

EYFS buddies

Between January and March 2009 our Out of School Development team trained buddies to give support to clubs in the county who have requested support with the EYFS. Through a referral system 2 buddies have supported 17 settings. This success continues with support from 3 peripatetic play workers now working throughout the county.

NEW Families Service Directory

In the autumn we're launching a new Families Service Directory which will bring together information on services (including specialist services) and organisations for children, young people, parents, carers, professionals and practitioners. Look out for more information in the next issue of our newsletter.

Aiming High - Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH)

A warm welcome to our new Nottinghamshire Childcare Accessibility Pathfinder team:

Jo Willis, Lead Officer
Jo's background is with family centres and children's home care. Jo is utilising her induction period to meet as many people as possible, if you have any questions for Jo or you would like to arrange to meet her, you can contact her on 07917 551381 or email jo.willis@nottscc.gov.uk

Ruth Manterfield, Brokerage Officer
Ruth has joined the team from Nottinghamshire Families Information Service where she was an Information Officer covering Bassetlaw. Ruth is well placed to develop this new role and has just begun her induction. You can contact Ruth on 07725 151006 or email ruth.manterfield@nottscc.gov.uk

Kate Harrell, Project Administrator
From mid July Kate will be based at Welbeck House with the Families Information Service. Kate will be kept busy getting us organised, establishing monitoring and reporting systems and producing project publicity and information. Kate can be contacted on 01623 520071 or email kate.harrell@nottscc.gov.uk

You can find out more about DCATCH by visiting www.ppsnotts.org.uk or www.togetherfdc.org

Play days 2009



Play days are free events run by Nottinghamshire County Council's Play Service and its partners. Lots of activities are on offer and there is no need to book, just come along!

5th August	Retford	King's Park
6th August	Mansfield	Carr Bank Park
7th August	Ashfield	Kingsway Park
11th August	Eastwood	Eastwood Hall Park
12th August	Gedling	Arnot Hill Park
13th August	Newark	Riverside Park

You can get more information about your local play day and other activities for children and young people over the summer by calling Nottinghamshire FIS on freephone 0800 781 2168.

Ofsted success!

Well done to Abbey Road Kids Club who received a 'good' from their Ofsted inspection during December. The club achieved 'outstanding' in a number of areas and spent the past 9 months getting to grips with implementing the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which came into force September 2008.

There are 24 children at the club falling within EYFS. Owners Lisa and Wendy, together with their staff team, have embraced the changes attending training and working with the Early Years Coordinator at Abbey Road Primary school.

Play and fun are still at the heart of all that the club does and they've implemented changes as a result of EYFS such as introducing a key person system, performing observations, creating a separate EYFS file, buying new play equipment and filling out a self evaluation form (SEF).



Children and young people at Mount Primary School After School Club created a banner with the help of local artist Kerry O'Brian. The banner portrays everything they do at the club including baking, sport and dance.

If you wish to submit an article for the next issue of Partnership News, please contact Vicky on 07956 238068 or email victoria.windsor-beck@nottscc.gov.uk
All information correct at time of printing in July 2009.



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Partnership News

Early Years & Childcare Services

July 2009

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Conference 2009

'Through the eyes of a child' was the theme of our Early Years and Childcare Conference 2009 held on Saturday 13th June at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham.

Delegates enjoyed a range of workshops including reflective and strength-based practice, meaningful movement and motor development, the impact of music in learning and listening to young children, and using the Mosaic approach.

A thought provoking speech was given by our keynote speaker Sue Palmer about the impact of contemporary culture and technological advancements on children's development. Sue was really impressed by our event and commented to us that 'she must share her experience with others so other organisations and partners could run an event like it'.

'Reflections on play' (an interactive drama session new for this year) triggered memories of play through the ages encouraging the audience to consider and

develop their practice. Children and young people from our children's conference joined the session using interactive techniques to explore the various generations of play.

