

Broadshires Pre-school Day with a Daddy



Tucked away in a small village to the West of RAF Brize Norton's runway, the children at Broadshires Preschool in Broadwell are well used to hearing the roar of aircraft overhead their outdoor play area. A noisy Hercules or C-17 taking off is always a source of great excitement so it was a lovely surprise for the morning children when one of the 'daddys' came for a visit to talk to the children about life in the RAF. Sqn Ldr Mike Udall spent the morning with the children explaining to them about being a Pilot, flying different types of aircraft (particularly interesting to some budding little pilots!) uniforms and, most importantly, how to salute and march! It was a wonderful sight to see our 16 three and four year-olds marching round with paper aircrew hats on and standing to attention!

Broadshires Preschool has always had a significant percentage of children from RAF families amongst its intake and this year is no exception, with almost half of our morning children having a serving Mummy or Daddy. There was, therefore, great interest amongst the other children about this mysterious world and they relished being able to ask questions about the aircraft, what they do and where they are going when they see them flying overhead. It was great to see the excitement on their faces as they talked about models of a VC10 and a Tristar and watched clips of take-offs and air-to-air refuelling of the new Voyager aircraft. In addition, the children were shown the different RAF uniforms and had the opportunity to try on some headwear, helmets and respirators! The morning was capped off with a demonstration, and keen practice by the children, of saluting and marching. Going home with



their own decorated military hats, the children all agreed it had been a very fun morning and they thanked "Matilda's Daddy" for coming to talk to them on his day off!

Broadshires Preschool, in Broadwell Village (5 minutes drive from Carterton) offers sessions for children from 2-5 years in a small, homely environment. If you are interested in coming to see what we do, please call Jackie Overton, our supervisor on 01367 860729.

Marisa Pereira, Chair of Broadshires Preschool

