equipment



Cooking dampers on an open fire is a popular activity with the children

A review of 2011-12 at New Ark

By Elisabeth Buck MBE

A year ago, New Ark's future seemed bleak. But after lots of hard work by committee, staff and volunteers, all of us are now able to see a future.

The donation in July 2011 from Mike Greene, our secret millionaire, started the regeneration. It gave us the ability to pay the outstanding bills and to keep paying our staff, plus put enough in the bank to ensure the immediate future of New Ark.

Local people and businesses have been very generous with donations and fund raising; we have had help and advice from several organisations on making New Ark more businesses-like; committee and staff are working together to evaluate and update our practices, planning and working for the future.

In May 2012, 36 years after the original adventure playground opened, we



Much of our play equipment has been purpose-built using reclaimed materials

were able to hold a New Ark Reunion. The aim was that children from the past could return to meet up with each other and the children of today. The event was a spectacular success, attended by about 1,000 people and raising close on £4,000. The weather was sunny and many people stayed all day - talking, playing and reminiscing.

Our current children are beginning to understand that New Ark has a history, and in some cases their parents played here. They are fascinated by our photo collection. They love the fact that there have always been fires, dampers, baking, swings, animals and den-building here!



Play is the child's natural way of learning about the world, themselves and others

They see some of the current workers and volunteers as children in the photos so some now have the ambition to "work at New Ark". They and their parents have shown their determination that the place should have a future - they realise how important it is to the local population.

Committee and staff are very grateful for the support we have received from parents and other local people, not just with cash donations but gifts of cleaning materials, baking ingredients, art materials and all the things we need

day to day. Thank you!

There have been some great successes at New Ark in the past year. First, our farm is now financially self-sufficient because so many people are giving donations and we have many paying visitors. Second, New Ark Play Support Service has been built up and now has a waiting list. Finally, New Ark had an Ofsted inspection and was judged Outstanding in all areas.

Reports on all the New Ark areas of work appear elsewhere.

Objectives for the year ahead

Committee and staff are now busy planning for the future. Here are our goals for the next year...

- To grow the after-school and school-holiday programme.
- To increase traditional adventure play, including den building and exploratory play.
- To continue staff training and development.
- Renovation of New Ark premises.
- Continuing to maintain our outstanding Ofsted standards.
- Continuing to update policies and future financial forecasting.

Added to this, before winter New Ark electrics are being brought up to date. And there are other urgent jobs: new outside doors and toilet renovations being top of the list. So, not only do we need to raise funds for the day-to-day running of New Ark, but also for essential repairs and maintenance.



Play makes life exciting, interesting and fun

All this requires that we continue with a fundraising programme, and for this we need YOUR support. On page 15 you will find a list of fundraising events for the next year, but there is room for plenty more. Could YOU plan and run an event for us? If so please ask us for a **fundraising pack**, which includes ideas for events and information on how to get things organised.

Current trustees, volunteers and employees

Board of Trustees

Bill Purdon, Chair
Rob Brown, Vice Chair
Lisa Sachse, Treasurer
Ally Hall
Hayley Daines
Ioannis Dermitzakis
Ron Welch
Sharon Raymond

Volunteers

Ady Bruce
Annabel Hall
Anne Mountford
Annie Bolle-Jones
Carol, George and Tracy
Hallet
Clare Duffy
Dave Wilson
Donne Buck
Hannah Mirthwaite
Hope Elkins
Jackie Onyskiw
Jade Star
Jamie Paterson
Jane Carpenter
Jonathan and Toni Sim
Kelly White
Lawry Rendel
Lee Moore
Marieke van de Braak
Mark Harding
Michael and Robin Wiks
Paulina Marcfield
Rebecca Zard
Ron Welch



Children attending New Ark develop strong relationships with the staff here

Employees

Playgroup

Nikki Anderson, Manager
Linda Fisher, Supervisor
Linda Wilson, Supervisor
Abbie Braines
Denise Jinks
Heidi Johnson
Jayne Davey
Jen Faunt
Jodie Watson
Lisa Paterson

Playgroup - Eco

Elisabeth Buck, Manager
Debbie Knighton, Supervisor
Avni Patel
Sonia Hannon

Play Support Service

Sam Brown, Manager
Stuart Gallagher
Vicky Webb

Playground

Sam Brown, Manager
Sheri Gill, Manager
Abbie Braines
James Angell
Jodie Watson
Laura Bellamy
Stuart Gallagher
Vicky Webb

Farm

Carolyn Bellamy, Manager
Hope Elkins

Administration

Charlotte Griggs

Cleaning

Kelly Martin
Laura Bellamy

Meet some of our staff and volunteers

Dedicated staff, enthusiastic volunteers and inspiring committee members keep New Ark running. Here we introduce you to a few of our team. If you think you'd like to help out as well please get in touch with us



Bill Purdon
Committee chair

Upon retirement I wanted to get involved with something which would make use of my years of experience gained working in

children's social care. My daughter and grandchildren both attended New Ark and so I wanted to support the charity. My daughters and grandchildren have fond memories of this place and they still talk about Ruby the Pig!

