

Annual Report 2014 - 2015

Newark Play Association

Registered charity number: 1026751

New Ark Play



Adventure Playground,
City Farm & Eco Centre



**Holiday and Afterschool Play Sessions • Additional Childcare
Play Support Service • Preschool Playgroup • Group Visits
Parent & Toddler Group • Birthday Parties • Volunteering**

**At New Ark we learn how to manage risk.
We don't mind getting messy.
We value our world.**

**Preschool places now available
to children from 2.5 years**



New Ark Play Association...

Vision Statement

A safe, caring, adventurous play environment for everyone developing skills for life.

Mission Statement

We will achieve this by:

- 1) Offering a unique range of services for outdoor activities.
- 2) Encouraging children to be happy, confident and outgoing through adventurous play.
- 3) Encouraging children to manage risk through child led play.



New Ark Opening Times



Monday to Friday - Term Time

Preschool

Playgroup 09:00-12:00 12:30-15:00
Eco 09:00-12:30

Support Service 09:00-15:00

Wednesday only

Parent & Toddler Group 13:00-15:00 Term Time
14:00-16:00 School Holiday

Farm (All Year) 10:00-12:00 15:45-17:30

Play Ground

After School 15:45-18:00 Term Time

School Holiday 08:30-18:00

(As a guide New Ark follows Newark Hill School closure timetable)

Autumn Half Term	Mon 26th Oct 2015-Fri 30th Oct (Inclusive)
Christmas	Mon 21st Dec 2015-Wed 23rd Dec 2015 (Inclusive)
Spring Half Term	Mon 15th Feb 2016-Fri 19th Feb (Inclusive)
Easter	Mon 28th Mar 2016-Fri 8th April (Inclusive)
Summer Half Term	Mon 30th May 2016-Fri 3rd June (Inclusive)
Summer Holidays	Mon 25th July 2016-Fri 2nd Sept (Inclusive)

Introduction to New Ark Play

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

We are an independent charity, officially called Newark Play Association. We aim to provide stimulating play opportunities for all children, no matter what their age and background. Our facilities include a traditional adventure playground, an eco garden and a city farm.

We are run by a Management Council of local volunteers. Many are parents whose children play at New Ark; some are local businesspeople with valuable management skills.

We employ professional play and childcare workers, several of whom are Forest School trained. About 100 volunteers help with all kinds of jobs in the adventure playground, eco centre and city farm, plus admin and fundraising.



Our playground puts recycled building and industrial materials to good use

We are registered with Ofsted and were rated “outstanding” in our last two inspections, most recently in May 2013.

We keep charges as low as possible and try to ensure that lack of money does not prevent children from enjoying our facilities. We are partially grant-aided by Peterborough City Council. We are also supported by grants, fundraising events and appeals. We hope you enjoy reading our Annual report and seeing the photographs and children’s artwork which is scattered throughout these pages.



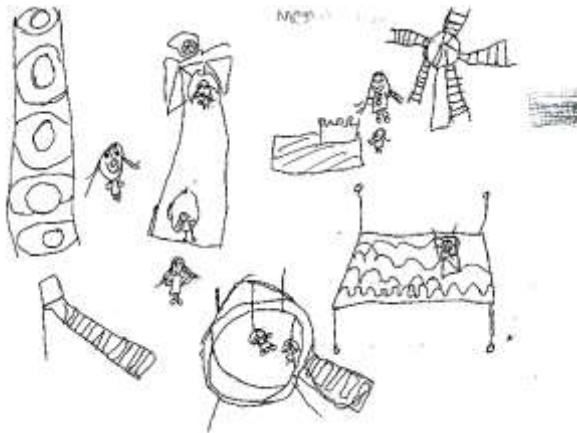
Children play freely enjoying the Adventure Playground

Outdoor facilities at New Ark

At New Ark children can enjoy all kinds of play safely, under adult supervision, indoors and out, all year round. Our outdoor facilities include...

Adventure Playground

Many of the structures in our traditional adventure playground are handmade on site, using traditional building materials and discarded industrial parts. Children can ride our aerial runway, swing on a tyre, and play tag on our huge American swing. Alternatively, they can climb frames, roll down our hill, or join a den-building team.



Playground-goers explore risk in a controlled environment, while supervised by professional play workers, who know when to help and encourage, and when to step back to let children work things out for themselves. They get heaps of exercise, fresh air, contact with the natural world and all the benefits of play!

