

News from Serennu

July 2020

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Serennu Garden



We are delighted to advise that, in line with Welsh Government guidance, the multi-use gym area (MUGA) that is located next to the playground in the Serennu gardens, has reopened. We cannot yet have any team sports or contact sports, but children and young people can use it to run around or throw/ catch a ball. Unfortunately, we are still unable to open the playground area at the present moment. There are many signs displayed around Serennu gardens reminding everyone to observe the social distance guidelines and also requesting users hand sanitize their hands before and after use. Hand sanitizing gels have been provided at both ends of the MUGA. The Serennu gardens are looking lovely in the sunshine and it is brilliant that we now have our outside sports court open for everyone to enjoy. We will be so happy to see children and families once again at Serennu.



We are also thrilled to announce that we have received confirmation from Welsh Government that, as of the 6th July 2020, Sparkle are allowed to restart and welcome back children and young people to some leisure activities at Serennu Children's Centre. Over the past few months Sparkle have been busy finalising strategies to allow us to safely resume sessions, always keeping the safety of children, staff and families as our main priority. We have greatly missed seeing the children and young people at our Centre and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them back next week to once again take part in their activities. Things will look a little different for a while but we are excited to be able to offer our services

During these challenging times, Sparkle staff have continued to support children, young people and their families in many different ways:

Activity Guide- The Sparkle workers have designed an activity guide that has been shared with our families and published on our social media pages. The guide can also be printed and sent out to families on request. The guide provides detailed activities that children and young people can try at home including arts and crafts, baking, sensory play, problem solving and active games.

Activity videos- Each week Sparkle play workers post activity videos introducing different challenges and ideas for the children and young people to try at home, including sign of the week, sensory and tactile creations and imaginative play. In addition, each week County in the Community sports workers set the children and young people active challenges.

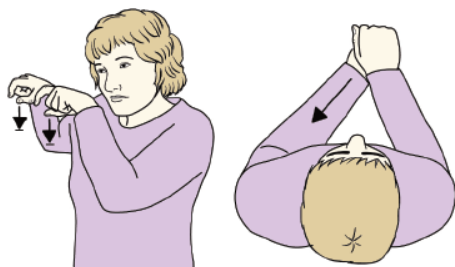
Virtual sessions- Sparkle are running weekly virtual sessions for a number of our leisure activities, the sessions are a way to maintain contact with the children and young people and to encourage them to try new activities from the safety of their homes. The session content ranges from general discussions about the children/young people's day, showing/sharing with the group their favourite item or thing to do. Physical activity challenges including ball skills and fitness. Creative challenges including music, art & photography tasks. Minecraft/Lego challenges, quizzes, attention autism activities and more! Often with the support of their families, our children and young people are enjoying engaging and contributing in the sessions.

Sparkle's Family Liaison Service- Our Family Liaison Officers are available to offer support, provide information and advice and signposting to help families cope in these unprecedented times.

Sparkle exist to support local families and it really is our pleasure to assist whenever we can. We have received lovely feedback regarding these new sessions and we would like to say thank you to the Sparkle supervisors and play workers for their hard work creating the activities and challenges.

If you would like to be kept up to date with activities, events, forums and support groups being held at Serennu and in the local area please email or call: Family.liaison.ABB@wales.nhs.uk / 01633748013 to be included on the mailing list.

Sign of the Month



Stay Safe

"C" hands (palms down, pointing forward) make short, firm movement downwards; then working closed hand (palm down, pointing forward) on supporting closed hand (palm up, pointing forward/in): formation moves back towards supporting side of body.

For more signs, information and resources, please see www.signalong.org.uk or talk to your Speech and Language Therapist

The Serennu Childrens Centre remains open for specific Health Board clinics. If you need to contact Serennu, the administration team are always available.

The Family Liaison Service is also available for families and professionals to access. If you have any queries or concerns, or would like any information that we could offer assistance with, please do not hesitate to be in touch, it would be our pleasure to help.

We can be contacted on:

Serennu Admin Team 01633 748000

Sparkle admin team 01633 748091

Family Liaison Service 01633 748013 or familyliaison.abb@wales.nhs.uk

Earlier this year, Sparkle launched it's Emergency Appeal to raise vital funds towards helping to provide essential support

for families living in Gwent, whose child has a disability or developmental delay. The response to this appeal for donations, together with some successful grant applications, including a substantial grant from Welsh Government, means that Sparkle now look in a better financial position to resume all activities when we are allowed and it is safe to do so. Along with the kind donations received through our Just Giving page and many brilliant fund raising efforts, we also have been very fortunate to receive anonymous, private donations. During the time of COVID-19, in addition to a Welsh Government grant, we have also received grants from WCVA Voluntary Services Emergency Fund, Community Foundation Wales Covid Resilience Fund and a Children in Need Booster Grant. To continue the services and support that Sparkle offer, our charity need to raise in excess of £600k each year and without this money Sparkle will not survive. It is vitally important that our fundraising efforts continue. The Sparkle Emergency Appeal donations have reached £78,370.00 which is a phenomenal amount against our target of £100k. Many families have been supporting Sparkle and we are truly grateful for your good wishes and the continued support that we receive. We are delighted to share this news with you and we are certain that you will be as relieved as we are. We would also like to say thank you to the staff at Serennu Children's Centre and the Sparkle Trustees for their contribution and commitment towards this achievement, it is sincerely appreciated.

Thank you



A lovely surprise

We have recently had two visitors at Serennu who brought a lovely surprise for us. Sue Edge is the local Branch President of the organisation Foresters Financial and along with her husband Mike, they delivered four colourful beanbags for use at the Centre. Sue had previously contacted us to explain that Foresters Financial arrange different Community Involvement events that support various organisations within the community, but because of the current situation with COVID-19 and social distancing, rather than host events, their members were encouraged to apply for a 'Care Through Crises' grant. Sue applied and in her words "Hey presto -4 new beanbags later!" Dr Nicola George is a G.P. in Caldicot but also the daughter of Sue and Mike, and that is how Sue first heard about Serennu Children's Centre. It was lovely to meet both Sue and Mike and it will be great to invite them back to Serennu when it is possible to do so. We are extremely grateful for their support and also the support received from Foresters Financial.



ORDINARY 2
EXTRAORDINARY



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helping special children shine



Gyda chefnogaeth / Supported by
BBC
Plant mewn Angen
children in Need



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board