Sharon Raymond
Committee member

I help with publicity and marketing, and now that my youngest child has started preschool here I'm really starting to get my teeth into the role. I am a supporter of natural play and outdoor learning, and have fond memories of coming to New Ark in the 1980s (as Sharon Sargent). It feels good to be giving something to the community, and I enjoy spreading the word about this fantastic resource that I hope will still be here when I have grandchildren.



Charlotte Griggs
Operations manager

I came to New Ark as a child between 1982-1988, so New Ark holds a special place in my heart and I fully understand what it is

about. I have a corporate background and joined the staff in September 2011 as Operations Manager. I'm very passionate about my job and my goal is to build solid foundations that will keep New Ark open long term.

Sam Brown, Play Support Service and Playground manager

My team is hardworking but we have lots of fun and I feel we make a real difference. My day is exciting because of all the different children. They are building life skills and learning in an environment that is very different from school, for example they have a big input into what we do here and how we are run. I have worked here for 14 years and New Ark has made me what I am today - I love working with the children here



Avni Patel
Playgroup worker

My children came to preschool here and I was training to be a child worker, so I started volunteering and then applied for a vacancy. I love bringing children out of their shell and showing them that they can make a difference. We do that by teaching them to look after themselves, the environment and other people and animals. I do a lot of work in the Eco Centre and am hoping to become Forest School qualified soon.



Abbie Braines
Apprentice play worker

I've been here since early 2011 studying NVQ level 3 childcare. I love working with such a wide range of ages and seeing the children

achieve. I think it is really important that children have somewhere like New Ark to come to after school to keep them out of trouble. New Ark is very different to where I have worked before and it's a fantastic opportunity for me to gain wide ranging experiences in childcare.

committee here and encouraged me to help out and get some work experience for my CV. I enjoy coming ; everyone is friendly and the children are lovely. The farm is amazing - there isn't anything like this where I grew up in Poland.

Anne Mountford
Farm volunteer

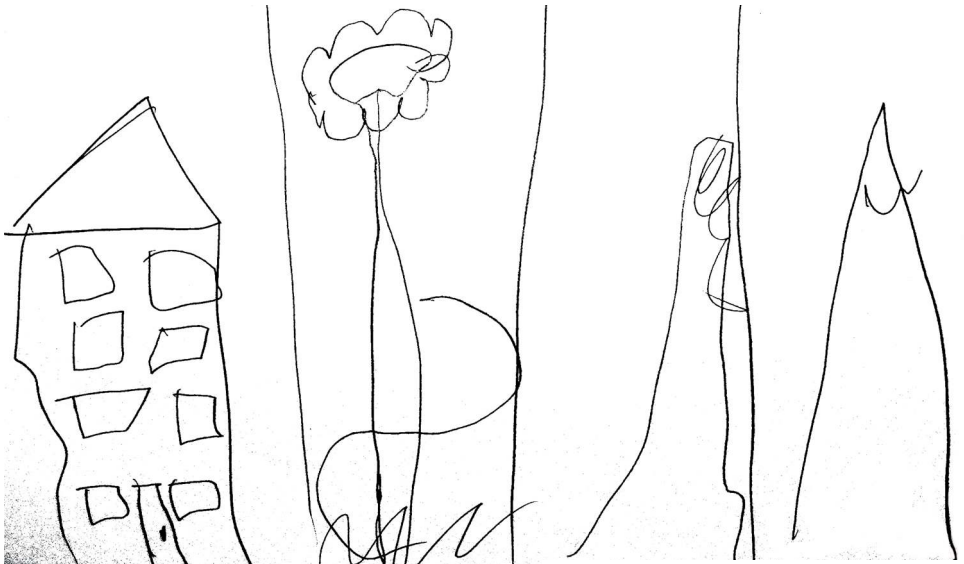
I volunteer in the farm once a week and it's a real home from home for me as I work for Pets at Home. I

learned about New Ark when my children started to attend the afterschool club, and because of my interest in animal welfare I was keen to share my knowledge with the other volunteers. I really enjoy getting hands on with the animals and being outside - it's like being a kid again. I feel I've made a real difference to animal welfare and health & safety, and now I've persuaded my employers to get involved with fundraising for the farm.



