

Annual Report 2016-2017

New Ark Play Association

Registered charity number: 1026751

New Ark Play



Adventure Playground,
City Farm & Eco Centre

**A safe, caring, adventurous environment for
everyone developing skills for life**



- Parent & Toddler Group • Eco Garden •
- Preschool Playgroup from age 2 •
- Holiday and Afterschool Club • Play Support Service •
- City Farm offering Birthday Parties and Group Visits •
- Volunteering opportunities •



New Ark Opening Times

Term Time - Monday to Friday

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

Eco Centre 09:00-12:30

Our children that attend New Ark Playgroup learn through play using the Adventure Playground, Farm and Eco Centre. Pre-school children use the Eco Centre as part of their full days in preparation for going to school. In the summer term we offer eco sessions for children due to start pre-school in the September.

Play Support Service 09:00 - 15:00 (Term Time)

In our play support service we offer specialist support for individuals and small groups with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. With our support more children can be helped with the transition back into a school setting.

Parent and Toddler Group 13:00 - 15:00

Our parent and toddler group are weekly sessions for children aged 0-4 years, giving them the time to explore our eco centre and city farm with their family.

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

During session time the children get the opportunity to visit our City Farm and to help to care for all of the animals that we have. That includes grooming and feeding them all. We also welcome group visits during term time and visitors during school holidays.

Playground 15:45-18:00 Term Time

8:30 - 17:30 School Holiday

During term time our afterschool playground is all about adventure play with activities such as digging, building, ball games, swinging and climbing; and other activities based around a range of creative arts and crafts. The children also have the opportunity to visit the farm.

During the school holidays our playground activities are very similar to term time and the children also get the opportunity to do baking in our kitchen, outdoor cooking, den building, water slides, messy play and more. By prior arrangement we can offer childcare between 8.30am-5.30pm. During summer holidays we run Eco sessions Forest School for under 8s.

(As a guide New Ark follows Newark Hill Academy's closure timetable)

October Half Term: Monday 23rd October 2017— Friday 27th October 2017

Christmas Holidays: Playgroup - Last day Wednesday 20th December 2017

Playground - Last day Friday 22nd December 2017

Playgroup and Playground all re-open from Monday 9th January 2017

Introduction to New Ark Play

We are an independent charity, officially called New Ark 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 from different connections to New Ark who all bring unique skills to New Ark.

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.

We are registered with Ofsted and were rated “outstanding” in our last two inspections, the last inspection was 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 are throughout these pages.



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, join a den-building team cooking on an open fire and baking indoors whatever the weather.

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.

We receive no Government funding and rely heavily 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. In the Eco Centre the children are able to experience all of the natural elements of earth, air, fire and water.

During term time 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.



Toddler Group at New Ark Eco Centre

Every Wednesday afternoon between 1pm to 3pm in term time pre-school children and their parents/ guardians come 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 parents can 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, encourages families to come along to play with their children and put their names on the waiting list for Playgroup.

Play Support Service

New Ark's Play Support Service, which is only open during term time, uses all of New Ark facilities. This specialist service supports children who may have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Children who would benefit from this service includes those who:

- ◇ Are experiencing difficulties in the school environment.
- ◇ Have had exclusions or are close to permanent exclusion.
- ◇ Find access to the National Curriculum difficult.
- ◇ Would benefit from an alternative learning program

Sessions are planned to suit each child's individual needs and include building their confidence, self-esteem, communication and social skills. We encourage them to discover more about themselves and help to develop strategies to manage anger.

Children may attend full time or part time; for a few weeks or long term; they may have a school place or none. Our aim is to support them until they are able to return full time to a classroom environment.

Summary of Fundraising 2016-2017

We do a lot of fundraising here at New Ark and the majority of the donations that come in are through fundraising events that we hold on the premises and what we do at these events would not happen without the help of staff and volunteers which we at New Ark are eternally grateful.

Here is a snapshot of some of the fundraising events that have taken place over the last financial year and donations that have been received from supporters.

