

SATURDAY

Date/Time	Venue	Activity/Course
2nd February 10am-12pm	Children's Centre Training Room 	Dad's and Families Saturday morning opening: Booking essential.
30th March 10am-12pm Booking essential.	Children's Centre Training Room 	Dad's and Families Saturday morning opening: "The Fable of Mereside" A Better Start Community Connector run event -watch out for more information. This is a joint event with Baines School and Children's Centre and Mereside School and Children's Centre and Better Start. An exciting community event with activities running for a few weeks prior to the main event.

FRED (Fathers Reading Every Day) has regular courses throughout the year. If you are a father or male carer of children under 4 years this is essential for YOU! Collect lovely free books each week for 4 weeks and enjoy with your children. Ask at the Children's Centre for more info.

We have special one-off events through the term and in the holidays ask in the centre or find us on out on Facebook search "Mereside Children's Centre Blackpool".

We have regular visits from Communicate Speech and Language service for advice and support with your child's communication needs.

Do you want to volunteer in the Children's Centre? Phone the Children's Centre for more information.

*Better Start Literacy Activity Week theme "Farm animals" w/c 5th March see our Facebook page for details nearer the time.

Come and visit 'Brenda's Community Café' serving hot drinks, snacks and delicious hot meals from 8.30 to 3pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30 to 2.30pm on Fridays.

Free use of a computer in the Community Café for searching online or applying for housing, jobs and those essential websites for health, family and employment. Come and book a slot at reception.

Collect your Better Start Activity cards from the Children's Centre -free to families packed with ideas and fun activities and book suggestions for your little ones!! There is a chance to win a lovely bag of goodies if you post your crafty activities on our Facebook page.

Visit our Facebook page for the latest info about what's going on at:

Mereside Children's Centre Blackpool

Mereside Children's Centre Activity timetable

All activities in the centre are Free of Charge

Mereside Children's Centre

Langdale Road, Blackpool, FY4 4RR

Tel: 01253 839739

Jan - Mar
2019




Blackpool's children centres are provided in partnership by Blackpool Better Start and Blackpool Council.

CONTACT US

www.blackpoolbetterstart.org.uk

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CHILDREN'S CENTRES

MONDAY

Date/Time	Venue	Activity/Course
9.00am - 11.30am	Café area, home visits and Mereside Library	Bookstart Corner: Speak to Jayne about the free bag of goodies to support your child's early reading skills. For children aged 12 months to 30 months. We offer home visits, library visits and special fun events using toys and rhymes that link with books.
10.20am- 11.05am Starting 14th January	Children's Centre Training Room 	Children's Centre Training Room Tiddly-om-Pom-Poms: Back by popular demand! A music and rhyme session for all ages. Come along and join the friendly music group with Blackpool Music Service staff.
All day	Children's Centre	Little Diggers Garden: The garden is available to all little ones and their parents and carers for 50 weeks of the year. We can provide wet weather clothing and wellies for toddlers you can borrow!! Phone or call in to book the garden any time, bring a picnic or buy a meal from Brenda in the café
Various days and times throughout the year	Children's Centre Training Room 	Children's Centre Training Room: For mums-to-be and their partners preparing for parenthood. The course starts around the 28th week of pregnancy. If you are pregnant come and speak to the Baby Steps Family Engagement Worker based in the Children's Centre.

TUESDAY

Date/Time	Venue	Activity/Course
9.30am-12.00pm	Children's Centre meeting room	Stop Smoking in Pregnancy: Become and remain smoke free throughout your pregnancy and be rewarded through an incentive scheme. This service is run by the Health Trainers team. Access an appointment by phoning 01253 952226 for a self-referral or speak to your midwife. Not a 'drop-in' service, an appointment must be made prior to attendance.
10am-10.30am Starting 26th February	Children's Centre Training Room 	Melody Bear Dance sessions: : run by CK Dance Academy. A fun dance-based session for all children and their carers from 18 months old. Bring a teddy of soft toy to dance along with. Comfy clothes to move to the music and rhyme.
All day	Children's Centre	Little Diggers Garden: The garden is available to all little ones and their parents and carers for 50 weeks of the year. We can provide wet weather clothing and wellies for toddlers you can borrow!! Phone or call in to book the garden any time, bring a picnic or buy a meal from Brenda in the café
1.00pm- 3.00pm	Children's Centre Training Room	Baby Club: A free drop in group for parents, carers and babies under 14 months or until walking. Meet the Link Health Visitor to have your baby weighed and get advice. A Dental Health Practitioner is available on 8th January and 5th February to chat about your child's dental and oral health.
1pm - 4pm Alternate Tuesday starting 15th January	Children's Centre Meeting Room	Clevr Money Drop in with the Credit Union: Come and open an account to save for Christmas and accessible loans available subject to conditions. Every fortnight.
1pm-3pm 15th Jan,12th Feb, 12th March	Children's Centre Café 	Baby Rover: Become a life time member for £2.50 and pick up a bargain of ten items for £1.00 of freshly recycled clothes baby and children's clothes. Amazing bargains from birth to 5 years old.