Paulina Marcfield
Office volunteer

I volunteer in the office doing bookkeeping. It's good practical experience while I am studying accounting and I give New Ark new ideas about how to organise their finances. A friend of mine is on the



By Cameron, aged 5

Summary of recent fundraising

We couldn't have done it without you in 2011-2012

When the threat of closure loomed in spring 2011, staff and parents at New Ark rallied around and did a phenomenal amount of fundraising. Here is a snapshot of some of the events from 2011-12...

Empty Smartie tubes were filled with 20 pence pieces. With each tube holding around £20 and hundreds of children determined to fill them, we quickly raised several hundred pounds.



Preschool and playground parents raised several hundred pounds with a sponsored walk to Ferry Meadows

An **afternoon tea party** was held in Yaxley. Organiser Sarah Guest got scones, cream and strawberries donated and raised over £600.

During a **singathon** at the Wheatsheaf pub, professional singer Freena Davis serenaded punters in return for a donation and raised around £200.

The Royal Arms pub kindly let us run several raffles and other fundraising events.

Several **small fundraisers** were held at preschool and toddler group, including cake stalls, a sponsored cycle ride, a pyjama day, coffee afternoons and a family day. £20 here, £100 there - it all added up and made a difference to our charity!

Word of our crisis got around, and in summer 2011 we were approached by Channel 4 wanting to come and film a documentary about volunteers working in the community. As it turned out, it was *The Secret Millionaire* programme and after volunteering here for week **Mike Greene** donated a whopping £40,000, which was gift aided making it £50,000 in total.

Following broadcast of the programme in November 2011, we received £165 in **individual donations plus gifts of materials** from people around the country who had been moved by hearing our story.

For our **Christmas Bazaar** in November 2011 Father Christmas joined us in the barn on the farm, which was a great hit with the children. He agreed to be sponsored to grow his beard which raised over £200, plus stalls and other events on the day raised almost £1,500 more. This was a fantastically supported social and fundraising event and our main building and farm were full to bursting!

Thanks to the generous support of Heart FM and local shoppers, who donated surplus toys at a collection

point in Queensgate, we raised more than £200 with our **Christmas Raffle** in December 2011.

At our **Greyhound Raffle** in February 2012 New Ark managers sold tickets to win donated prizes to the Greyhound Stadium's customers, raising just over £300.



A hog roast, stalls, cooking dampers and lovely sunshine helped to bring in the crowds at our highly successful reunion day in May 2012

The Elm Tree Tavern supported our **Race Night in March 2012** which was attended by around 100 people who enjoyed the racing, buffet and raffle. Eight local businesses each sponsored a race and supporters had the opportunity to purchase and name a horse before the event. We were hugely entertained by the talented compare and had lots of fun, raising a grand total of £1,738.



A fun time was had by all at our Race Night in March 2012

Held at the toddler group in the Eco Centre, we raised over £200 at our **Easter tea party** and egg raffle. Eggs were kindly donated by Fusion and toddler group/preschool parents.

In the year to March 2012 we held 5 **Farm birthday parties** and raised nearly £500. See our advert on page 2 if you might be interested in holding your child's birthday party at New Ark City Farm.

In the financial year from April 2012 we have held several fundraising events and have more planned - see page 15 for details.

We were delighted to raise just under £4,000 at the **New Ark Reunion Day in May 2012**. We raised £1,600 on the raffle alone which included generous donations from JLS, Mike Greene and many, many local businesses. It was a delight to make contact again with lots of grown up New Ark children. Our stalls, hog roast, hall of fame, and beautiful sunshine showed off the farm and adventure playground at its very best. It was wonderful to see so many faces new and old on the day.

Another **Greyhounds Raffle** was held in June 2012 raising nearly £300, and a **joint fundraiser** with Family Voice in August 2012 raised £320.

We ALWAYS need donations!

... of repairs and maintenance materials

- Paint (part used tins are good).
- Nails, screws and small hardware.
- Wood for woodwork and den building.
- Tools.
- Tyres and rope.

... of craft and cooking materials

- Baking ingredients such as self-raising flour, margarine, icing, cocoa, sugar, etc.
- Cornflour.
- Wool, sewing and embroidery thread, needles and pins.
- Card and paper.
- Boxes for junk modelling.
- Shaving foam.
- Catalogues and magazines to cut up.
- Pens, paint, glue, sequins, etc.

... of items for day to day use

- Antibacterial handwash.
- Non-bio washing powder.
- Antibacterial washing up liquid.
- Bleach.
- Baby wipes.
- Biscuits.
- Squash.
- Chocolate spread, peanut butter, jam, cheese spread (for teas).
- Bread (for teas).



Can you give New Ark your time?

As an independent charity, New Ark has to raise money to provide our services and keep fees low. Without help from volunteers, New Ark would not exist.

Could you be one of our volunteers?