City Farm

New Ark is the only City Farm in the Eastern Counties. Children can see, touch and help to care for small pets, poultry and some larger farm animals. They learn about nature and enjoy the responsibility of caring for animals. Many of our animals were rescued from owners who could no longer care for them, and we try to rehome some of them.



Small animals on New Ark Farm

We receive no Government funding and rely on donations to help us pay for food, bedding and veterinary care. We encourage families to sponsor an animal and/or volunteer for animal care duties outside of our normal opening hours.

Eco Centre

With its woodland area, sensory garden and small orchard, children can observe the life cycles of wild creatures. They also learn to appreciate the colours, shapes and scents of plants. The area contains purpose-built natural play structures, which are generally suitable for younger children. We run a weekly toddler group in the eco centre, and playgroup children attend a session every week. Sessions for older children are offered in school holidays.

Support Garden

The garden behind our play support building contains a vegetable patch and provides an ideal enclosed area for gentler outdoor activities. It is often used by small groups of children.



What's on

At New Ark there is something for children of all ages

Afterschool playground Alongside adventure play – such as digging, building, ball games, swinging and climbing – we provide a wide range of creative art and craft activities. The children visit the City Farm and help to care for our animals.

Holiday playground Similar activities to afterschool activities plus baking, outdoor cooking, den-building, water slides, messy play and more. By prior arrangement we can offer childcare between 8.30am-6pm. During summer holidays we run forest school sessions for under 8s.

One-off visits We welcome a limited number of visitors - contact us first.

Play Support Service Specialist support for individuals and small groups with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Parent and Toddler Group Weekly sessions for children aged 0-4 to explore our eco centre and city farm.

Pre-school Playgroup Children learn through play, using the adventure playground, farm and eco centre. In the summer term we offer Eco Baby sessions for children due to start preschool in September.

Group visits and parties Schools, clubs and community groups can organise visits to our city farm during the week, and at weekends we are available to hire for birthday parties.

At New Ark we believe that....

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

So we...

Provide stimulating and exciting play opportunities for children of all ages, at affordable prices, always meeting **Ofsted requirements**.

New Ark offers a safe and fun environment for children to learn through play. This includes important life skills, such as working together and social skills. The children are expected to behave responsibly and follow an easy to understand code of behaviour:-



- Hitting
- Biting
- Kicking
- Throwing
- Pinching
- Pushing
- Calling names



- Taking turns
- Playing together
- Caring for each other
- Sharing
- Asking politely
- Being helpful

At New Ark we care about each child as an individual, and value the positive effect that a good working relationship, between Play workers and Parents, has when it is about a child's happiness and development. It is important that parents share concerns that they have, about problems in children's lives, which may affect behaviour and learning. There are times when children need additional support, and having this information will help staff to respond better to their needs.



A review of 2014-15 at New Ark

By Rob Brown, chair of the Management Council 2014-15

I am Rob Brown and currently the chairman of New Ark. I have been a member of the management committee 16 years and enjoy volunteering my help and time towards such a special place.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the incredible staff, who are always committed and have helped to make New Ark the place it is today. Their professionalism and hard work is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed. Another thank you goes to the army of volunteers that help continuously, without their help we would be unable to achieve as much as we do. Finally I would like to thank Mike Greene for his continued support.



Last year, 2014 was another challenging year, but the outcome has been very positive. Staff and volunteers have given up their time to help with many different fundraising events to raise additional money for New Ark and our ongoing projects. One of our future projects is to expand our city farm, and to provide an outdoor learning area for visitors, providing shelter for all year round.

We are continuously making plans for our long term future and sustainability. We are building on the ethos of New Ark to ensure we maintain our unique provision for many years to come, as we want to see many more generations of children visiting, playing, learning and thriving, and to be given the opportunity to have New Ark as part of their childhood. We want our environment to be shared with the wider community for years to come.

As you are probably aware, we are a charity and it takes time, dedication and expertise to run an organisation like New Ark. We are always looking for a variety of people, with differing skills to help us by offering whatever spare time they may have; areas we are in particular need include:-

- Accounts.
- Management.
- Organising events.
- Fundraising.
- Marketing.
- Media.
- Maintenance/ DIY skills
- Law/ legal experience.

If you have some spare time you could help us, no matter how little, do not hesitate to contact us for an informal discussion, we would like to hear from you.
Many Thanks, Rob.

Financial summary 2014-15

The financial year has ended on a positive note, although we finished in a £5.5k deficit, due to unexpected costs for updating our electric wiring.

	2013-2014	2014-2015	Year on Year
Income	£ 266187	£ 273183	+ £ 6996
Expenditure	£ 262013	£ 278589	+ £ 16573
Year End	+£ 4174	- £ 5403	

Although this is not a situation we wanted to happen it does highlight, that we need to look for new ways to raise funds, and not rely on existing sources of funding.

