

Boogie Mites Making Waves



“Boogie Mites is a central component of the services we offer to parents, child minders, and carers. It is extremely popular and supports a child’s learning journey from birth to school. ” *John Robinson, Centre Manager, Little Waves*



Little Waves Children’s Centre

Little Waves Children’s Centre in Gosport started operating in 2008. The Children’s Centre serves approximately 950 children in the early years. Covering an extremely diverse catchment area that encompasses areas in the top 20% of the most deprived in England, alongside very affluent areas, a key challenge has been ensuring that the Children’s Centre offers the right mix of activities that will appeal to their catchment, whilst meeting key objectives.

Tackling Literacy

One of the key objectives was helping to raise speech, language and communication levels, as Angie Potter, the Children’s Centre Support Teacher (CCST) stated *“Figures from Reception year data show that literacy levels are significantly lower in Gosport than elsewhere in Hampshire. It is vital that we tackle this issue as early as possible and Boogie Mites and Baby Boogie Mites are great ways of doing this.”*

The Little Waves team was aware, from the wealth of information available, *about the benefits of involving 0-5year olds in music-making activities*; from improving children’s social and personal development, to supporting numeric skills and aiding children’s *communication, speech and language ability.*

Feeling the Beat

Therefore the team knew that it was important to offer music sessions. More importantly for the benefits of music-making to be realised, they recognised the sessions had to provide *inspirational music that parents and carers would enjoy*, because they are the most inspiring teachers for their child.

Recommended by Angie Potter, CCST, who had undertaken a Boogie Mites music and movement training programme, Boogie Mites was reviewed alongside other music offerings by the Children’s Centre’s team before being asked to host a workshop as part of an Open Day.

“Boogie Mites was an instant hit, the fabulous songs and fun activities entertained and enthralled parents, carers and children. We received immediate feedback requesting regular Boogie Mites sessions. The fact that it provides an accessible and fun way for parents and carers to bond and engage with their children and recognise the power of music in regards to both having fun and supporting their children’s learning, confirmed our decision to run regular weekly workshops.”

Engaging, Inspiring and Supporting the Community

Growing demand by parents and carers to attend Boogie Mites workshops resulted in additional weekly sessions being provided to help ease the waiting lists.

Boogie Mites Baby Programme has been introduced, offering an enjoyable way for new mums to learn and see the benefits of singing to their babies from birth.

In addition, *Boogie Mites Transition Programme* is being taken up by some local primary schools to create positive links with parents and children from the start of their *formal* educational career.

“Boogie Mites music sessions are extremely enjoyable. The number of groups and range of programmes we now offer has increased, driven by the parents’ and carers’ demand; which is fantastic as Boogie Mites workshops offer best value to the community. The group supports our role in raising aspirations, helping to establish a parent’s role as the child’s first teacher whilst laying a solid foundation for children’s development, especially in relation to speech, language and communication during the early years.” *John Robinson, Centre Manager.*



What makes Boogie Mites different?

- ★ Original music and fabulous songs
- ★ Homemade, eco-friendly props and instruments
- ★ Creative, participative, active and flexible format
- ★ Themed songs and workshops to support learning
- ★ Many songs and activities using rhythm sticks to “feel the beat”
- ★ Cross-curricular links supporting the EYFS and endorsement from EYFS professionals and practitioners
- ★ Boogie Mites teachers passion for singing and a belief in the power of music to support Early Years Learning.



Boogie Mites offers Children’s Centres a comprehensive range of programmes and training workshops; including music and craft sessions for family fun days. **Contact us now** for further information and testimonials: enquiry@boogiemites.co.uk