



Early Years & Childcare Services E-newsletter – May 2010

Welcome to this month's e-newsletter, keeping you up-to-date with all early years news!

Every month a sample of childcare stories from around the country will be posted in this newsletter, keeping you on the pulse of what is happening in your sector without having to source the information yourselves. However, guidelines surrounding publicity before and after a general election are still in place – so we are not able to bring you all of the news.

There is information on the annual Early Years & Childcare Services Conference, Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSA) and guidance on infection control in your settings.

If your early years & childcare setting appears in the local paper, why not share it with other practitioners by emailing the story to philip.golding@nottscc.gov.uk

We hope you find this e-newsletter useful and details of how to subscribe/unsubscribe can be found at the bottom of the document.

Finally, please remember the **Nottinghamshire Families Information Service** (FIS) are easily reachable on freephone 0800 781 2168 or fis@nottscc.gov.uk to update providers details and are always happy to give out free, impartial advice on childcare.

Happy reading...

[Events in and Around the County](#)

Early Years & Childcare Services Conference – 12 June 2010

There are still a few places available at this year's conference. If you wish to attend, book now to avoid disappointment!

The two Keynote Speakers are: Pauline Jones – Early Years Senior Programme Manager for the Children's Workforce Development Council; and Kate Cairns – Registered Social Worker and Training Manager of AKAMAS (a training provider for the wider children's workforce).

There are also ten fantastic workshops you can choose from, which have been organised to help you develop a broader understanding of your role in childcare. The workshops cover a wide range of topics to cater for all needs and job types.

A hot three course meal is provided as part of the cost, and there will be exhibitors from around the country where you can purchase goodies and find out more information about the work they are doing.

There is also a 'magically' themed Children's Conference – with an interactive showcase at the end!

The Early Years & Childcare Services Conference runs from **9am to 4.30pm** at the **East Midlands Conference Centre**, Nottingham on 12 June.

Tickets are £30 and Nottinghamshire childcare workers from the voluntary, private and independent sector, playworkers, foster carers and childminders can apply for a **£15 discount** by calling Nottinghamshire Families Information Service on 0800 781 2168.

To view the booking form (with details of workshops) [click here...](#)

National Family Week – 31 May to 6 June

'National Family Week' takes place next week 31 May – 6 June 2010 and aims to celebrate family life and encourage families to spend quality family time together. To mark the week, a series of action packed, fun events are taking place across Nottinghamshire for families to join in with and enjoy.

From picnics, film days, story telling to sports days, there are lots of things happening in local Sure Start Children's Centres, libraries and community venues across the county.

Nottinghamshire Families Information Service (FIS) can give out information about events and activities this half term holiday for National Family Week, should parents/carers ask what is happening.

For more information about National Family Week visit www.familyweek.co.uk

National Childminder Week – 10 to 19 June

National Childminding Week is your opportunity to tell the world about the wonderful work that childminders and nannies do with children and families every day.

This year's theme is "Reaching the Right Notes", highlighting the fun learning opportunities that can be had with music in a home-based childcare setting. The theme also reflects the unique environment that home-based childcare provides for families.

For more information [click here...](#)

Fathers Story Week – 14 to 20 June

Fathers' Story Week will take place from **14 to 20 June 2010**. Timed to coincide with **Fathers' Day (20 June)**, the week is a fantastic opportunity for nurseries, pre-schools, Children's Centres and childminders to get fathers and children working and spending time together in support of the children's learning and development.

The Fathers Story Week website has some free resources and ideas for your setting to engage with dads and father figures. [Click here](#) to visit the website.

National Childcare Week – 12 to 19 July

Daycare Trust National Childcare Week 2010 runs from 12-19 July with the theme "what I want to be". The week is a chance for childcare workers to celebrate the benefits of childcare with parents and communities.

There is an art competition open for children, where the winner will receive a fantastic three or four night stay at a Haven holiday park and runners up will receive prizes of high street vouchers and other goodies.

Why not organise your own event or activity to take place during National Childcare Week?

For details of competitions and ideas of events please [click here...](#)

[Training & Development Opportunities News](#)

'My How you've grown!' event

An event aimed at people wishing to progress their careers in the childcare profession was staged at West Nottinghamshire College, Mansfield on the 28 April 2010.

The event entitled 'My how you've grown!', gave childcare workers studying or already qualified to level 3 in childcare the opportunity to learn more about higher education programmes available to them, should they wish to study towards a foundation degree or Early Years Professional Status (EYPS).

Julie Truman, Nursery Manager from Early Learners Centre, Worksop spoke about the benefits of higher education before the attendees split into small groups to ask questions to different education providers about the study route which would best suit their circumstances.

If you are interested in early years childcare courses in Nottinghamshire – whichever level you are currently at, contact the Nottinghamshire Childcare Recruitment Campaign on: **08449 808080** to talk through your options.

[Nottinghamshire Families Information Service \(FIS\) News](#)

Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSA)

By April 2011 Nottinghamshire County Council must have completed a full study of all the childcare available in the county – under the Childcare Act 2006, and we would appreciate your co-operation in doing this.