This will be both challenging and exciting, with a potential of raising the profile of New Ark, not only as a child care provider, but also within the community and the business sectors.

The trustees should continue to engage in applications for local and national grants, as these may become increasingly important for New Ark to continue the services we offer.

Planning ahead for the year 2015-16

By the Operations Department

New Ark's Steering Group

Supported from charity partner, Cummins, has been instrumental in creating and developing our Mission and Vision Statements. This work has resulted in us rethinking and challenging our existing practices, doing this will enable us to make better use of our time and to make effective decisions on our future planning.

Playground

The funding we received from Children In Need allowed us to recruit an additional Playworker for a year, Bobbie Day. This resulted in greater focus being given to our work with children, who have additional needs and their families.

The impact of Bobby's work has convinced us that there is a real need for this service for our families within the community, so we are in the process of applying for funding to



Playgroup

Sessions have started in September 2015 taking 2.5 year olds, with a view to expanding this service to take on 2 year olds in 2016. We are now looking at the resources needed, to make this transition smooth for the younger children.

Play Support Service

The Support Service continues to welcome many children from different Schools in Peterborough. The outcomes prove very positive, with children being able to move on, and succeed with their individual journeys toward adulthood. This service is now in demand, and we are looking at how New Ark can accommodate more children with a transition into a school setting.

Administration

David Musson and Lisa Carter have now joined the administration team. David's time has been dedicated to upgrading the ICT infrastructure, ready for Sage accounts software change, with possible HR & Payroll modules to be added as soon as practicable. Work has now started reviewing New Ark's policies and procedures, and general HR support being given to the organisation.

Funding

New Ark has been privileged to receive funding from Children in Need and Biffa, which saved £17,500 in expenditure. In the next financial year New Ark needs to be planning ahead, to ensure funding is obtained to reduce expenditure.

Fundraising

Over the last year, with the help of staff and volunteers, New Ark raised £21,000, which by anyone's standards is an amazing achievement.

The fundraising committee want to recruit volunteers, to help organise and run fundraising events and activities. If you can help please contact Charlotte on 01733 340605.



Future Opportunities Ahead

The next few years hold many challenges and opportunities for New Ark, especially when taking into account the changes placed upon us by the Government, in the recent Budget concerning childcare, and the reduction in centralised funding. This sounds negative, but in reality it is a real opportunity for us to develop new services, that would have a real impact on the families in our community. Some of the changes we are evaluating include:-

- Taking younger children.
- Wrap around child care
- Extension of the Farm
- New Buildings.
- Developing the Playground
- Further weekend opening

For regular updates please follow New Ark www.facebook.com/newarkplay or www.newarkplay.co.uk

Summary of recent fundraising

A snapshot of fundraising events from 2014-15

In the financial year 2014-15 we raised an amazing £21,662. A big thank you to everyone that helped New Ark to achieve this, without you we couldn't have done it. Here is how we did it....

The year got off to a great start with the Easter activities. **Playgroup** raised £58 and **Playground** raised £20 by holding **Easter egg raffle** held the second **Easter Hunt** on Good Friday which raised £858.

The **Forest School** weekend sessions in May raised £140. In May we welcomed back **Braiswick Photographic** take family pictures of the **Playgroup** children and we earned a generous amount of £180 in commission. In June the **summer festival** raised a fantastic amount of £1945 through the sale of refreshments, BBQ, raffle and stalls.

In July, **BGL Group's** Give Committee kindly donated £200. New Ark held a **family open day** giving new visitors the chance to explore our site and £114 was raised on providing refreshments.

In August we celebrated **national play day** and raised £200.

The **October Open Day** selling refreshments and with fundraising stalls raised £344. **Playgroup** had a Pyjama Day and raised £24. Dave Wilson ran the Peterborough Great Eastern Run and raised £105. The **Groome family** donated £200 for the production of the annual report.

In November we held a **Christmas Indulgence Evening** at the POSH Ground, through donations received from the stalls and supporters we raised £710.

Staff member **Bobbie Day** and her team of (elves) volunteers took a sleigh to **Van Hage** during their Christmas shopping event and raised £104. **Nationwide Community Match Scheme**. made a donation of £500.



The annual **Christmas Bazaar** event raised £2,393, £1,700 from generous donations from families enjoying the activities, stalls and visits to Santa. £693 was donated by **Barclays Bank, Eastfield Road** who matched funded the amount taken on the stalls run by branch staff **Sandra Walker** and **Pauline Stapleton**.



