

Bowbridge School's Breakfast Club on TV

Children and staff at Bowbridge Road Primary School's Breakfast Club, Newark recently featured on the famous children's TV show Blue Peter as the show launched its new appeal Mission Nutrition.

The appeal hopes to combat malnutrition and poverty at home and abroad and Blue Peter wants as many schools in the UK as possible to start breakfast clubs. The appeal will help those in Bangladesh, Colombia and South Africa to grow better food.

Bowbridge was picked to launch the appeal from thousands of other schools and communities after winning a Kellogg's sponsored ContinYou Breakfast Club Award.



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On the move!

Good luck to Fiona McManus (former Out of School Coordinator for Gedling) in her new role as Coordinator for Rushcliffe District West Sure Start Children's Centre services.

Also good luck to Anne Lobley (former Out of School Coordinator for Bassetlaw) who has been seconded to work as a Lead Officer for the Short Breaks Pathfinder project. Emma Barnett from the Play Team will be taking over Anne's role as coordinator for Bassetlaw.

Sure Start Children Centre Services update



Children's quality of play and early learning experience before they go to school is crucial. For most children, increased opportunities come through Sure Start Children's Centre's partnerships now being universal and covering the whole county. But, some children do need extra support and there are a number of new resources coming to Nottinghamshire this year.

A partnership between the Health Visitors, Speech and Language Therapists and Children's Centres means that all children will have a language screen at age 2 and any needs picked up then will be responded to. Every child in the county will have this important need picked up soon enough to offer support. For some of those two year olds, this will mean they can be offered a free place for 10 hours a week at a setting, helping them get ready for nursery at age three. This is called the 'Two year free entitlement pilot'.

The 'Buddying scheme' as seen on the front of this newsletter will link very well with the above as this scheme offers professional development opportunities to all staff who work within early years. A second strand of the Buddying will

offer one well-resourced project in each district, aiming to improve the attainment of children who live in disadvantaged areas.

The third new funded project is called 'Every Child a Talker' (ECAT). Children's Centre Teachers and Speech and Language Therapists will work with settings to support even more effective play and early activities around children's language and communication skills.

And because in Nottinghamshire we believe strongly that children learn best with their parents, these newly funded projects will work within our core Children's Centre model of Parents as Partners in Early Learning - PPEL.

A very exciting and inspirational time ahead for our children's experience of enjoying and achieving!

Thank you to our play forums.

I'd like to take the opportunity of thanking some key partners, the seven district Play Forums. We all know that play is the child's way of relating to the world, and is how she/he learns, makes relationships and 're-creates' the world. The Play Forums provide invaluable resources: play materials for free, training, advice and good ideas, events and equipment. They are all charities and rely heavily on experienced volunteers as well as a few paid staff.

The work of Children's Centres would be much harder without this support - so a big 'thank you' from all of us.

Di Kingaby, Children's Centres Service Manager

Gedling Out of School Clubs get Arty!

Over 95 children and 22 play workers from Out of School clubs in Gedling took part in an Access Art project funded by Gedling Play Partnership (Nottinghamshire County Council's Play Service and Gedling Borough Council). The project involved placing an artist in each setting for two weeks to interactively teach workers and children new art skills and activities.



Staff from Winners Out of School Club with artist Kerry O'Brian far right.

As part of the project a family fun day took place at Arnot Hill Park where children, adults and young people could join in arts and crafts activities themed around the Chinese New Year. Activities were provided by artist Kerry O'Brian, Gedling Play Forum and Fair Play for Children and included decorating a large parade dragon and making costumes and items for the parade at the end of the day.



Parade at Arnot Hill Park

If you wish to submit an article for the next issue of Partnership News, please contact Clare or Vicky on 01623 520071 or email clare.morrell@nottsc.gov.uk or victoria.windsor-beck@nottsc.gov.uk. All information correct at time of printing in April 2009.



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Partnership News

Early Years & Childcare Services

April 2009

In this issue

Latest news on the Early Years Capital Grant...Thinking of Working with Children Course and update on pensions.

Early Years and Childcare Conference 2009

Our 11th annual Early Years and Childcare Conference is on Saturday 13 June at the East Midlands Conference Centre, University Park, Nottingham from 9am.

This year the theme of the conference is "Through the Eyes of the Child" and your keynote speaker is Sue Palmer, well known writer on primary education, particular literacy.

There will be a variety of workshops taking place throughout the day including a 'Strengths-based' approach workshop with Craig Small, 'Learning through play' workshop with Jenny Mosley and 'Meaningful movement' with Elaine Cowley.

Look out for your booking form coming out later this month.