Our children's conference was held outdoors. Puppet making and face painting, sledging, drumming and plate spinning were a few of the activities on offer. There was also chance to learn about the nocturnal owl and encounter a couple of the furry creatures too! Younger children, cared for by the Pre-school Learning Alliance, took part in similar activities such as puppet making, messy play, and arts and crafts, and had opportunity to visit the children's conference outdoors.

A great end to the day – children showcased what they had been doing during the day in an end of day finale. A special presentation was also made to winners of the council's anti-bullying competition.

URGENT swine flu update

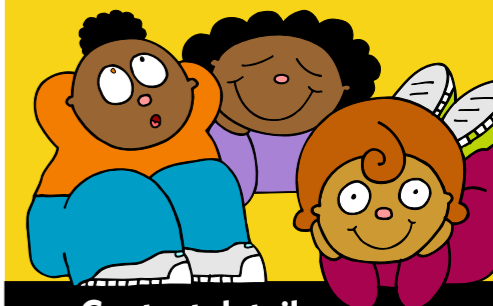
The World Health Organisation has raised its swine flu pandemic alert level to 6. Recent messages that have been sent out to schools and children's services are available on the Teachernet website visit www.ternet.net/educationoverview/flupandemic/

The Teachernet Planning section has further guidance and FAQs for schools and children's services. Information for members of the public is available on www.direct.gov.uk

You may want to consider the guidance in advance of the autumn term and take the opportunity to stock up on essentials such as tissues, paper towels and anti-bacterial handwash.

An information sheet is included with this newsletter and briefing sessions to support and update you will be held in September.

More information and details about the briefing sessions are available from Nottinghamshire Families Information Service on 0800 781 2168.



Contact details

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Safeguarding Children

Last month saw the arrest of Vanessa George, a 39 year old nursery worker from Plymouth, for child abuse offences including sexual assault and the production and distribution of indecent images of children. This shocking discovery highlights the vulnerability of young children in childcare settings and the need for their protection.

All of us who provide services to children and young people have a duty to ensure we follow robust safe working practice procedures. These must be firmly embedded into all of our provision in Nottinghamshire particularly within the private, voluntary and independent sector.

If anyone is unsure of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children within their care they should speak to their managers or development workers dependant on their particular setting/provision for clarification.

Training for staff on safeguarding is available through TADO and a useful source of information is the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board website which has links to safeguarding procedures, practice guidance and the legislation that underpins the protection of children. Visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nsbc

New childminding group in Mansfield

Tadpoles are a new childminding group at King Edward's Primary School, Mansfield. The group meet Friday mornings 9 am until 11.30 am providing local childminders the opportunity to socialise and to share information about the Early Years Foundation Stage and planning. All are welcome to join the group for fun, craft activities and play for the children.

For more information about Tadpoles call 01623 421880 or if you would like more information about childminding groups call Nottinghamshire FIS on freephone 0800 781 2168.



Update on the extended flexible entitlement



We've had a very positive response to the new agenda from providers in the maintained, and private, voluntary and independent sectors and around 90% of eligible schools and settings will be ready to offer 15 hours by September. This is a great achievement on the part of providers and great news for the families of Nottinghamshire.

Settings involved in the universal roll-out from September 2010 will be contacted by Helen Ruff from summer onwards. If you have any questions for Helen please email helen.ruff@nottscc.gov.uk. Owners and managers briefings will be held in the autumn term and will include information on the extended entitlement. You can get more information from our TADO programme.

The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) are running a consultation about the extension of the entitlement called 'Extending the Free Early Education Entitlement: Discussion Document on a New Code of Practice. You can take part in the consultation by visiting www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations

National Childminding Week



13th to 20th June was National Childminding Week, helping to raise awareness of childminding and spread the word to parents and carers about the benefits of home based childcare.

More than 130 Notts childminders and more than 400 children marked the occasion with a Childminding Extravaganza held at Rufford Country Park. Childminders and children in their care from across the county came together at the event and enjoyed a fun packed day with 'Signing with Olli', a magic show, a picnic and 'Jo Jingles'.

Running a playscheme or holding an event this summer?

