

Early years & childcare services

E-newsletter – January 2011



Welcome to this month's e-newsletter, keeping you up-to-date with all early years' news, updates and events.

We hope you find this e-newsletter useful. If you would prefer not to receive this email, just let us know by emailing fis@nottscc.gov.uk

Please let your colleagues know about E-News and let us know their email address if they also wish to receive a copy.

New Preferred Childcare Provider Round – Open from 24 January 2011

Nottinghamshire County Council through the Early Years and Childcare Services has re-opened the Preferred Provider List (PPL).

We currently have an established Preferred Provider List of around 150 providers. We have re-opened the list for new applicants to help meet our statutory duty of assessing and securing sufficient childcare across the county.

The idea of the PPL is to ensure that providers offering childcare services in partnership with schools and children's centres are offering a quality service.

To be included on the list, the following criteria will need to be met:

- Ofsted judgement of satisfactory or above
- Evidence of inclusive practice.
- Evidence of sound business planning and practice
- Active take up of the support available through EYCC service
- Evidence of partnership working
- Appropriately qualified staff delivering provision.

It is anticipated that the scope of the PPL will continue to expand as future potential funding streams become available from time to time.

Providers wishing to apply for inclusion on the PPL will need to request an application pack from the Nottinghamshire Families Information Service either by telephone or email to:
0800 781 2168
fis@nottscc.gov.uk

Application packs, which will include instructions and guidance notes, will be available by email and/or CD Rom (by post).

Completed documentation must be returned to the notified address, **no later than noon on Friday 4 March 2011**. We will not be able to assess applications received after this date.

Please note that whilst the List is open, there is also an opportunity to change or add to the Districts for which you have currently expressed an interest.

Seasonal Flu and Swine Flu Advice from the Health Protection Agency

Advice for Children's settings including schools and early year's settings

In light of seasonal and Swine Flu cases across the UK we appreciate that some local children's settings may be concerned about how to prevent flu and how to deal with it if a member of staff or children get the infection.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has advised that swine flu continues to be a largely mild illness. There is no sign yet of any major change in the pattern or severity of the illness. On that basis, the CMO has confirmed that the previous advice to schools and other settings is still valid. At this time *'individual school closures are now of limited benefit in stopping the spread of the disease. However, it is essential that adults or children with flu-like symptoms should stay away until they are free of those symptoms'*.

There are however some groups who are particularly vulnerable to any illness, including swine flu. This can include some children and young people with particular health conditions, including some complex disabilities such as cerebral palsy, that can make it more difficult for them to fight off viruses. The Health Protection Agency also has advice available for special schools.

Advice for schools and other settings is available at:

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/PandemicInfluenza/PandemicH1N1Influenza/SIPubSchools/>

In addition to this advice we are encouraging all settings to continue to encourage hand wash techniques and 'catch it, bin it, kill it' messages to prevent flu and colds spreading. Copies of these posters can be downloaded from:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/learningandwork/educationandachievement/earlyyears.htm>

Hello – The National Year of Communication has arrived!

As reported in the last issue of E News, 'Hello' is a national campaign happening across the country this year organised by the Communications Trust. The campaign aims to make communication for all children and young people a priority in homes and schools across the UK so that they can live life to the full.

There are many ways you can get involved in 'Hello'. Monthly themes are happening throughout the year help you think creatively about how you can link into the campaign and explore in depth some of the key aspects of children's communication development. The theme for this month is 'Don't take communication for granted'.

Resources and more information are available to download from www.hello.org.uk and www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk

Events

Chatterbox Challenge

I CAN's Chatterbox Challenge is an annual fundraising activity for nurseries, children's groups and childminders. Children aged 0-5 have fantastic fun and develop their communication skills by singing songs and rhymes to raise money for children who struggle with their speech and language.