St Mary the Virgin PCC donated £225. **YBS Group Lasting Legacy Fund 150th** anniversary donated £150. Through **Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation** make a difference week **Norwich and Peterborough Building society** donated £100.

At the start of the year New Ark held Mother, Baby and Child Pre-loved sales and raised £144. Rawlinsons donated £250 from Mike Greene's referral. The new **Waitrose** store in the town donated £290 through the Community Matters Green token scheme.

During the Autumn term various fund raising activities took part to fund playground improvements. Long term volunteer **Donne Buck**, supported by staff members **Jodie Watson** and **Abbie Braines** set up the **Little House Money Collection Box Appeal**. Children that attend New Ark were given a house money box to decorate and for them to take home to fill with loose change and return full with a chance of winning a prize for the best decorated house. This raised New Ark an amazing £373. Also £1,000 was kindly donated **Caitlin Buck**. Through links with **Cambridgeshire Community Foundation** and representation from Playground children **Bradley Hall, Trinity Francis and Riley Chapman-Nash**, New Ark was privileged to be awarded the **High Sheriff's Award** and received £750.

We continue to receive donations through **Local Giving** website. We encourage all parents who are taxpayers to donate to us through this

online facility—it is easy for you to do, saves us time and gives us more money if you remember to tick the Gift Aid button. This year donation through this method have raised £798.



The **City Farm** at New Ark continue to receive generous donations from families who visit during the School holidays, and hold their children's birthday parties here at weekends throughout the summer months. A big proportion of the fundraising is made from small animal boarding and providing hay, straw, animal food and eggs to supporters of the Farm. **Peterborough Regional College** students raised £300. Over the year the City Farm raised an amazing £4821.

We applied for and received many grants in the financial year 2014/15:-

- * £10,000 from **Children In Need** to fund a play worker to work in Playground for a year to work with children and their families.

- * £7,400 awarded from Biffa Award Small Grants Scheme to have much needed replacement fire doors and external side doors fitted.

Join in with the fun at New Ark Play



- School holiday play sessions
- All day childcare in holidays
- Eco sessions (Forest School)
- Afterschool play sessions
- Parent and toddler group
- Preschool playgroup
- Children's birthday parties
- School/preschool visits
- Play support service
- Volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups
- Open days and events

Find out more at www.newarkplay.co.uk

Newark Play Association Ltd
Hill Close (off Reeves Way), Peterborough PE1 5LZ
Tel: 01733 340605 Email: info@newarkplay.co.uk
Registered charity no 1026751



Trustees, volunteers and employees

Board of Trustees

Rob Brown, Chair
Lisa Sachse
Kim Martin
David Flannigan

Thank you to
Paul Raymond,
Bill Purdon,
Lisa Carter,
Simon Murray,
Jamie Lee-Fox,
who were on the board of
trustees in 2014-15

Employees Playgroup

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

Playgroup - Eco

Elisabeth Buck, Manager
Debbie Knighton,
Supervisor
Sonia Hannon
Karen Payne

Playground

Sam Brown, Manager
Nikki Anderson, Manager
Jodie Watson
Kirsty Dickinson
Laura Bellamy
Linda Wilson
Denise Jinks

Play Support Service

Sam Brown, Manager
Laura Bellamy
Kirsty Dickinson

Farm

Carolyn Bellamy,
Manager
Karen Payne

Relief workers

Monica Fincham
Nikki Miller

Administration

Charlotte Griggs,
Manager

David Musson
Lisa Carter

Maintenance/cleaning

Geoff Griggs
Kelly Martin
Laura Bellamy

Thank you to
Bobbie Day
Ceneta Miller
Abbie Braines
Natalia Marfeld
Who were
employed at
New Ark during
2014-15.



Regular volunteers

Abigail Curphey
Jo Curphey
Donne Buck
Natalia Marfeld
Claudia Butler
Dawn Schmidt-Ricehe
Mel Murray
Flo Griggs
Ingrid & David Cliffe
Hannah Murphwaite
Lawrey Randel
Mark Harding
Nigel Lamb
Dave Wilson
Carol, George &
Tracey Hallett



*Volunteer Donne Buck and former
Committee member Bill Purdon*

Thank you....

...to all the businesses and individuals who have supported us with your time, donations, fundraising loan of equipment during the financial year 2014-15. We've listed as many of you as we can.