When complete, the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will show how much childcare there is in each local area, and allow the Early Years & Childcare Service to see if there needs to be more childcare offered or different hours arranged to help meet the needs of working parents and their children.

Nottinghamshire County Council will send a **questionnaire to all registered childcare providers** in the county during **July**. The questionnaire will ask about your setting's details, opening hours, type of childcare etc. **Please complete and return the form to the address provided.**

In August and September, a large sample of parents will be questioned to find out their childcare needs. The two surveys will be compared and any gaps in provision addressed through the production of an action plan. The details of the assessment will then be published next spring on the County Council website, and will be available through childcare settings.

The Sufficiency Assessment is nothing to be worried about. In fact it will benefit your setting by providing detailed market research of parents' wants and needs specific to your area. Nottinghamshire County Council will then consult with private, voluntary and independent providers, to see how together, families in Nottinghamshire can have their childcare needs better catered for.

For more information on the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, please [click here...](#)

Contact Nottinghamshire **Families Information Service** (FIS) on 0800 781 2168, or if calling from a mobile 01623 520 694 (standard mobile rates apply), or email fis@nottscc.gov.uk

[Health Protection Agency News](#)

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) have produced a helpful poster for childcare settings, informing parents/carers of how long a child should stay at home if they have picked up an infection.

The poster gives guidance on the most common infectious diseases and can be ordered from the HPA website. For more information or to receive a free poster [click here...](#)

[National News](#)

Department of Education

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has recently changed to the Department for Education.

If you would like to visit the new site see: www.education.gov.uk

Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services

Councils working with nurseries to improve nutritional standards

The lack of clear guidance about a good diet for the under fives means that even the best-intentioned nursery schools are sometimes providing small children with the wrong proportions of food and nutrients, council regulators warned today, following the publication of new research. To read the full story [click here...](#)

Pre-School Learning Alliance

Teamwork book which can help deliver the EYFS

Many people will be familiar with the old cliché 'there is no "I" in team', which reminds us all of the importance of working together, sharing responsibilities and maintaining a balance of the different roles within the team. Despite this, every team does in fact begin with 'I', the 'Individuals' who come together to form the team and without whom the team cannot exist.

The book 'Developing Effective Team Work' will support all types of childcare provision to develop a cohesive team where 'Individuals' share common values and beliefs and are working towards the same set of guidance and principles. Their place within the team is valued and individual needs, strengths and weaknesses are consistently identified and developed. To read the full story [click here...](#)

Nursery World

Fall in demand for nursery places matches rise in fees during 2009

Demand for nursery places fell by 4 per cent last year, as recession hit and some families opted for informal childcare arrangements, according to Laing & Buisson's latest report on the childcare sector.

Children's Nurseries Market Report 2010 says that while average spending by families on childcare fell, this was offset by a rise in demand for employer-supported childcare through vouchers and workplace nurseries. Nurseries also had a boost from the roll-out of the final phase of the children's centres programme. To read the full story [click here...](#)

High-quality childcare leads to better academic performance

Children who experience high-quality childcare in the early years perform better academically at age 15 and are less likely to misbehave, an American study has found.

Researchers studied 1,300 children from birth and assessed them 13 times between the ages of one month and 15 years. To read the full story [click here...](#)

Guardian

Many parents failing to read to children, survey shows

Some children are starting school having never been read a story, a survey reveals today.

More than half of primary teachers have seen a least one child begin formal education with no experience of being told stories at home. Teachers said the stories pupils did know often seemed to come from watching Disney cartoons. To read the full story [click here...](#)

Local News

Newark Advertiser

Olympian lends support

Former Olympic champion Sally Gunnell (right) lends a hand to Issac Buller, 2, of London Road, Newark, during a Tumble Tots North Notts session at Winthorpe Community Centre on Tuesday.

Sally is a Tumble Tots ambassador and was helping to raise awareness of the importance of children being active from an early age. To read the full story [click here...](#)

And Finally

A childminder's weblog has gained her a place on the shortlist for a national award.

Childminder Cathy James, who started her blog, Nurture Store, last year, is a finalist in the Mummy and Daddy (MAD) Blog Awards, sponsored by Butlins, for the category of Best MAD Blog for Family Fun.

The blog features ideas and activities for parents and childminders, with video clips and images, designed to fit in with the Early Years Foundation Stage. The content is split into three categories - Mind, Body and Spirit - to ease navigation around the site. To read the full story [click here...](#)

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If you should ever wish to be removed from the mail-out, please email philip.golding@nottsc.gov.uk with the title: **UNSUBSCRIBE** and we shall remove you from the list. It would also be beneficial to us, when unsubscribing, if you could spare the time to tell us why you no longer wish to receive the e-newsletter. This way we can improve the service and hopefully regain your subscription at a future date.

Kind Regards,
Phil Golding
NCC Early Years & Childcare Marketing Officer