Here are some things you could do:

- Feed animals on the farm.
- Make teas for the children.
- Give IT support and advice.
- Take pictures for our publicity materials.
- Spare a few hours per week to help with general office duties.
- Become a committee member.
- Put up posters to promote our events.
- If you have a finance background, help us with financial planning.
- Repair and maintain play equipment, buildings, animal housing, etc.
- Gardening and site maintenance.
- Help during our 2013 repairs and maintenance weeks, planned for 8-11 April and 2-5 September.

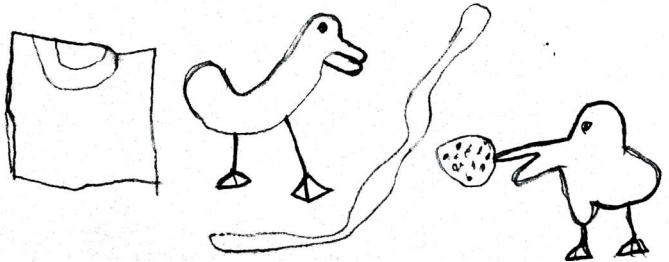
If you can help call Charlotte on 01733 340605 or info@newarkplay.co.uk.

Fundraising in 2012-13

We need your continued support to raise money so that we can keep our fees low. Anything you can offer is welcomed - it all adds up. Ask us for a fundraising pack detailing how to run your own event, or offer to help us with any of the following:

Help with our regular **raffles** by:

- Donating unwanted gifts and asking local businesses to donate prizes.
- Buying tickets, which usually cost around £1 a strip.
- Selling tickets to friends/neighbours or at event (lots of fun and banter).



By Dennis, aged 8

We are holding several **fundraising events** and you can help by:

- Putting up posters to promote events
- Baking cakes, biscuits or savouries which we can sell.
- Donating prizes for chocolate tombolas, lucky dips, etc.
- Offering to help for an hour at an event eg run a stall or craft activity, serve refreshments, help tidy up.

Our **birthday parties** and **pet boarding** help raise valuable funds. You can help by:

- Consider having a birthday party here, and help encourage others to book one - see ad on page 2.
- Tell friends about our pet boarding service - see ad on p25.

Can you help with any of the following?

- Spread the word about our activities on social media.

- Put up posters to promote events and New Ark in general.
- Ask local businesses for donations and prizes.
- Spare an hour to help at an event.
- Offer your skills to run a stall or craft event.
- Make a donation direct to our staff or online at www.localgiving.com/newarkplay.

Planned fundraising events

Christmas Bazaar on 24th November 2012 at New Ark. Stalls, cake sale, chocolate tombola, raffle (with £100 cash prize). Plus Father Christmas will be on the farm!

New Ark Raffle on 19th December at Peterborough Greyhound Stadium.

New Ark Raffle on 22nd March 2013 at Peterborough Greyhound Stadium.

Race Night on 23rd March 2013 at Elm Tree Pub. Family event with food and raffle.

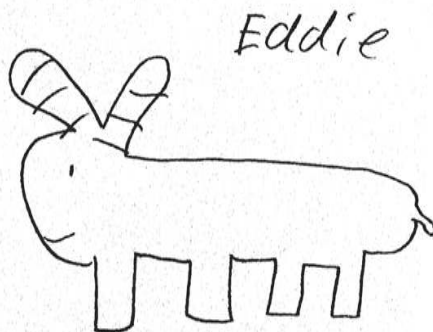
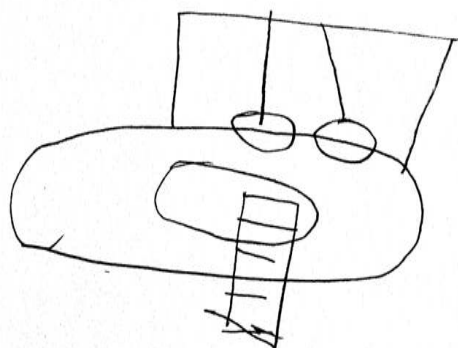
Spring party in May or June 2013, date to be confirmed, at New Ark. Stalls, music and refreshments.

New Ark Raffle on 28th June 2013 at Peterborough Greyhound Stadium.

by Mary-Jean Whitely Age 9

What I like about Newark that there is lots of things ~~to~~ to play on and to do.
 And you will make lots of different friends. And one of my ~~friend~~ ^{friend's} favourite
 things is playing ^{board} board games and going on the american swings.
 and on this ^{spinning} ~~thing~~ thing it's ^{super} fun I play on it
 almost everyday with lots of friends.

And at new ark you ^{hardly} get bored.



I love Newark because there
 is so much to do you can never
 get bored. I love the farm because
 you can hold the animals and I
 like feeding Eddie, Evie and Emily
 which leaves through the gate I love
 it when they lick you. I love Newark
 I enjoy it loads there is so
 much to do.