Organisations

Stand Marketing Agency * PNP Autofix
* Pets at Home * Queens Drive School
* Helping Hands * Heltwaite School *
Marshfields School * Parnwell School *
Newark Hill Academy * Voyage Care *
Pengelly & Mitzen Vets * Peterborough
United Football Club * Somersby Farm
Shop * Thomas Deacon Academy *
Thomas Moore Nursery * Westcombe *
Youngs Veterinary Partnership * Scenic
Gardens * Acorn Landscapes *
Waitrose * Stamford College * Beeches
*Thea Trust East Anglia * Copass *
Voyager Academy * Peterborough
Regional College * MB Pest Control *
Barclays Bank * Bishop Creighton
School * CK4 Limited * Peterborough
City Council * Peterborough Council
Voluntary Services * Frog Life * African
Heritage Centre

Individuals

The Greene Family * Jenny Buffrey *
Keziah Bines * Ingrid & David Cliffe
Ron & Chris Welch * Caitlin Buck *
Jane Buck * Jo & Abigail Curphey *
Gemma Payn * Sharon Raymond *
James Payne * Clare Duffy * Charlotte
Milliner * Claire Turner * Claudia Butler
* Emily Bradfield * Darren Jackson *
Dave Wilson * Flo Griggs * Ady Bruce *
Gemma Jackson * Jamie Paterson *
Jane Carpenter * Jessica Lite *
Kelly White * Karen & Mark Harding *
Mary Kemp * The Pallister Family *
Paul Archer * Paul Riddell * Rob
Polson * Rosemary Ascott-Atieh * Sally
Walker * Steve Walton * Anne
Mountford * Albert Loakes * Sam Owen
* Enid Lynch * Carol * George and
Tracey Hallett * Darren Griffin * The
Mountain Family * Donne Buck *
Hannah Murthwaite * Karen & Jordan
Maycock * Nigel Lamb * Lawrey
Randell * James Wallace * Adrian
Miners



Work party from BGL Group

We would also like to thank all the Parents and supporters who donate items and support fundraising events, and the schools, shops and venues who display our event posters. The names are endless and too many to mention here and any we have missed we apologise, but thank you from the bottom of our hearts New Ark would not be the special place it is without you.

Some of the Organisations that support New Ark.....



A thank you to the families of two special people



Wally Mountain, one of the builders for the original New Ark in 1974, died in April 2015, and his family donated £180 from his memorial fund to New Ark. As his great granddaughter was in playgroup at the time, the money has been spent on playgroup equipment.

To conclude this part of our report we have some sad news to report; one of our long time supporters, Ron Welch, who could often be seen around New Ark, from helping on the Farm to being Santa at our Christmas events has sadly passed away.

Our thoughts 'go out' to his family at this time and also send a belated 'thank you' for his help all the times we shared.

In memory of Ron sheltered seating area is to built on the Farm with the money raised from his memorial fund.



Corporate Social Responsibility

By Charlotte Griggs, Operations Manager

Cummins Generator Technologies continue to support New Ark by fundraising at their office based In Lynchwood Business Park. Over the past year they have raised £512; by recycling mobile phones, holding a quiz night and also a raffle to win a magnum of champagne.

Cummins continue to offer business guidance to New Ark to support the long term sustainability for the years ahead and a workshop was held for New Ark decide their future Vision and Mission statements.

Employees continue to work in teams;- painting, gardening and helping with maintenance tasks to provide support with the upkeep at New Ark. At the start of the year Cummins Telecommunications installed a new telephone system which involved repairing damaged lines to enable the telephone system to work effectively.

CK4 Limited a contractor of Cummins, has supported the Cummins repairs and maintenance work teams with some building activities and providing concrete.



One of many Cummin's teams who helped at our most recent R&M week

Co-operative Garage on Paston Parkway have been raising money in store by holding raffles, selling homemade cakes, with collection boxes at each till point, to date they raised £484.

BGL Group based in Orton Southgate sent a work party in September 2014 to help with painting and gardening.

Sainsburys on Oxney Road customers chose New Ark to become Sainsburys local charity of the year.

Initial meetings have taken place to discuss how Sainsburys can help New Ark. On the launch weekend of 31st July, Sainsburys staff dressed in fancy dress costumes alongside New Ark volunteers with a marketing stand and raised over £300.

Sainsburys have continued with fundraising events with staff and a fundraising tandem skydive with volunteers from Sainsburys and New Ark is planned for early summer 2016.