WEDNESDAY

Date/Time	Venue	Activity/Course
10am-11.30am Term Time	Children's Centre Training Room and garden	Next Steps: A next step after Baby Club from about 14 months (or walking) up to about 30 months. We focus on social development, language and movement in this friendly group. A Language Practitioner from Communicate will be hand on 24th January to discuss speech, language and communication development.
All day	Children's Centre garden	Little Diggers Garden: The garden is available to all little ones and their parents and carers for 50 weeks of the year. We can provide wet weather clothing and wellies for toddlers you can borrow!! Phone or call in to book the garden any time, bring a picnic or buy a meal from Brenda in the café
10am-12pm 16th Jan, 13th Feb and 13th Mar	Children's Centre Community Café	Free childcare for 2, 3,& 4 year olds: You may be entitled for up to 15 hours per week early education for your 2 year old and up to 30 hours per week for 3 and 4 years olds. Come and have chat with Dawn in the café to find out more and what childcare is available. Free refreshments.
12.45pm -2.45pm From February to June	Children's Centre Training Room	Family Maths: This course will lead to an accredited qualification from entry level to level two - essential for gaining employment. This course requires commitment for about 14 weeks. All abilities welcome. Free crèche places available if booked ahead at reception prior to the course starting. Booking is essential.
2pm to 3pm	Mereside Children's Centre meeting room	Blackpool Coastal Housing Surgery: Are you a tenant in a BCH property? Do you need some information or support? A representative is on hand help to discuss tenancy issues. Drop by to have a chat with your local Blackpool Coastal Housing worker.

THURSDAY

Date/Time	Venue	Activity/Course
10am-11.30am Term time	Tarnside Community Centre, Tarnside opposite Mereside Children's Centre	Bumbles Parent/Carer and Toddler Group: A fun group for parents, carers and their children, all ages welcome. We meet at the Tarnside Centre venue. A Speech and Language Practitioner is holding a drop in on Thursday 24th January to chat about your child's communication development.
10am-12 noon	Children's Centre Community Café	Knitting Nanas Knitting Group: Come and join in learning how to knit with our parents/carers and nanas. All welcome- from beginners to expert. Pass on your skills to others.
2pm-3pm From 7th February	Little Diggers garden and in the community 	Better Start Park Rangers: different activities each week from a range of themed sessions. A group for babies, toddlers, parents and carers to enjoy – everyone is welcome. Wear warm clothes and wellies if possible. For half term 21st February there's a session for all ages not just the little ones!

FRIDAY

Date/Time	Venue	Activity/Course
9.00am-10.30am	Children's Centre Community Café 	Parent and carers coffee morning: Parent and carers coffee morning. All parents and carers are welcome for free tea, coffee and toast. Have a brew and have your say.
9.30am-11am	Children's Centre Café	Parents Forum: A monthly get together for those that use Mereside Children's Centre. Meet the Community Connector Gemma Howson and plan activities and have your say about the centre's programme. All welcome- free brew and toast!
All day	Children's Centre garden	Little Diggers Garden: The garden is available to all little ones and their parents and carers for 50 weeks of the year. We can provide wet weather clothing and wellies for toddlers you can borrow!! Phone or call in to book the garden any time, bring a picnic or buy a meal from Brenda in the café
9.30am-11.30am	Children's Centre Training Room 	EPEC "Being a Parent" course: Did you know there is always something new as a parent. Understanding behaviour, communicating with your child and setting limits are just some of the topics covered. Free childcare available! Booking essential.