When was the event?	How was the money raised?	How much was raised?
March 2016	Easter Egg Hunt	£1291.72
April 2016	Playground children fundraising	£17.57
	Playgroup Braiswick photo commission	£134.00
May 2016	Ramsey Hospital Charity Shop	£500
June 2016	New Ark's Summer Festival	£1,074
	Playgroup "wheel in"	£296
July 2016	Play day	£157
September 2016	Peterborough Regional College students	£265
October 2016	New Ark's Open Day	£454
November 2016	Christmas Bazaar	£1749
February 2017	Playground Cake Sale	£31.56
March 2017	Ramsey Hospital Charity Shop	£500

Collection Box Appeal

Over the financial year of 2016, alongside the fundraising events that were going on at New Ark, we also had a number of collection boxes placed in local businesses for the customers to place their unwanted change in to help raise money for New Ark. Here is what has been raised for us:

Elm Tree - £40.22

MI Pharmacy - £33.96

Jerry Pizzo Salon - £5.76

City Farm

On our very own City Farm we also raised money in many different ways to help with the upkeep of New Ark. The money was raised through activities such as animal boarding, parties and individual sponsorships of the animals.

Animal Boarding - £205.50

Farm Visits - £1139.50

Individual sponsors - £50.00

Donations - £775.57

Parties - £837.90



Summary of Fundraising 2016-2017

(continued)

- ◇ Easter Egg Hunt 2016 - At the end of March 2016, New Ark raised a fantastic amount of £1291.72 with the support of local families that attended the event. The majority took part in our Easter Egg Hunt to win a chocolate rabbit as a prize. This is one of our key events and gets busier and busier every year.
- ◇ Playground children fundraising - The children that come to our adventure playground during the school term and during the school holidays came up with activities to help raise funds for New Ark. They included making badges, iced biscuits and made fridge magnets to sell.
- ◇ Playgroup Braiswick photo commission- Playgroup photographer makes an annual visit to take photographs of our playgroup children. Parents pay for these and then we get commission for how many are sold.
- ◇ New Ark's Summer Festival - Our summer festival is an annual event which is manned by volunteers and staff, all unpaid, to enable the local community to come and take part in outdoor activities and current interests. Events at our summer Festival 2016 included children's artwork inspired by Gaudi, Picasso and other artists through using postcards taken from the Tate Gallery. We also had face painting, the opening of the new activity barn (in memory of Ron Welch) located on our city farm, African drummers, a local magician and the use of our Playground.
- ◇ Running alongside the National Play Day which is usually the beginning of August, we opened our grounds to the public to promote our services. We served refreshments and cakes to raise funds of £157.
- ◇ Peterborough Regional College - Peterborough Regional College students raised general funds for the farm as they use it to support their learning and give back to charity.
- ◇ New Ark's Open Day - New Ark held our annual Open Day in October 2016. This was run to promote what New Ark is about. We raised funds of £454 through a children's tombola, a lucky dip and selling refreshments.
- ◇ Christmas Bazaar - The Christmas bazaar is always one of our most successful events with a lot of family and volunteer support. In November 2016 staff and volunteers raised £1749 through visits to meet father Christmas, cake sales (donated by our parents and staff), face painting, sweet treats, making Christmas cards and plenty of other children's stalls.



- ◇ Playgroup 'Wheel in' - Children from Playgroup took part in a sponsored wheel in where they did 10 laps around the playground using wheeled toys such as trikes and scooters. With the generosity of family and friends of the children sponsoring them, the children in turn raised £296 for New Ark.
- ◇ Playground cake sale - Children that attend our Adventure playground decided what equipment they wanted to raise money for, so they organised a cake sale to make a start on the funds.
- ◇ Ramsey Hospital Charity Shop - One of our Eco staff parents runs a charity shop at Ramsey Hospital and they raised and donated £500 for our farm to buy hutches and other items.



Our Trim Trail

Throughout the financial year of 2015-2016 a number of different individuals and organisations helped to raise funds for New Ark to be able to get new playground equipment. Our new Trim Trail was added to our adventure playground in November 2016.

The individuals and organisations that helped to raise funds for our new equipment included; Cummins, Sopra Steria, Sainsburys, Lynx Forecourt, Bowmer and Kirkland and individuals Natalia Marfeld and Harriet George.

This trim trail has given our younger and older children the opportunity to build up their physical skills. Our younger children are able to access the equipment unaided this helps to develop gross motor skills and special awareness.

We now have more space to add other pieces of equipment to the Trim Trail in the future.

If you would like to help fund to develop this play area then please speak to a member of staff to make a donation.



Our playground was becoming old and tired and needed a new face lift to bring us into the 21st century but still keeping that old fashioned Adventure Play!



Our brilliant new Trim Trail!



Upcoming Events 2017-2018

Below is a list of future fundraising and open community events that we have planned so far for 2017-2018.

If you as an active member of the community or as a parent to one or more of the children that attend New Ark can offer any help to organise an activity, donate to fundraising stalls, bake for our refreshments stall, or anything similar then please contact New Ark on 01733 340605 or email us at fundraising.newark@gmail.com.