With the support from local businesses the **Collection Box Appeal** was launched and has been a very successful start in raising £516 to date. Thank you to the following businesses for their continued support;-

The Elm Tree, MI Pharmacy, Co-operative Garage, The Square Cafe, Ian's Key Stall, Andronica's, Jerry Pizzo Salon, Whittle Way, Youngs Veterinary Partnership, Sainsburys

Birthday party adventures at New Ark Play

New Ark Play



Adventure Playground,
City Farm & Eco Centre



Your guests can:

- Feed and groom animals on our City Farm
- Take part in a treasure hunt in our woodland garden
- Explore our traditional adventure playground



You can:

- Decorate our function room using your own theme
- Bring party food and cake
- Choose to play party games



£80 for up to 10 children,
additional children £5 each.
Parents free, no hidden charges.

To discuss your requirements
email info@newarkplay.co.uk
or telephone Charlotte or Carolyn
between 10am-12pm weekdays
on **01733 340605**.



www.newarkplay.co.uk

Reg charity: 1020751

Toddler Group at New Ark Eco Centre.

Every Wednesday afternoon between 1pm to 3pm in term time and during the School Summer holidays between 2pm and 4pm pre-school children and their Parents/ carers came to play in our Eco Centre and Garden as well as to visit the Farm and meet the animals.

This is a very sociable group where mothers chat, share their experiences and support one another as their children play and explore the forest. It is great to watch the children grow from Babies to Toddlers, learning to love nature and 'the great outdoors'. Numbers vary from week to week with families coming from as far away as Ramsey, Market Deeping, Yaxley, Orton and Helpston to visit us and you can always be assured of a friendly welcome.

Toddler group is a good preparation for transition into New Ark Playgroup, encourage families to come along to play with their children and put their names on the waiting list for Playgroup.



Thinking of donating or Payroll giving to New Ark?



Did you know that if you pay tax and 'donate online' it is...

1. Quick and easy for you,
2. It saves us time,
3. We get more money if you tick for Gift Aid

Your gift to New Ark can provide:

£5 = bread for children's teas for a week,

£10 = nails for den building,

£30 = pays a 1:1 worker for a special needs child for 4 hours

www.localgiving.com/newarkplay

New Ark Eco Centre report

By Elisabeth Buck MBE, Eco Manager



Numbers and letters are hidden in the eco garden



Playgroup children search for bugs in eco sessions



Families enjoying our Saturday Forest School

All the New Ark Playgroup Children in the 'Foundation Stage', come once a week throughout the year to work in the New Ark Garden and Forest. Only when it is very wet or very cold do the children spend long in the Eco Centre building. Most of the time is spent exploring and experimenting in the forest and garden becoming familiar with nature and the passing of the seasons. Identifying the various plants and creatures that live in the garden.

The children are able to experience all the natural elements of earth, air, fire and water,

Earth- The children dig in the earth (or mud) to search for treasure or mini beasts to grow flowers and vegetables and play in the 'mud kitchen' they created this year.

Air- The children feel the wind and watch the trees moving and leaves dancing and flying in the wind.

Water- They play endlessly with water in puddles, from the hosepipe they

make rain and rivers and learn about the importance of water as a resource.

Fire- We all love fires in Eco, staff as much as the children. All of us like sitting around the fire chatting; it is amazing how long the children can sit there chilling, drinking hot chocolate, eating popcorn, pancakes and dampers cooked on the fire. Best of all they learn about fire in a safe environment,

Our Summer Holiday programme which is aimed at the older child, attracts between 15-20 children per session. Activities we enjoy include, shelter building, constructing and using natural materials, building volcanoes, archaeological digs, gardening, water play, collecting and sawing firewood for their cooking fires.

New Ark is not just about fun, children also learn basic life skills such as assisting with basic maintenance and their responsibilities regarding the natural world around them.

New Ark Playgroup report

By Nikki Anderson, Playgroup Manager

What a very busy year once again!

Many of our staff have become qualified or improved their qualifications making a highly skilled and qualified team; Jen Faunt, Lisa Paterson, Laura Bellamy have achieved their level 3 and Charlotte Griggs her level 2. These qualifications not only ensure that we can offer the highest levels of learning activities for your children but they also ensure that we can continue to support, mentor and develop students from organisations such as Supported Employment, Oundle school post 16, Marshfields, Stamford College and P.R.C. achieve their respective qualifications.

The support that we have received from the community has enabled us to offer a richer experience for our young people. Some notable celebrations and special events that happened during 2014-5 include:-

- New Ark used as a benchmark for other Nurseries for our specialist outdoor play and environment.
- Rhyme week 10th Nov – children dressed up as their favourite character.
- Pyjama Day 13th Nov - children and parents raised £24.
- Dave Wilson – staff member Linda Wilson husband ran the Great Eastern Run to buy equipment for playgroup.
- Mothers Day tea parties and Chinese New Year banquets.
- Playgroup children visited Newark Hill School Christmas nativity play on Thursday 4th December.
- Parents came in to playgroup to share stories in different languages including Spanish and German.