New Ark management report

By Charlotte Griggs, Operations Manager

After working at New Ark for a year, I now have a better understanding of the charity and I am working closely with the managers and committee to improve our processes so we can operate more effectively. This includes payroll, banking, HR, fundraising, marketing and administration.

equipment where needed, and carry out urgent repairs and maintenance to our premises. This means that we have to continue to apply for grants, hold fundraising events and seek donations and sponsorship from local businesses. To find out how you can help with this see page 15.

We now have a budget in place and are starting to forecast our financial future with the support of Moore Stephens. Our income is up and our expenditure is down, and we are receiving continued support from kind supporters and local businesses which help to keep New Ark going. The generous support we continue to receive is overwhelming.

After the financial loss in 2011 which nearly closed New Ark down, our bank balance has been brought up to a safe level at the end of 2012. In line with good charity practice, we now have three months running costs in the bank. This has happened thanks to the £50,000 donation (including Gift Aid) we received from *The Secret Millionaire* Mike Greene, plus a huge amount of general fundraising and extremely tight budgeting - which included staff and volunteers working many unpaid hours in order to maintain our high standards of care.

During 2013 any surplus money is earmarked to restock materials and

Financial comparison 2011 to 2012

	2011	2012	
Income	£225,913	£266,722	Up £40,809
Expenditure	£236,313	£184,543	Down £51,770
Year end result	-£10,400	+£82,179	

New Ark fees

As a charity, we keep our fees low so that all families can afford them. Your support at our fundraising events is vital to continue this.

Some examples of our fees (as of October 2012) are:

Afterschool/holiday play scheme

is £60 per year for one child, which works out at just £1.25 a week! Two children at the same address is £80 per year and three or more children is £100 per year.

Parent and toddler group Just £1.50 per week which includes drinks and access to our city farm.

For further information on fees, email us on info@newarkplay.co.uk or call Charlotte on 01733 340605

New Ark Playgroup report

By Nikki Anderson, Playgroup Manager

A big hello to everyone involved with New Ark!

Last year the preschool staff were under an enormous amount of pressure with their jobs under threat, but everyone pulled together and some even volunteered to forfeit wages. They demonstrated their huge commitment to New Ark parents and children, and all pulled together with fundraising and publicity to enable New Ark to continue and become more sustainable. It is testament to their professionalism and dedication that no child would have noticed any difference in their way their learning and play was delivered.

The parents of preschool children also contributed a huge amount of resources and materials in order to keep our budget down. It was like Christmas every morning waiting to see what parents had bought for us - from



To you it's just mucking about with foam; to us it's a sensory activity that helps children explore texture, smell and problem-solving skills

flour and cooking oil for play dough, to nappies and handwash for personal care. Although we are now in a better position financially, your donations are still very valued. We would love you to add an extra item to your shopping trolley every week and help us to continue that Christmas-every-morning feeling. See page 14 for a list of the kind of items we always need.



As you can imagine, the team here were delighted to have official recognition for all their hard work in November 2011 when New Ark received an outstanding grading from Ofsted in all areas of our early

All older preschool children have a weekly eco centre session

years provision. It has given everyone a boost as we know all the hard work by staff and volunteers has paid off.

The Ofsted report said: "The commitment and dedication demonstrated by the whole pre-school team enable them to offer an outstanding standard of care and education...Children clearly thrive and make excellent progress across all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage"

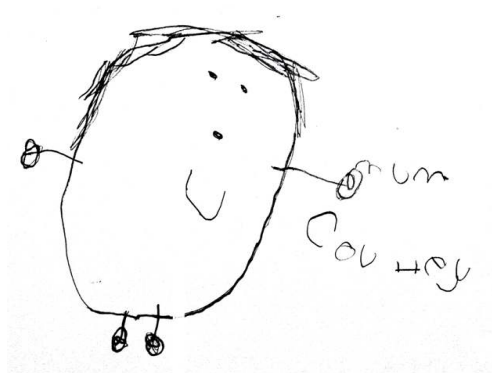
From 1st September 2012 we are implementing the new Early Years Framework. There are three prime areas of children's development:

- personal, social and emotional,
- communication and language,
- physical.