Masquerade Charity Ball by Vixstar Events

30th September 2017 7pm-1am

New Ark Open Day

Saturday 7th October 2017 11am-2pm

Entry by silver donation, all grounds are open, meet New Ark staff and see what New Ark is all about!

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 18th November 2017 12noon - 3pm

Entry by silver donation, visit father Christmas, grand prize draw, refreshments, Christmas stalls, farm open

Easter Egg Hunt

Friday 30th March 2018 11am-2pm

Entry by silver donation, Easter Hunt, playground open, refreshments, farm open

Midsummer Festival

Saturday 23rd June 2018 11am-3pm

Entry by silver donation, entertainment (to be confirmed), hot food and refreshments, stalls, Farm and Eco Centre and Garden open

Bring your friends and families, they are all welcome to come and join in the

A review of 2016-2017 at New Ark

By Rob Brown, chair of the Management Council

Hello. My name is Rob and I am currently the chairman of New Ark. I have been a member of the management committee for a long time and enjoy volunteering my help and time towards such a unique place.

Again, I would like 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, especially The Community Payback Team that come most weekends, without their help we would be unable to achieve as much as we do.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members past and present for all of their hard work. If it was not for them we would not be where we are now. We have welcomed three new committee members recently in Steve, Sarah and Peter. We are always looking for a variety of skills and help, so please if you have some time, contact us to have an informal discussion.

Last year was a challenge, but the outcomes have been very positive; pensions up and running, new building on the farm, the paddock was taken down and the sheep have been moved and new play equipment on the playground. Staff and volunteers have given up their time to help with many different fundraising events to raise additional money for New Ark and our on going projects. Our Easter egg hunt was extremely busy again this year.

We are continuously making plans for our long term future. This coming year we hope to acquire the Resource Building which will enable us to grow that side of the business.



Artwork drawn by Daniel (Aged 11years) who attends the Adventure Playground

Planning Ahead for 2017-2018

Our biggest projects for planning ahead for the next year is raising funds to buy the support building located on our grounds as we currently rent it from Scouts. We are looking for sponsorships and donations to help support this long term goal.

With the current climate we have noticed that a place like our support building is needed within Peterborough as there are limited schools that provide our services under one umbrella, because we have the extended services connected on site such as the farm.

The building would be used more for the community. As an idea we are thinking of using this space for groups such as baby groups, drop in centres and youth clubs, especially for children with extra needs.

We would like to extend the space further, as already there is a loft space in there that could easily be converted for extra activities throughout the term times and holidays.

We need urgent funds in place for the end of this year 2017, if not this could have serious implications to our overall organisation.

We are looking for sponsors or donations to help boost funds in order to continue this service. If you are able to help or know anyone that can help we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Sam Brown on 01733 340605.

Vision for New Ark

We are currently in consultation with Local Authority about the funding for the play group and playground. We don't know what it is going to look like at the moment in respect of what we deliver but all staff assured that quality and present practice which is outstanding will continue, it may look a little different in how we deliver but not in what we do. Current climate, Economic and the change in demographics to our community will also bring challenges. We would like to be able to offer flexible quality safe play and learning experiences for all our children by keeping our Ethos for our parents and families working or not.

What we have done?

We are redeveloping the site as it has become a bit tired and old because it is well used, a trim trail has been installed in the large playground to be able to offer our pre-schoolers free play to further their physical development. We have had a new building put up on our city farm (money donated), this has enabled us to do some small group work with our children all weathers working in the environment.

What we would like to do in the near future;

- ◇ Improve the site and main room by renovating the space that we have already got (workshop, kitchen, toilets) to be able to deliver extended hours.
- ◇ New building for Support Centre children to visit
- ◇ Time to cross-skill to cover other roles as backup
- ◇ Improve training opportunities for all staff members
- ◇ Continue to engage with local schools, colleges, universities to help mentor students

Thank You..

To the individuals

New Ark would like to take a moment to say thank you to all of the individuals that have kept New Ark going with their help and support through 2016/2017 by giving us their time.