Guinness World Record Attempt – Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Join in with a Guinness World Record attempt! At 11am on 1 March 2011 ICAN will be attempting to break the record for the largest number of children, siblings, parents/carers performing *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* in multiple venues across the UK. For more information, visit

For more information and for a free resource pack, visit <http://www.ican.org.uk/chatterboxchallenge>

National Storytelling Week

National Storytelling Week is Saturday 29 January – Saturday 5 February 2011. Why not celebrate by telling stories together for some fun?

For more story telling ideas, visit www.communicationcookbook.org.uk

Training and Development Opportunities

There are still spaces on courses listed in the TADO. For more information visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/earlyyears. To book a place, fill out an application form from www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/tado_application_form_09_dec_2010.doc

Nottinghamshire Childminding Services News

Nottinghamshire Childminding Network Meetings

Unfortunately the planned Network Meetings in March have had to be postponed. As soon as new dates have been arranged we will let all childminders know. Invitations will be sent out via local childminding groups and by e-mail. If we haven't got your e-mail address or you have changed it recently please could you let us know. You can either call: 0844 225 2053 or e-mail Gale Cockayne at gale.cockayne@ncma.org.uk.

The Green Card - Indicators of possible Child Abuse.

The Green Card has been revised and up-dated. It is a great resource listing possible indicators of Physical, Sexual, and Emotional Abuse and of Neglect.

All childminders are advised to get themselves the new copy as soon as possible.

Copies may be obtained by phoning; Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board at County Hall, Nottingham on; 0115 9773935.

Ofsted payment for registration now accepted on-line

Since June 2010 applicants who wish to register as early years or childcare providers have been able to apply online. Now applicants and providers can also make payments online using a debit or credit card.

The online service can be used to pay the:

- initial application fee
- annual fee for continued registration.
- Payments for social care annual fees can also be made online.

Visit www.ofsted.gov.uk/payments for more information.

Information from websites

Department for Education

Department responds to publication of Graham Allen's independent review of early intervention. For more information visit:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0073019/departments-responds-to-publication-of-graham-allens-independent-review-of-early-intervention>

National Day Nursery Association

Nurseries around UK Urged to Join in with National Nursery 'Bird Watch'

National Day Nurseries Association announces that its annual healthy body, happy me campaign week will be running from 14 – 20 March and that nurseries around the UK will be encouraged to take part in a national 'nursery bird watch' as part of the week.

For more information visit: <http://www.ndna.org.uk/news/press+releases/healthybody-happyme>

National Childminding Association

NCMA membership survey 2011

From 31 January, NCMA members may be contacted by telephone by staff from Lake Market Research, the organisation appointed to carry out the survey. For more information visit:

http://www.ncma.org.uk/news_and_events/news/january_to_june_2011/ncma_membership_survey_2011.aspx

Childminder numbers rising

There has been an encouraging rise in number of registered childminders in England in the last quarter. Ofsted has today published data on the number of registered childcare providers between October and December 2010. For more information visit:

http://www.ncma.org.uk/news_and_events/news/january_to_june_2011/childminder_numbers_rising.aspx

Fatherhood Institute

New research from the Fatherhood Institute covering:

- Trends in father involvement in the UK
- Aspirations
- Satisfaction
- Family and work stress: fathers' experiences
- Leave policies and father involvement
- Father-care, gender equity and child wellbeing
- Fathers' employment and child wellbeing
- Business/economic costs/benefits of father involvement
- Low income fathers' employment
- References

For more information visit:

<http://www.fatherhoodinstitute.org/2011/fi-research-summary-fathers-mothers-work-and-family/>

Gingerbread

New online guide to save money for single parents

Gingerbread and the Royal Bank of Scotland Group have launched a single parent's guide to help save money online. For more information visit:

<http://www.gingerbread.org.uk/news/89/Getting-Connected---our-new-online-savings-guide>

Children and Young People Now

Childcare workers hail EYPS as a career boost

More than three-quarters of practitioners with Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) believe the qualification has helped boost their standing in the workforce, a survey has found. For more information visit:

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/ByDiscipline/Childcare-and-Early-Years/1051651/Childcare-workers-hail-EYPS-career-boost/>