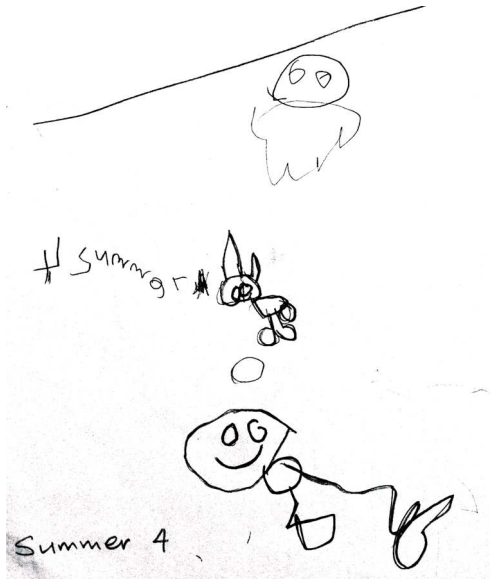
These will be underpinned by four specific areas: literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design. This framework is not hard for the staff to deliver because this way of learning has been embedded within our work for many years now.

Pre-school numbers remain steady - we are usually full and have a waiting list, so please do contact us early if you wish your younger child to come here. Parents who attend our popular toddler group (Wednesdays 1-3pm during term time, in the Eco Centre) are automatically added to our ever-extending waiting list.

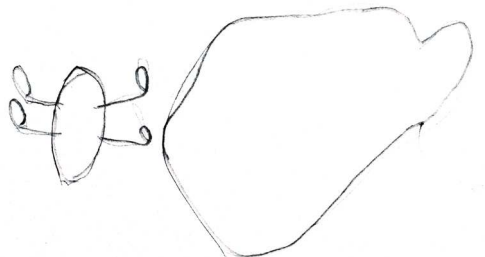
I would like to end with a huge thank you to all our dedicated staff whose enthusiasm and obvious love of children helps make New Ark what it is. I wish I had space to thank each and every one of you here.



Mum, by Courtney aged 4



by Summer aged 4



A frog by the pond by Ted, aged 4

New Ark Eco Centre report

By Elisabeth Buck, Eco Manager

Our Eco Centre and Eco Garden have been in existence for 10 years. At the moment it is mainly the New Ark preschoolers who use the facilities here. All our children in the Foundation Stage (ie the year before they go to school) have a session each week of outdoor play, in all weathers.

The staff are Forest School trained so the emphasis is on learning about the environment, using natural materials and learning to use simple tools in the forest.

The children become very knowledgeable about their environment including the plants, trees and creatures living in the Eco Garden.

Last summer, thanks to a small grant

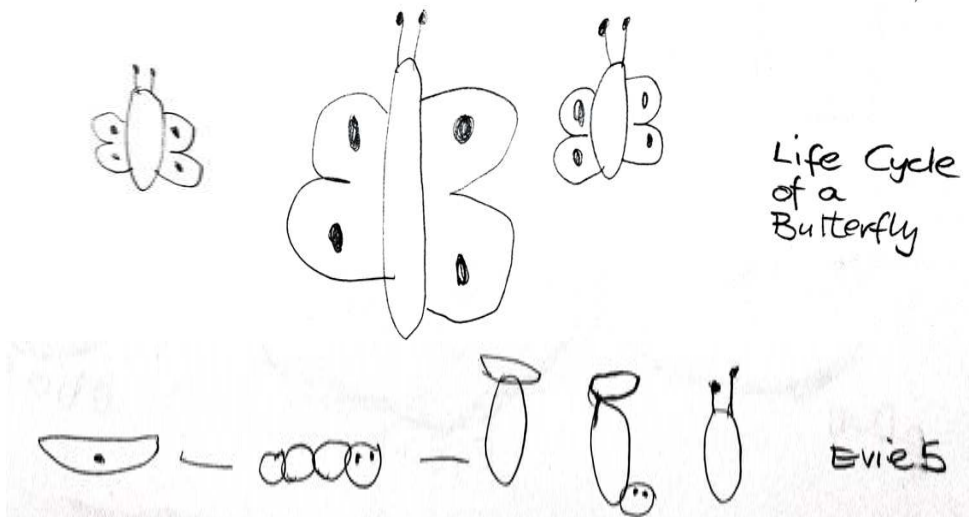
and fees from parents, we have been able to run some Eco Sessions for under 8s, especially cooking on the fire and volcano making. These are very popular and it would be lovely to be able to offer more sessions for our older children. So we will continue to look for funding to do this!



Budding bricklayers practice their skills in the mud pit

We continue to run our successful toddler group on Wednesday afternoons 1-3pm (2-4pm during summer holidays). Toddler group always includes a visit to the farm as well as a cuppa, and it is a good

opportunity for parents and children to socialise. This year the local NCT charity started to come to the toddler group once a month for a social, which has introduced new people to our group.



New Ark playground report

By Sam Brown, Play Support Services and Playground Manager

Parents often tell me that New Ark is a unique find, and I am proud to be part of it all! It truly is a very special place to build wonderful experiences and everlasting childhood memories.

Daily, there are always lots of decisions for children to make... Choices such as having tuck or a snack? Playing indoors or outside? Which swing to go on? What games to play? Or going on the farm? The list is endless - decisions, decisions!