If you provide care, such as activity-based provision for children for a period of two hours or more in any one day you may wish to apply for registration on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register. This would enable parents using your provision to access help with the cost of the sessions through the childcare element of Working Tax Credit. The voluntary register can apply to settings caring for children aged under and over eight.

For more information or to register your details call: Nottinghamshire Families Information Service (FIS) on freephone 0800 781 2168.



What a star!

Marie Fenyn, registered childminder in the Gedling district, has recently been successful in being shortlisted for the 4Children Stars Award.

Marie was nominated for her ongoing commitment to childminding and especially in relation to the support and care she has given to one of her families who have suffered a terrible bereavement. The 4Children awards received hundreds of nominations nationally and Marie was one of the final eight shortlisted. We think this is commendable and would like to congratulate Marie on her success.

Early Years Professionals



Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Early Years Professionals (EYPs) recently came together for a day of sharing and networking at Pleasley Landmark Centre, Mansfield.

We have 51 Early Years Professionals (EYPs) in Nottinghamshire from a variety of settings and roles. Recent consultation about the role of an EYP showed us what potential qualities an EYP should have. Feedback included being a good communicator; dedicated; being a creative thinker; reflective; having a consultative approach and having forward thinking vision. To ensure our EYPs have appropriate support and guidance we've developed a network where EYPs can meet, share ideas, and explore a range of topics.

If you would like to find out more about becoming an EYP, contact Alison Hill on 0115 878 7515 or email alison.hill@nottscc.gov.uk

Spotlight on: Steve Doubtfire



Steve Doubtfire is proprietor and Early Years Professional at Smarties Day Nursery, Mansfield. Steve is one of only two male Early Years Professionals in Nottinghamshire. We spoke to Steve about his experiences of working in childcare and becoming an Early Years Professional. Here is what he told us.....

Q What do you enjoy most about your job?

First and foremost the ability to support our families, making their daily routines more satisfying in the knowledge their children are being cared for in a secure, friendly yet purpose setting.

A close second has to be enabling staff to show their true ability and providing opportunities for potential early years' practitioners to experience early years work under the direction of experienced practitioners.

Q Why did you become an EYP?

I wanted to achieve a better understanding of Early Years principles and alternative methods of practice. I wanted to utilise my skills in education but be able to add new knowledge that could only be thoroughly appreciated as a result of being taught. I saw the EYP route as a vehicle to acquire such skills and gain the advantage of being able to share good practice with like-minded colleagues.

Q What would you say to anyone else considering working towards EYP status?

If you feel this is a career path you might like to travel down, talk to someone who has already done it to get an insight into it.



Get more information about workforce development and training by calling our training team on 0115 878 7515 or email ey&cc.training@nottscc.gov.uk

Developing Language for Life – launching Nottinghamshire's Every Child a Talker Programme (ECAT)

A launch event for 'Developing Language for Life – Every Child a Talker' (ECAT) was held on 12th May at Boughton Pumping Station. The ECAT programme is funded by the Government and will support early years staff to develop children's speaking and listening skills, and will help to spot those children with problems at an early age.

In Nottinghamshire ECAT will develop the skills of Early Language Lead Practitioners, develop ways to support parents in developing their children's speaking and listening skills, as well as making recommendations as to how all this work can be sustained countywide in the longer term.

Over 80 delegates attended the event and heard from many Nottinghamshire speakers who have played a part in developing practice in this field over the last decade. These included speech and language therapists, teachers, children's centre staff, and a manager of a pre-school playgroup.

Delegates also heard from Lisa Morgan, the national lead for The Speech, Language and Communication Framework, which has been designed to help professionals develop the skills of the children's workforce.

Nottinghamshire County Council Early Years Language Consultants, Sue Heaven (a speech and language therapist) and Jane Cartledge (a teacher) invited delegates to be part of the ECAT programme and 20 Early Years settings signed up to be part of the pilot programme, which brings additional funding for two years to enhance the work already underway in the county.

Delegates were also consulted on what they thought should be included in the new "Developing Language for Life" countywide strategy, which will be developed over the next year. For more information contact sue.heaven@nottscc.gov.uk or jane.cartledge@nottscc.gov.uk