◇ Laura Anderson	◇ Jo Curphey	◇ Rebekah Knighton
◇ Mary & Alan Kemp	◇ Abigail Curphey	◇ Jayne Davey
◇ Mr Mcsparron	◇ Heidi Peacock	◇ James Payne
◇ Charlie Greenwood	◇ Neil Peacock	◇ Dave Wilson
◇ Jane Buck	◇ Jan Ruffles	◇ Mrs Calvert (playgroup)
◇ Caitlin Buck	◇ Cliffe Ruffles	◇ Sarah Beeton
◇ Donne Buck	◇ The Baldock family	◇ Carl Riley
◇ Helen Moles	◇ Hazel Greenwood	◇ Mark Stuffsins
◇ Jane Carpenter	◇ Steve Milford	◇ Rebekah Brown
◇ Amanda Parry	◇ Rob Brown	◇ Sandy Smith
◇ Stephen Connelly	◇ Claire Duffy	◇ Kathy Smith
◇ Vince Bicarino	◇ Sarah Guest	
◇ Molly Sellerfield	◇ Enid Lynch	

All staff

◇ Nikki Anderson	◇ Nikki Miller
◇ Linda Wilson	◇ Denise Jinks
◇ Jen Faunt	◇ Jayne Davey
◇ Lisa Paterson	◇ Sam Brown
◇ Linda Fisher	◇ Laura Bellamy
◇ Jodie Watson	◇ Carolyn Bellamy
◇ James Wallace	◇ Debbie Knighton
◇ Elisabeth Buck	◇ Emma Greenwood
◇ Karen Payne	◇ Geoff Griggs

Thank You..

To the organisations

New Ark would also like to take a moment to thank all of the organisations that have helped us in the last year with general help around New Ark and also organisations that have donated prizes to help raise fund on our event days.

General

- ◇ Peterborough City Council
- ◇ NCS
- ◇ Bowmer and Kirkland
- ◇ MI Pharmacy (Eastfield)
- ◇ Cummins
- ◇ Sainsbury's (Oxney Road)
- ◇ Nene Gate School
- ◇ COPASS
- ◇ John Lewis
- ◇ M.J. Ruffles & Co
- ◇ Barclays
- ◇ Vision For Education
- ◇ James McAdie & Frog Life

Prizes

- ◇ The Cresset
- ◇ Activity World & Toddler World
- ◇ Big Sky
- ◇ Bounce Trampoline Park
- ◇ Burghley
- ◇ Laser Force
- ◇ Sainsbury's
- ◇ AG Barr





Recently we asked for reviews from parents, guardians and volunteers on what they think about New Ark.

Here is what they had to say!

"New Ark offers children a unique and original opportunity to engage in outdoor and indoor play activities mixing with lots of different children in a safe environment with qualified and highly experienced staff. All the staff interact with the children at their own level and provide quality care for children lucky enough to attend New Ark."

Kate Eyre

"The Ark is a place that we take for granted. It is always there when we need it for the children. We have been going there for 20 years they are very supportive of the children's needs and understand how important it is for them to play and enjoy themselves well done The Ark"

"Brilliant staff and excellent centre with lots for the children to do. My daughter still speaks fondly of her memories there 2 years on and will definitely be my first choice for my son when he's old enough. New Ark has a home from home atmosphere which puts the children at ease."

Serena Narciso Maher

Brian Groom

"Given that all 3 of our boys attended New Ark and while Dylan is starting year 3 in September, he still wanted to come down to see everyone and see what had changed when the twins came to Linda's leaving party. The twins loved it and I think it's great the staff love doing what they do so there is not the churn of who's with the kids."

Andy Baldock

"My one year old son and I have only just discovered New Ark and I'm glad we have. The staff are extremely welcoming and friendly and the city farm and sensory gardens are a great place to visit with little ones. The nature nurture café activity is brilliant fun for developing minds to explore and learn."

"We will forever cherish the two years that New Ark gave our little girl - she will miss everyone there. The staff are all so lovely, caring and thoughtful. It's a place filled with excitement, fun and space to grow in confidence for our small hearts."

Shapla Koli

Sarah Louise Wells

"Staff are all very helpful plenty of great activities everyday my daughter loves coming to New Ark during school holidays thanks a lot."

Collette Oleary

"Fantastic place for children to play"

Sarah Hartnup

"Me and my boys attend toddler group at New Ark. It is a place where they can explore the great outdoors safely and has so many opportunities for them to learn and play. It allows little ones to feel free and adventurous which is led by the children themselves."