Many children choose to come and play throughout the year and regardless of the weather. Even in the winter months they love to play outdoors, making mud pies and excitement takes over when the dark nights reign choosing to play outside with friends, running around and playing the good old game of 'hide and seek' - which often us adults are also invited to play!



The tepee den was built with sticks, string and lots of input from the children

Summer holidays on the adventure playground have been extremely busy. This is brilliant news! Lots of children returned after re-registering and lots of new faces appeared.

During the holidays there are always lots of activities planned for them all to engage in if they wish. This year we have had den building, supported by one of our newest members of staff. James introduced a tepee den, gaining lots of budding designers and builders all eager to put their different ideas forward and make their own mark on the final design. Using wooden sticks and string and with lots of help, the result is wonderful and has made a very interesting focal point on the adventure playground.

When we were lucky to be graced with brilliant, sunny, hot weather, children

Our American Swing is a hit with older children

enjoyed a treat on the water slide and especially liked getting staff wet! Elisabeth and Donne made sure the children were able to experience cooking dampers on an open fire and we also had a great week doing our own Olympics - distributing clay medals that the children had made in previous weeks to those choosing to participate

We must never forget that play is an important part of growing up. Children learn through play: learning about themselves, building social skills, confidence and self esteem. All of these are very important life skills. A place like New Ark - where children can safely play, learn and develop whilst having lots of fun - needs continued support. I wish when I was a young child there had been a place just like New Ark for me to run, climb, explore, be creative and have plenty of fun with many friends.



Children choose their own activities

I Like cooking

Naomi Age 8



*Cakes, biscuits
and breads are all
made by children*

New Ark Support Services report

By Sam Brown, Play Support Services and Playground Manager

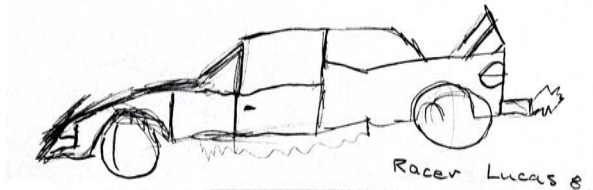
I cannot believe how time has flown this year! 2011 to 2012 has been very busy and we have seen a significant increase in children being referred by schools and other agencies. These are children needing extra support and access to an alternative curriculum. Our outdoor curriculum - which we have provided for many years and are proud of - gives children opportunities to experience hands on activities and learn life skills. Working alongside the national curriculum, it enriches day to day teaching.

Towards the end of summer term the support service was very busy helping to support some of our children through their final weeks in year 6 of junior school, embarking on their transition journey in preparation for senior school in September. This is hard for a lot of children to cope with, and those with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties find this period extremely difficult - feeling very vulnerable and finding it difficult to express their feelings in a positive way.

As part of our continuing support for the children, some families have registered them for the adventure playground, especially during the summer holidays. This has helped the children to continue to build positive social skills, to play in a safe environment, to be happy and to be with adults they have built positive relationships with. They adults are trusted by the children, they

understand them and are able to adapt and meet their individual needs. The children have worked hard and learned to build fun friendships with many other different children.

My team and I feel privileged to be able to work with all of the children. Our job is not easy and it can be challenging, but at the end of sessions it is very rewarding. Little things like manners, apologies and "I enjoy it here" all mean a lot! No two days are the same and our profession is full of new learning experiences.



Racer, by Lucas aged 8

Lastly I wish to thank the staff and volunteers who have helped over the last year, and the parents who have continued to support us and donate much-needed resources. I recently bumped into to a parent whose child attended our support service about two years ago; she was full of praise for the work we had done and the experience they had been given during a difficult time. This also means a lot to us, so thank you to everyone who has taken the time to say thank-you to us.

The last year has been very successful and I am looking forward to the next twelve months.

New Ark farm report

By Carolyn Bellamy, Farm Manager

After a difficult year during 2011 for funding, and as we near the end of 2012, I am pleased to report that the farm has gone from strength to strength. It is as popular as ever and forms an important part of New Ark's growth. The farm continues to provide learning opportunities for the local schools and communities.

A big thank you to Pets at Home for their continued help and support over the last year. They have made generous donations of rabbit hutches and animal food, plus provided fundraising opportunities with their store. This has made a big impact on the conditions and welfare of the small animals. Also we have been chosen as an official re-homing centre, which should prove beneficial for both New Ark and Pets at Home - already many loving homes have been found for guinea pigs and rabbits.

During April 2012 we were fortunate to receive a generous donation from BGL



New Ark is the only city farm in the Eastern Counties

Group to fund the complete refurbishment of gravel and pathways. This has made a huge difference to the appearance of the farm, and provides easier access to all visitors.