Calling all Early Years workers Get involved in Early Years Buddying Opportunities

Heard about buddying opportunities but don't know how it involves you?

If you work within early years, for example in a day nursery, school, children's centre or at home as a registered childminder, you can apply to spend time away from your normal workplace, to develop the way you work and help bring fresh insights to what you do. Either put yourself forward to visit another setting as a buddy or nominate a member of your staff to act as a host, to give encouragement and support to others - or both! Funding is payable to both visiting buddy and mentoring host settings, as well as travel expenses.

All you need to do is:

- complete an application form, telling us what you want to do and showing us

how you expect the experience to improve the delivery of your current work practice or that of your setting, either now or in the future.

- let us find a matching buddy or host to suit your needs - for one session or several.
- once this is done, you can arrange your own times and dates with your buddy or host.
- both of you complete an ongoing record of learning and final evaluation form.
- funding is available either at the end of your experience or after each meeting if required.

For more information, call Janet Lang, Children's Centre Development Team on 01623 404 347 or email janet.lang@nottsc.gov.uk

Notts Play Forum Celebrate 25 Years!

On Saturday 21 February 2009 over 180 children, young people, parents, carers and play workers joined in 'A Bag of Games Workshop' network event to celebrate Nottinghamshire Play Forum's 25th year anniversary.

The event was funded by Awards for All and was co-ordinated by Gedling and Rushcliffe Play Forums. All 7 county Play Forums with the Nottinghamshire County Council Play Service, Fair Play for Children, and Play Notts came together to offer free training workshops showing how to make games from around the world using recycled materials.



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Events

Get involved in local or national events to help raise your profile.

National Childcare Week, 6 – 12 June. Find out about how you can get involved at www.daycaretrust.org.uk.

National Childminding Week, 13 – 20 June 2009. Get more information at www.ncma.org.uk

Nottingham & County Childminding Association's Annual Childminding Extravaganza, Tuesday 16 June 2009, 10am-2pm. Taking place at Rufford Abbey Country Park, Ollerton to celebrate National Childminding Week. For more information visit www.nottinghamandcountychildminding.org

Early Years Capital Grant

Thank you to those who have returned their expression of interest forms for the Early Years Capital Grant - we have had a positive response from providers wishing to be included on the Preferred Provider List (PPL) and expression of interest forms are now being considered. Application packs will be sent out shortly.

What is the Early Years Capital Grant?

Nottinghamshire County Council has received over £7 million pounds from the government to help childcare providers update their equipment and improve the quality of the learning environment for early years children. Eligible providers are able to apply for grants from £2,500 - £10,000 and £10,000 - £100,000 for improvements to both the inside and outside environment in their settings.

For more information about the Early Years Capital Grant, please contact Tracie Dodd, Early Years and Childcare Services Manager on tracie.dodd@nottscc.gov.uk or call 077953 34989.

If you are a childminder and would like to know more details about how you can benefit from this funding, please contact the Nottinghamshire Childminding Team at NCMA on 0115 981 4869



Update on the extended free early years entitlement



From September 2010 the free early years entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds will increase from 12½ to 15 hours per week. Parents/carers will be able to use the entitlement more flexibly than at present; over at least three days a week.

From September 2009, the offer will be rolled out to 25% of 3- and 4-year-olds. Following guidance from the DCSF, Nottinghamshire

County Council has identified which schools and settings are eligible to deliver the extended offer from September 2009 based on those in the highest scoring Super Output Areas (a recognised method of identifying areas of economic disadvantage).

All schools and settings have received a letter which says either:

- The school/setting is in a high scoring Super Output Area and eligible to deliver the extended entitlement from September 2009 or;
- The school/setting is not eligible at the moment but may be approached for early delivery according to take up, as they are just outside the eligible area; or
- The school/setting is not eligible to deliver the extended entitlement until September 2010.

Further correspondence detailing which category each school and provider falls within has been sent out.

More information will be available as the project develops but if you have any questions contact Helen Ruff on 0115 878 7500 or email helen.ruff@nottscc.gov.uk

Calling all childminders!

NCMA Nottinghamshire Childminding Services would like to welcome two new team members Kay Dixon and Jacky Kirk. Jacky is the new Childminding Development and Network Coordinator for Ashfield and Kay is the Childminding Development Worker who is coordinating the new Buddying project.



Nottinghamshire Childminding network meetings are growing in strength and are proving very successful in delivering up to date information.