Naming everyone is virtually impossible! On behalf of New Ark want to take this opportunity to say a big Thank You to everyone that gave their help, it is appreciated in so many ways. Some of the future developments we are undertaking over the next one to two years include:-

- Electronically tracking children's' progress through their experience with New Ark.
- Continuous training to keep up to date with Ofsted requirements.
- Introducing children younger than 2 yrs 9 months – training to implement this.
- Looking for opportunities and services that the local families require.

New Ark Playground report

By Playground Manager, Sam Brown.

We are busier than ever, after School and School holidays with children of all abilities enjoying being children, free to play indoors and outdoors regardless of weather in a safe and nurturing environment.



Messy play and den building are very popular as they always have been at New Ark. The children enjoy exploring and experimenting with the recycled and loose materials such as; -tyres, wood, log, crates, pallets, barrels along with the everyday interactive toys such as traditional board games and sports activities.

We are currently focusing on redeveloping our play structures, so far the banana board climber has been replaced and finished and we have plans to renovate the aerial runway and replace all the low level play equipment. We are relying on donations, gifts and peoples time to accomplish this work.

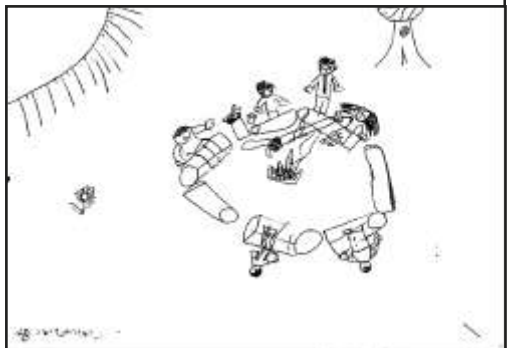
During the summer School holidays we were delighted to welcome children from all over Peterborough including outlining villages. New Ark has now become a recognised centre of excellence for play across Peterborough.

We have a team of qualified play workers who are skilled and are trained to encourage children to play and learn in New Ark's special environment.

What I really like about New Ark is that everyone is nice to you. In the holidays they do lots of fun things:- Waterslide, dampers making pancakes, sometimes cakes as well.

What I like about the Farm is seeing the sheep, guinea pigs, rabbits, baby turkeys and Silkie's House. Other people bring their pets in and that's fun as they become part of the family.

In the holidays they do fires, this is fun as we cook dampers. These are flour and water dough and we eat them with Chocolate Spread or Honey- YUM!!!!



The picture and review are from Playground member, Cameron aged 8.

New Ark Play Support Services

By Sam Brown, Play Support Services and Playground Manager

The Support Service is an area of New Ark that helps children struggling in mainstream School. We provide a stimulating learning outdoor programme that provides support for children to actively engage back in a learning environment by participating in everyday hands on experiences. Children are helped to develop strategies to cope with their difficulties to succeed and increase their time in mainstream School and achieve positive goals.

As an organisation we believe that not only 'Every Child Matters' but that every child has the right to an education that will cater as far as possible for the needs of the young person. Currently there are 26 children who are enjoying our facilities and thriving with us and our Play Support Service aims to create an environment where children feel safe to engage with learning again.

Last year all children from both the support service and after school were invited to enter a competition run by Waitrose to mark the opening of their new store in Peterborough in October.



The children were asked to draw a picture of what they would like the new store to look like. The child who won the competition was invited in to the new store the day it officially opened. This was a very special day for him as this event helped to boost his social interaction as he finds it difficult to cope in large groups.

As a result of being at New Ark, this child has academically and socially made such progress he will shortly be integrated back into school.

I would like to say a big thank you to Dulapo and the all the dedicated staff involved, we couldn't operate this service without you.

Sam

S: Supporting children experiencing social, emotional and behaviour difficulties.

U: Unique service which aims to reintegrate children back in to full time education.

P: Provides a varied outdoor curriculum.

P: Planned activities that focuses on the individual child and their needs.

O: Organized and a well structured environment to cater for individual needs.

R: Referrals made by schools, Peterborough City Council and other agencies.

T: Trained staff with a wealth of knowledge, understanding and experience.

S: Safe environment.

E: Enhancing children's independent learning.

R: Resources that are suitable and unique.

V: Various participation in different activities.