We were presented with a donation from Peterborough Bridge Club, who have also supported the farm. The donation funded a new outdoor handwashing facility which was required to meet the new Health and Safety Code of Practice.

During June The Prince's Trust sent a team of young people to help with the

*One day there was a goose who went surfing; his name is Smith
By Nathan, aged 5*



painting, repairing and to build new rabbit runs. The team worked really hard and provided all materials. A big thank you to all those involved.

Sam and myself have been very pro-active with fundraising - we now offer birthday parties at New Ark (see advert on page 2). This has been successful and we hope to promote these more over the next year.

A further addition to the farm has been a very large stud turkey named Thomas. Also many chicks, ducklings,



Farm staff receiving the donation from BGL Group

baby rabbits and guinea pigs have been reared here with the help of many children who have followed their progress.

A big thank you to all our loyal volunteers and organisations. Without help and sponsorship over the years we would not be able to offer our unique facilities.

We would still be grateful of any donations, fundraising ideas or long-term sponsorship of the animals to help with the high cost of animal feed and running costs of the farm.

Your pet's home from home...



Going away on holiday or a short break?



For a small daily fee, New Ark can board your animals while you are away. We can care for guinea pigs, rabbits, chickens and other animals by negotiation. We regret we cannot care for cats and dogs.

Email info@newarkplay.co.uk or call Carolyn between 10am-12pm any weekday on **01733 340605**.

Thank you....

...to all the businesses and individuals who have supported New Ark with donations, fundraising and time during 2011-12. We have listed below as many of you as we can.

Organisations

Activity World
Allbright Services
BGL Group
BIC UK Limited
Big Sky
Bluebell Pub
Bretton Community
Preschool
Cambridgeshire
Community Council
Chris'll Fix It
D.J. Wilson School of
Motoring
Dobbies
Elm Tree Tavern
Family Voice
Funergy Soft Play Hire
Fusion/BGL Group
Glitzy Glam Jewellery
The Golden Cod
(Crawthorne Road)
Greyhounds Stadium
Heart FM
Hills Furnishings
JK Sheds and Fencing
John Lewis
Keeping HR Simple
KFC, Eye
KFC, London Road
Laserforce,
Marks and Spencers
Matalan
MB Pest Control

Mike Saxby
Moore Stephens
Nene Valley Railway
Newark Hill School
Oundle School students
Peacock Pub
Pengelly & Mizen vets
Perkins Engines
Pete Massingham
Electrical Services
Peterborough Bridge
Club
Peterborough City
Council
PCVS
Pets at Home
Prince's Trust
Prohelp
Rawlinson's
Ridgeon's
Ringway Contractors
Road Haulage
Association
Sainsbury's, Bretton
Scenic Gardens
Somersby House Tack
Shop
Soup Kitchen
Tandem Professional IT
Support
The Tanning Salon
Thera Trust East Anglia
Zuri Hairdressing and
Beauty

Individuals

Annette Atkinson
Bella Saltmarsh
David Boffey
David Flannigan
Dawn Schmidt-Rieche
James Angell
Jane Carpenter
Julian Roddis
Leroy Greene
Martin Byford-Rue
Maurice Anderson
The Meddings family
Melanie Symmonds
Mandy Hunter
Mike and Julia Greene
Natalie Edgell
Paul Archer
Ruth Williams
Sarah Fletcher
Sarah Guest
Sean Elliot
Steve Walton
Val Porter
William Efford

And not to forget all the parents who continually donate items and support the fundraising events at New Ark. The names are endless and too many to mention here, but thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Give a little... get a lot!



Raise 3 times your registration fee, and we will give you next year's registration for free!



Example: raise £180 during 2012-13 and we will waive your £60 fee for one child's after school/holiday club registration for 2013-14.



Start your fundraising now for 2013-14 registration!



Ask us for a fundraising pack, which includes ideas for small fundraising events, plus information on how to organise your publicity, sponsorship, etc.



Please contact Charlotte on:
info@newarkplay.co.uk or
telephone **01733 340605**.

Offer applies to all New Ark fees.

New Ark Play Association

Play is the child's natural way of learning
Play makes life exciting, interesting and fun



New Ark is a special place where children of all ages are encouraged to play in ways that are creative, adventurous and explore the world



Sign up to our newsletter at www.newarkplay.co.uk
Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/newarkplay

Nature Garden • Eco Centre • Adventure Playground • City Farm
Preschool Playgroups • Parent Toddler Group • Play Support Service
After School & Holiday Play Scheme • School Visits • Birthday Parties



Hill Close
Reeves Way
Peterborough PE1 5LZ
Reg charity 1026751

01733 340605
info@newarkplay.co.uk
www.newarkplay.co.uk
www.localgiving.com/newarkplay