Hayley Durkin

Trustees and Employees

Board of Trustees

- ◇ Rob Brown (Chair)
- ◇ Lisa Sachse
- ◇ Jo Curphey
- ◇ Karen Maycock
- ◇ Claudia Butler

Employees

Playgroup

- ◇ Nikki Anderson (Manager)
- ◇ Linda Wilson (Supervisor)
- ◇ Linda Fisher (Supervisor)
- ◇ Denise Jinks
- ◇ Jayne Davey
- ◇ Jen Faunt
- ◇ Jodie Watson
- ◇ Lisa Paterson
- ◇ Nikki Miller

Playgroup - Eco Centre

- ◇ Elisabeth Buck (Manager)
- ◇ Debbie Knighton (Supervisor)
- ◇ Karen Payne
- ◇ Emma Greenwood

Playground

- ◇ Sam Brown (Manager)
- ◇ Nikki Anderson (Manager)
- ◇ Jodie Watson
- ◇ Laura Bellamy
- ◇ Linda Wilson
- ◇ Denise Jinks
- ◇ Katie McIntyre (Relief)

Play Support Services

- ◇ Sam Brown (Manager)
- ◇ Laura Bellamy

Farm

- ◇ Carolyn Bellamy (Manager)
- ◇ James Wallace

Administration

- ◇ Charlotte Griggs

Maintenance/ Cleaning

- ◇ Geoff Griggs
- ◇ Kelly Martin
- ◇ Laura Bellamy
- ◇ Monica Fincham (Relief Cleaner)

A big thankyou to Sonia Hannon who was a very valued employee who made the decision to leave us in January 2017 to develop and further her career, we wish her all the luck for the future!

Eco Centre and Toddler Group Report

By Elisabeth Buck MBE, Eco Centre Manager

Eco Centre - New Ark Eco Centre, garden and forest are now well established, having opened in 2003. All of our New Ark pre-schoolers enjoy an Eco session each week throughout the year. Our children are knowledgeable about the environment, know all about the changing seasons and the wildlife that lives in the garden and forest. They especially enjoy bug hunts, so we are looking forward to using the new bug hotel and insect area, created recently by the Eco staff.

We had a lot of work done on our trees, which need to be monitored regularly for safety and this year, 2 were cut down and 2 willows reduced by half, so that left a lot of woodchip, tree trunks and logs. The staff have used every bit to improve our forest area!

Not only do we have the new bug hotel, but there is a newly built sheltered seating area under the elm tree. Round the bug hotel we have sown wild flower seeds to grow flowers to attract more insects. The children worked hard to spread the woodchip on the forest floor.

There is always lots to do to keep the area safe and exciting for the children to use. We are planning a refurbishment of the pond, rebuilding our straw house and repainting our mural boards, later this year. As well as redevelopment tasks, there is always ongoing maintenance, like removing nettles and brambles, weeding, gardening and weather proofing the wooden benches. Much of the work is done by the children, but a lot they can't do, so we always welcome volunteers and work parties to help with these tasks!

During summer holidays there are Eco sessions for school age children, which are always popular. Like the little ones, they enjoy the mud kitchen, digging for treasure, water play, bug hunts and cooking fires. They are always happy to be outside in all weathers.

Our Eco staff, with Early Years and Forest School training, all love the outdoors work and this year we have welcomed a new member of staff, Emma Greenwood, who has started her Level 2 Early Years training. She and Karen Payne are doing Forest School training too. New Ark Eco can only work successfully because of the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff so thanks to all of them!



Toddler Group - We meet on a Wednesday afternoon 1pm-3pm in the New Ark Eco Centre. It is a friendly and sociable group, for carers and pre-school children. Children have access to all of the Eco outdoor area and the City Farm. Lots of friendships are made, not only between the adults, but the children too.

Starting playgroup is much easier for children who have attended New Ark Toddler Group regularly because they are already used to playing with others, sharing and taking turns. You do not have to come every week and you do not have to arrive at 1pm - just come when you are ready and stay for the time that suits you and your child! All pre-schoolers and their parents are welcome!

Nature & Nurture Café!



Once a month we run a new group that we like to call our Nature and Nurture Café. The group is run by Manager Nikki alongside volunteers, her daughter Laura and sister Sarah.

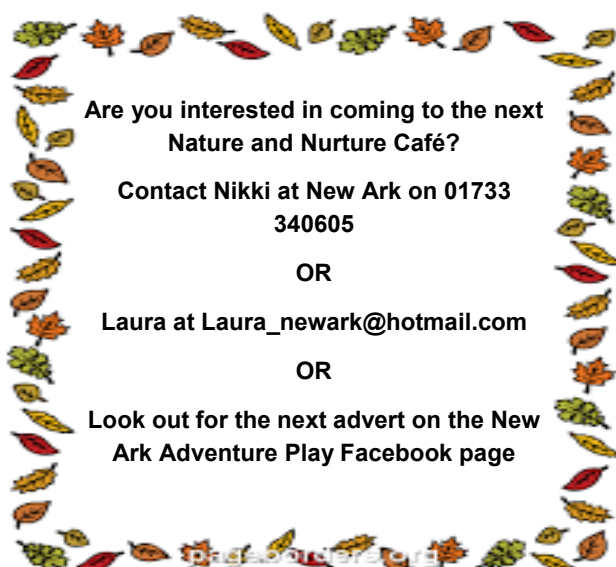
Each group is held in the Eco Centre and Farm (weather depending), the children and their parents/guardians take part in listening to a story and then have the chance to do activities based around the moral of the story. Each session is 10.00am - 11.30am, during this time the adults and children have free play within the Eco Forest, Garden and our City Farm.

