

THE OPEN DOOR

News, advice and more for members of our English literacy and playgroup community



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Reminder

The 2019–20 Open Door school year begins on Monday 12 August. See you then!

Welcome back

Starting the 2019 Autumn semester

We hope you and your families are enjoying the summer break – sun, pool time, lazy days and all – and that your children are refreshed and ready to start the Open Door semester.

We have a great year planned for your children. Our playgroups have Discovery trips, arts and crafts days and lots of fun sing along-songs ready for the kids, and our English teachers are looking forward to bringing out, on paper, the creative best of your children.

Over the course of the school year, please contact us should you have questions about our events, our programme, or simply want to talk about how your child is doing in our reading and writing courses or our playgroup programme.

From all of us at the Open Door, thank you again for your membership. We hope you have a great school year.

Sincerely,
Susannah Cox
Open Door Committee President



Back-to-school advice

Five tips to make sure your child is ready to start the school year

The first few weeks back at school can be challenging for your child after a long fun summer. For parents, it's also easy to become overwhelmed with all the things we need to contend with: new routines, stuff to buy, not to mention the massive emotional change itself.

The back-to-school period doesn't have to be a stressful time for your child. Remind them of their potential, their skills and, importantly, of your confidence in them.

To help you and your child prepare for the new school year, we have put together five back-to-school tips to kick-start the new school year and get your child prepared (and excited!) for a fresh year of learning.



Get back to a sleep routine

Set up a regular bedtime and morning time routine to help prepare your child for school. Begin the usual school sleep routine about a week or so before school starts.



Reduce TV and video game time

Ease your children into the learning process by turning off electrics (video games, TV programmes etc) or reducing the viewing time and encouraging them to read or play quietly.



Set up a homework station

Sit down with your child and designate a time and place to do homework each day. This can be somewhere quiet like in their bedroom, or even in the kitchen.



Get organised

Designate a spot in your house for homework and other school-related papers. This can help eliminate all of that paper clutter and make your life less stressful.



Encourage them!

The back-to-school period doesn't have to be a stressful time for your child. Remind them of their potential, their skills and, importantly, of your confidence in them.

Meet the Open Door staff



Noeleen Stutz, English Teacher

Hometown: Dublin, Ireland
Experience: 23 years (20 years with the Open Door)
Favourite Open Door pastime: watching students grow and learn over the years
Hobbies: reading, cooking and learning languages



Siona Verena Hun, Playgroup Leader

Hometown: Vancouver, Canada
Experience: 26 years (23 years with the Open Door)
Favourite Open Door projects: crafts, singing action songs, teaching children new things
Hobbies: gardening (it calms me!)



Nysha Johnson, English Teacher

Hometown: Kerala, India, but Canada from the age of four
Experience: Six years (two years with the Open Door)
Favourite Open Door projects: Creative writing
Hobbies: Playing with my three-year old daughter or doing yoga (or doing yoga with my daughter!)



Irene Gisler, Playgroup Leader and Arts Teacher

Hometown: Edinburgh, Scotland
Experience: 25+ years teaching adults and children (two years with the Open Door)
Favourite Open Door projects: painting with the children
Hobbies: painting, also!



Isabel Rodriguez, English Teacher

Hometown: Kilkenny, Ireland
Experience: 14 years (three years with the Open Door)
Favourite Open Door projects: reading stories and helping them be creative through drama, music and writing
Hobbies: walking, singing, yoga and going to the cinema



Karen Lavarello, Playgroup Leader

Hometown: Tristan da Cunha, South Atlantic Ocean
Experience: 14 years, five years with the Open Door
Favourite Open Door projects: singing, dancing, interacting with children and making them laugh!
Hobbies: spending time with my two girls, reading, walking, dancing, playing the guitar and socialising with friends



Julie Etto, Playgroup Substitute

Hometown: Chennai, India
Experience: four years (two years with the Open Door)
Favourite Open Door projects: taking the children on Discovery trips, as well as yoga and crafts
Hobbies: hiking, cooking and listening to music



Susannah Cox, English Teacher-in-training

Hometown: England
Experience: in-training
Favourite Open Door projects: anything that gets them excited about learning
Hobbies: tennis, trying new things, and spending time with my family



Mark your calendars

The Open Door hosts a number of holiday events throughout the year. These are arranged to give your children the chance to enjoy some festive celebrations, and also let parents get to know Open Door Staff and Committee Members a bit better, as well as one another.

Prior to these events we will post sign-up sheets on our doors, in which we will ask members to fill out details for attendance, potluck contributions as well as volunteer assistance for setting up and cleaning up.

Be sure to mark the following dates on your calendars:



Halloween costume party



Christmas holiday party

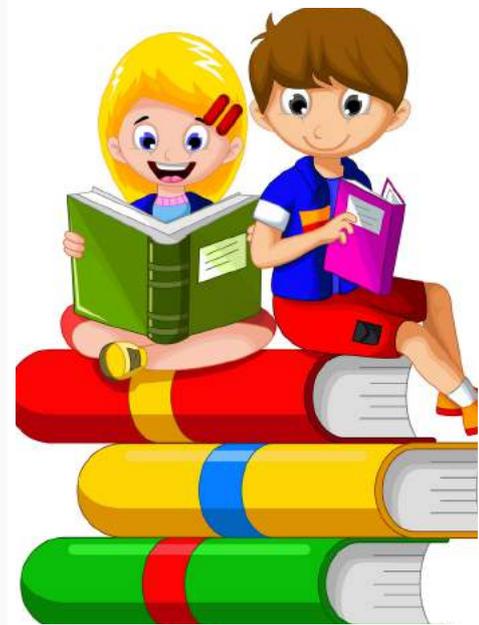




New members

The Open Door would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members of our English literacy and playgroup community:

- Kabala family
- Guajardo family
- Stuart family



Kids' Corner authors

The Open Door would like to congratulate the following new authors featured in the latest edition of Kids' Corner.

Level 5: Zoe

Level 4: Maia

Level 3: Giulia, Erika, Rishav

Level 2: Aditri, Lydia, Kevin, Mei and Ayan

Level 1 and Beginners: Adriana, Darius, Nikori and Lin

Kids' Corner is an Open Door online magazine dedicated to featuring stories, artwork and more from your hardworking children.

Children are selected for this publication based on a number of factors, including effort, creativity and improvement.

Previous versions of Kids' Corner can be found on our website.



GGG Bibliothek Basel West

From weekly After-School Story Time to monthly Toddler Tales, the GGG Bibliothek hosts a variety of English-speaking events.

Visit the GGG Online Library Calendar for more information.

Advertise with us

Interested in advertising with the Open Door? Contact sandra.katolo@opendoorbasel.ch for more information.

For questions or comments regarding the Open Door newsletter, contact naomi.smith@opendoorbasel.ch.