I: Illustrious service

C: Creating opportunities for future life skills.

E: Engaging children in an alternative learning programme.



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 and chickens.

Please call Carolyn or Karen between 10am-noon on **01733 340605**.



New Ark Farm report



By Carolyn Bellamy, Farm Manager

The Farm is a hive of activity that links all the different areas of New Ark together. We also welcome local Schools and colleges to get involved in the day to day running of the Farm.

This area provides the opportunities to achieve and have an important role within animal care and promotion of the Farm. Children and adults thrive, building up their self confidence and self esteem, which helps them to move forward with their lives. Here are some the organisations that we link in with on a regular basis;-

Stamford College.
Cummins.
Peterborough Regional College.
Copass.
Heltwaite.

Support Services.
Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Scheme.
Newark Hill School.
Marshfields School.

We have been lucky to have some exceptional volunteers over the last year, help us with projects, Waitrose being one of them who sent a work party to create a seating area.

The Princes Trust Project, whose young people regularly send volunteers that work with us for blocks of time, this year not only constructed new animal runs but also raised the funds to do so.



To succeed and expand the Farm further, we rely on volunteers who are very valued individuals and New Ark welcomes any additional help. If anyone is interested, please arrange a visit to discuss this role further.

Carolyn Bellamy,
Farm Manager.

Volunteering on the Farm by Abigail

Abigail is 17 and has been volunteering at New Ark since August 2013. She works at the farm every Friday evening after school and during school holidays. She also supports the farm at fund-raising events by running stalls and games and showing visitors how to handle and feed the animals.



Abigail describes herself:-

“I am 16 years old and I have Dyspraxia, a developmental coordination disorder. It affects everything I do; how I walk, talk and move; my hand writing and typing speed; my anxiety levels and attention span; my balance, co-ordination and personal space awareness and how I process information, plan and organise my thoughts. As a result I have low self-confidence and I often feel less able to succeed at tasks than my peers.



I volunteer at New Ark Farm, which helps me in many different ways. I am trusted to carry out responsible jobs by the Farm Manager, which has enabled me to learn new skills and improved my self-confidence. I love to spend time with the animals and the children who visit the Farm. I have played a key role in fund-raising events by running stalls and games, showing visitors how to handle and feed the animals and explaining how they can support the farm through activities such as sponsorship and booking the farm for a birthday party. I get a feeling of intense satisfaction from my work at the farm and feel it is helping to prepare me for entering the world of work when I am older.



As part of her Sixth Form enrichment activities she is undertaking a personal project and decided that the aim of her project would be to help New Ark.

After taking part in the National Citizenship Scheme (NCS) in Summer 2014 she found out that NCS Graduates can apply for funding for a social action project. She was awarded a grant of £500 which she used to buy a new shed for the farm. She carried out some further fundraising activities to raise money to buy paint for the shed, which she has now decorated using pictures drawn by children who attend the New Ark After School and Holiday Clubs.



Jo and Abigail

She is also developing an activity pack for children who visit New Ark to raise awareness of the farm and ways that people in the local community can support it through activities such as volunteering, animal sponsorship and booking New Ark for a birthday party.

Abigail says “Volunteering at New Ark has enabled me to gain new skills and helped to boost my self-confidence. I hope that my project will have a positive effect on New Ark and go some way towards ensuring it can continue its good work helping young people like me whilst also making a big difference to those less advantaged within the community.”

(The report was written by Jo, Abigail's mum, who also supported Abigail on the projects.)



What we offer at The Farm!



- Care for domestic and farm animals on our city farm.
- Group teaching spaces outdoors or under shelter.
- Explore our woodland/sensory play area or adventure playground.
- £3.50 per child in term-time (2 hour visit) or £6.50 in holidays (4-5 hour visit).
- Ideal for schools, preschools, special needs groups, holiday clubs, parent and toddler groups, cubs and brownies and other children's groups.



**Find out more at www.newarkplay.co.uk
or call Carolyn 10am-12pm on 340605**

Christmas Bazaar



Saturday 28th November, 12-4pm

entrance by silver donation



**Festive activities include;-
children's tombola, treasure
hunt, chocolate tombola, gift
tombola and biscuit decorating.**

Feed the animals on our Farm

**Hot snacks and refreshments
available from noon**

Grand prize draw - *Raffle Tickets on sale in October*

1st Prize - Luxury Food Hamper

2nd Prize - Android Tablet

Plus many exceptional prizes

**Visit Father Christmas and receive
a gift. For further details please
visit our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/newarkplay or
website www.newarkplay.com**