We advertise each months group on the New Ark Facebook page. In each advertisement we let parents/guardians know what that particular months story is going to be and a guideline to what the activity is.

The group was started in October 2016, since then each session has become more and more successful through word of mouth and through advertising on the New Ark Facebook page. Volunteers love to meet the children and the adults that come along to each session and plenty of friendships have been made over the months.

So far each of the sessions have been free and to develop our parent partnership and working with our local community we are trying to get funding put in place to help continue the running of the group.

If anybody has any contacts, sponsorships or can help to tap in to community funding please let us know by contacting Nikki on 01733 340605.



Playgroup Report

By Nikki Anderson, Playgroup Manager

We have had another very busy eventful year and we are saying goodbye to our pre-schoolers, all 50 of them! We are looking forward to meeting our new intake of children.

Over the year of 2016-2017 playgroup children have taken part in many activities to help raise money for New Ark. The activities have helped them to learn skills for life. Learning through play has enabled our children here at New Ark to grow and become confident young people. We will continue to use play as a valuable learning tool as we believe having fun makes every child's learning experience achievable.

What we learn through play	What happened?
'All about me' portraits	Welcoming the children into New Ark and for them to show who they are to the group as individuals.
Pyjama Day	Children got the chance to wear their pyjamas to Playgroup to help raise funds towards New Ark's new Trim Trail, whilst enjoying a hot chocolate and stories.
Rhyme week/book week	We looked at traditional rhymes and each child takes a turn in choosing a rhyme and singing in front of their friends, this in turn building their self-esteem and confidence. The book we revisited more than once was the children's favourite 'Dear Zoo'
Listening walks	The children made ears to wear and listened out for different sounds in the environment.
Obstacle course	The topic of the week was promoting health and fitness and working with the families. We looked at what we were eating and how much exercise we do. Home link exercise programme children took part in exercise at home with their parents, this was recorded and sent back to playgroup and shared with their friends. Achievement was acknowledged with stickers.
Health and fitness (looking at exercising at home)	
Dressing up/role play	
Chinese New Year	Children took part in making junk model dragons and trying new foods by having a Chinese banquet and using chopsticks, this is then recorded in their learning journals. It is a good way to measure their growth and development while they are here at New Ark.
Celebrating the children's birthdays	Birthdays are celebrated throughout the year by parents providing cakes and sweets for the children with our staff and children singing happy birthday at group snack time.
Mother's day Tea Party	A Tea Party was held where the children got to show their parents/guardians their learning journals. Information sharing is a good way of getting parents involved in their children's learning and understanding their individual needs and interests to help develop them. The children all made scrolls and decorated bags as gifts.

Parent partnership - Extending home learning

Parent support over the last year has played a key role in the children's learning and development.

◇ Dressing up

Parents let their children dress up when coming to playgroup, this encourages a lot of talk amongst their peer groups, helps the child to build confidence and self esteem. The majority of the children took part.

◇ Baking

Children at New Ark all take part in baking activities, this helps to explore maths language and health and hygiene. They are encouraged to work in small groups of four children and taking recipes home for their parents to bake with them at home.

◇ Festivals and celebrations

We celebrate diversity and look at all families as individuals, gathering this information by key workers having face to face contact at the beginning or end of sessions. We look at the languages used in the homes of the children and we can gather resources to extend it here at New Ark.

◇ Tea parties

We invite parents, carers and families in to share a cup of tea and a biscuit - sharing their learning journals and the children's achievements with the. This builds self confidence and self esteem. This year in June, we celebrated male carers/fathers day and this proved to be very successful.



◇ Easter egg hunt

Children within the playgroup session all take part in an Easter Egg Hunt using the indoor and outdoor space to take part. All children received eggs as a treat.

◇ Home link—using visual displays

Key groups use a bear to take home with a book to record their time with caring for the bear, taking it on holidays, to bed, reading and dressing it - creating memories for recording. This is then brought back to share with their key groups - lots of rich language is used at this valuable time.