Newark	Tuesday 16 June 2009	Bassetlaw	Wednesday 1 July 2009
	Tuesday 13 October 2009		Wednesday 21 October 2009
Broxtowe	Thursday 18 June 2009	Gedling	Tuesday 7 July 2009
	Thursday 15 October 2009		Wednesday 15 July 2009
Rushcliffe	Tuesday 23 June 2009	Mansfield	Monday 19 October 2009
	Tuesday 6 October 2009		Wednesday 8 July 2009
Ashfield	Thursday 25 June 2009		Wednesday 7 October 2009
	Wednesday 30 September 2009		

Places are limited so when you receive your postal invitation, please book early to avoid disappointment. Looking forward to seeing you at one of the meetings.

Nottinghamshire NCMA Childminding Services Team 0115 981 4869.



Childminders

If you haven't received a copy of the OFSTED document – "Requirements for the Childcare Register: childminders and home childcarers – a childcare factsheet" please call 01623 520073/4. This document is important for your OFSTED inspection.

Great results!

Congratulations to Station House Kids Club, Beeston who are the first Out of School Club (OOSC) in the county to be awarded an Outstanding Ofsted Inspection under the new Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS).

Also congratulations to Ollerton Out of School Club who are also the first OOSC in the county to receive a Good Ofsted Inspection under the new framework.

Since the Early Years Foundation Stage came into place in September, many OOSC are wondering how it will affect them and what they need to do in preparation for an Ofsted inspection.

Help is on hand from the OOSC Development team who have mentors who can provide advice and support to settings. For help and support in understanding the EYFS and it's implications for OOSC, please contact your local OOSC Coordinator for advice.



Station House Kids Club

Early Years Professional Status (EYPS)

The number of Early Years Professionals in Nottinghamshire is growing. We spoke to some of the EYPS who regularly meet to share best practice and ideas to get their feedback on the EYP process, here is a snippet of what Helen Bridge from Lady Bay Pre-school told us:

"Since I gained EYPS I feel confident that I can justify what I am trying to achieve and back this up with theoretical knowledge to both staff and parents. Personally the role I now have allows me to lead practice in many areas whilst still working as a team member. Extra funding has begun to enable me to make changes and pursue projects that were not possible before".

Childcare Training Project - Work placements needed!

The Childcare Training Project offers free training and assessment in a daycare setting (leading to an NVQ Level 2 or 3) to those who would not usually be eligible for apprenticeship funding (learners over the age of 25).

A termly training grant is available for the learner and all training and assessment fees are funded by Nottinghamshire County Council's Children and Young People's Services. The learners work within a childcare setting on a work placement basis, for a minimum of nine hours per week whilst they work towards their qualification. All training is in-house, provided by a local training assessor.

We currently have students who are finishing their ten week taster course 'Thinking of Working with Children' who will now be requiring work placements in order to complete their NVQ training. If you are a full daycare setting and would like to take part in the Childcare Training Project, please contact Charlotte Hurst, Childcare Workforce Development Officer on 0115 878 7502 or email charlotte.hurst@nottscc.gov.uk.

'Thinking of Working with Children?' course



Learners completing the Thinking of Working with Children course at Rushcliffe

Across the county, childcare taster courses are being run by Nottinghamshire Childcare Recruitment Campaign to give adults, male and female an insight into a career working with children. There are currently seven free

ten week courses that have been running since January where learners have been finding out about early years and pre-school work, working within an after school club and finding out about the new Early Years Professional Status. They are also given advice and guidance for writing a C.V, interview techniques and how to complete an application form.

Bookings are currently being taken for April 'Thinking of Working with Children?' course. For further information, please contact the Nottinghamshire Childcare Recruitment Campaign on 0115 878 7502, Monday to Friday 08:00am to 08:00pm and Saturdays 08:00am till 12noon.

Employment Law Changes

On 1 April 2009, the statutory holiday entitlement is increasing to 5.6 weeks. The holiday entitlement can include bank holidays. If your staff already receive paid time off for bank holidays in addition to their four week holiday entitlement, their holiday entitlement has not increased.

Don't forget!

Early Years and Childcare Conference

Saturday 13 June 2009
East Midlands Conference Centre,
University Park, Nottingham

Pensions for All !!

Employer pension schemes are very uncommon in the childcare industry. Currently, anyone employing five people or more is obliged to make a scheme available, but the employer does not have to contribute to it. **This is all going to change in 2012, for all employees who are 22 or older.**

For the first time, all employers will be required to contribute a minimum of 3% (on a band of earnings) to all eligible employees' pensions, and employees will be required to contribute a minimum of 4% of their earnings. Enrolment will be automatic which means that employees will have to actively "opt-out" of the scheme if they feel that a pension scheme is not an appropriate form of saving for their particular personal circumstances.

For more information on this important change visit the DWP website at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/pensionsreform/pensions_act_2008.asp