Book of the week: Elmer/Aliens Have Underpants etc. Cut outs are given to take home for the child to decorate and then put on display at New Ark.

◇ Library Scheme

All of our older children are able to take a book home to read with their families - this encourages language and communication skills also a good time to have that one to one time with their parents. Learning to look after books and understanding how to respect others property. This is encouraged weekly with playgroup providing a book bag for the children to carry their book home and keep it in good order.

◇ Sharing information

Sharing information is key to every child's development, keeping the lines of communication open with their families encourages them to share the child's current interests and that helps to understand the child's individual needs.

Playground Report

By Nikki Anderson, Playgroup and Playground Manager

We are funded by the City Council, because of this we have to show evidence through playground activities. Throughout the year the play workers plan a program to increase levels of fitness, service users learning new skills, service users gaining confidence in relation to adults and children, learning new skills and caring for animals on our City Farm, involvement of service users in our environmental area and supporting parents.

To meet the criteria these are some of the evidence of the focused activities.

◇ Habitats and wildlife

During May and June as part of New Ark's activity program we welcomed back Frog Life to the Eco Garden. During these sessions, small groups of children made habitats for the wildlife, also enjoying pond dipping for tadpoles and newts, bug hunts and growing seeds.

◇ Art Gallery

Most of the children after school and school holidays took part in creating some beautiful pieces of art work using a number of different artists such as Picasso for inspiration. These were framed and displayed at New Ark's Summer Festival and donations were asked to provide for new equipment in the playground for the children to play with.

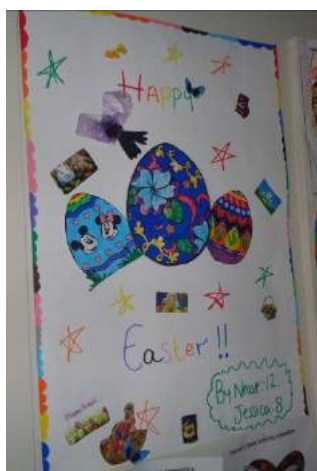


◇ Fundraising

We had a fundraising fortnight within the Easter holidays. Items made by the children ranged from keyrings, safety pin badges and magnetic badges, also iced biscuits were sold to parents encouraging children and their families to learn about supporting local charities.

◇ Easter colouring competition

Children at New Ark took part in an Easter colouring competition which was split into different categories; under 5's, 5-8 years and over 8's. Long standing volunteer Donne Buck judged the competition which were displayed in the play room and each winner received an Easter egg donated by our committee.



New charges for the year 2017

We have had to review our charges as our funding that we receive continues to reduce. With the increased charges for resources, running costs and general maintenance of the building and outdoor area these all need to be met.

All children need to be registered for attending New Ark Playground day care and after school. Please contact us for further details and costs.

We also run an after school club which can also include a walk over service from Newark Hill Academy which includes a snack and a drink all for £4.50 per evening. If you do not need the walkover service children can still attend for £2.00 per evening and join in with the fun.

Marketing

As from October 2016 we have advertised our after school in popular magazine 'Term Times' which reaches households of families all around Peterborough and surrounding areas. We gained interest from children from other schools for our after school service, but we have seen a significant increase in families attending our fund-raising events, so we will be continuing to market through Term Times for our annual events.



Artwork drawn by Nathan (aged 12 years)

Play Support Services Report

By Sam Brown, Play Support Services Manager

What is the support service? It is a unique service that offers support to children that are experiencing social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. These children often struggle in a school environment, displaying challenging behaviour and for some they are on the verge of receiving a fixed term exclusion or may already be without a school placement. There is a referral process and this can be initiated by schools and other external agencies.

Our service offers an alternative outdoor learning programme based around activities using our fantastic resources the City Farm, Eco Garden and Adventure Playground. We teach the children positive life skills and provide calming strategies. Our aim is to help support them to enable them to return into full time education. All children work in small groups participating in lots of hands on experiences, they are given responsibilities and receive lots of support to help develop their social skills further.

Some of the activities that children have taken part in recently are learning about different cultures, bug hunting, learning how to look after our farm animals by working together and learning to carry out health checks on each animal. All children are encouraged to put forward their activity ideas.

During the last twelve months we have seen an increase of children that have been referred to us especially children needing 1:1 tutoring. We have turned an area of the resource centre into a tutoring corner. The teachers that we have working alongside us are employed separately by Vision for Education. I work closely with the company to ensure there is regular communication and that I am in receipt of necessary documentation. The tutors offer a bespoke learning programme tailored around each child's individual learning needs which incorporates maths and English.

The tutoring and support service complement each other well providing a full-time package for children from 9am – 3pm. Children that would benefit from this package are those without a school placement and it can be adapted to offer part days.

Over the last fifteen years we have been renting our building from the Scouts and now we are in the process of purchasing the Resource Centre. We are looking at possible funding avenues and need to secure funds as a matter of urgency. Our plans are to build on the success of the past years.

About eight years ago a referral came through for a young child who was struggling in school. This child stayed with us for about a year before leaving to start a new school full time. Later on, the child now an adult returned to us asking to do some voluntary work as part of an animal course they were doing. He had chosen us as his preferred placement because he remembered how much he had valued his time spent with us and how much we helped to support him. Seeing how he has developed into a confident young person hearing that he finished school on a high is a true success story.

Thank you to all staff, teachers and volunteers who have helped us and I look forward to another twelve months of positive outcomes.

If you would like any further information, please call us on 01733 890928 and speak to Sam Brown.



Farm Report

By Carolyn Bellamy, Farm Manager

As in previous years the farm has continued to be a popular attraction at New Ark and has also played a vital part in serving the local community. The Activity Barn which was a gift from the late Ron Welch is in continuous use with school visits, open days, birthday parties as well as a shelter for volunteers on rainy days and it is a big asset to the farm.

We are grateful to Ramsey Hospital charity shop for a donation of £500 towards a new larger and much improved housing for the Rabbits and the Guinea Pigs.

NCS Wave 1 have recently completed a project on the farm and have painted a brightly coloured mural on the side of the sheep and goat house in turn making it attractive to visitors (*pictured below*)



Community Payback continue to support and undertake many hours of hard work to improve the appearance of the farm and to help with maintenance as required.

The Princes Trust also continue to support the farm on a regular basis with fund raising projects throughout the year.

We also continue to welcome students who want to undertake work placements for animal care qualifications with

Moving forward we are intending to make a new aviary for Fez the Golden Pheasant and we are now raising funds for this project.

On the Farm, we also offer a boarding service for Rabbits and Guinea Pigs for their owners who go on holiday.

We have a number of Rabbits that are in need of a good home if you can help please get in touch with a staff member.



Fez the golden pheasant

We are the only City Farm in the Eastern Counties. We are a registered charity and rely on donations to pay for food, bedding and veterinary care. If you would like to get involved on the farm we are always grateful for new volunteers and new sponsors for the animals.

I would like to thank all of our valued volunteers who give their time and energy to care for the animals and birds. It is very much appreciated. New Ark Farm is a very unique place where people of all ages and abilities can develop their life skills and help to care for the animals.

Opportunity knocks for Farm volunteer!

"My name is James Wallace; I've been going to New Ark for over 3 years. I began as a volunteer as part of my work experience. I was doing my level 3 animal management course and chose this place as my work experience. I was able to be employed at New Ark with the help of Shaw Trust Funding. They gave me a work incentive which let me work there for 3 months. I started employment on the 23rd March and the funding finished on the 13th July. I am still doing relief work and hope to get funding for 26 weeks. I enjoy working at New Ark, it is a nice place and it's good to meet new people. I like the variety of animals that they have, there is always something that I can help with and a variety of jobs to do. I like working with the children and animals, it is always busy and a fun job. I hope to work there for many years."

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 - 2 hour visit. All year round.
- ♦ Ideal for schools, preschools, special needs groups, holiday clubs, parent and toddler groups, cubs and brownies and other children's groups.

If you're on holiday, why not treat your pet to a holiday too?

For a small daily fee of £1.50 per night, New Ark can board your animals with us while you are away on holiday. We can care for guinea pigs, rabbits and chickens.

Please call Carolyn Bellamy between 10am-12 noon on **01733 340605**.

Birthday parties with a sense of adventure at New Ark!

You can:

- ♦ Decorate our function room using your own theme
- ♦ With full use of our kitchen you can bring party food and cake
- ♦ Play party games

Your guests can:

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



£80 for up to 10 children, additional children £5 each and parents free. No hidden charges.

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



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY 18TH
NOVEMBER 2017

12 NOON - 3PM

ENTRANCE BY SILVER DONATION

Festive Activities include;



Children's tombola



Meet Santa and his helpers



Chocolate tombola



Treasure hunt



Gift tombola



Biscuit decorating



Feed the animals on our
farm



Hot snacks and refreshments
available

For further details please visit our;

Facebook page www.facebook.com/newarkplay

Our website www.newarkplay.com

New Ark Play



Adventure Playground,
City Farm & Eco Centre

Join in with the fun at New Ark!

- 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

