

Early Years and Childcare East Devon District Newsletter

Summer 2007



Children's Centre Update

The Children's Society has been chosen by Devon County Council to lead the development of two Children's Centres in East Devon - one in Exmouth and one in Honiton. Children's Centres are there to meet the needs of parents, carers and their young children. The new Children's Centres will provide services including:

- **early years provision**
- **a childminders network**
- **parenting education and family support services**
- **education, training and employment services**
- **health services, and access to wider services.**

Exmouth and Honiton are just two of 16 new Children's Centres opening in Devon during the next 12 months. Children's Centres are at the heart of the Government's Every Child Matters: Change for Children Programme. They are a key vehicle for providing services that families need. By 2010 there will be 3,500 in the country - one for every community.

The Children's Society is committed to working with children, families and their communities in Devon, acknowledging the specific characteristics and needs of a rural county.

Programme Manager Richard Nobes said: "The Children's Society is delighted to be leading the development of Exmouth and Honiton Children's Centres on behalf of Devon County Council. This is an exciting opportunity for us to ensure that the Children's Centres play a central role in improving the lives and potential of children in this area."



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

During 2007, we are undertaking a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment which will help us to find out more about where and when early years and childcare is needed in Devon. We would value your input into the assessment and are planning to hold workshops as part of the Essential Ofsted Information sessions in June. You can also email your contributions to childcareinfo@devon.gov.uk During 2007/08 we may require additional information from settings on a termly basis.

Hazard Alert

Accident with Plaster of Paris - Information about a serious accident which occurred in Art lesson may also transfer across into other areas using Plaster of Paris.

In the incident a girl was mixing Plaster of Paris with water by hand, intending to make a plaster cast of her hands. The mix became very hot, the girl suffered serious burns and her hands had to be amputated. This follows a similar incident a few years earlier in which a pupil lost two fingers. The safety Data Sheet supplied with the product did warn against making casts of the hand but such a warning would not necessarily appear on samples intended for laboratory use.

Although Plaster of Paris is used for setting bones, in such cases it is never put in direct contact with the skin and, in addition, it is used in a relatively thin layer so the heat can dissipate. In bulk the temperature can reach 60°C or so.

Before using Plaster of Paris to make casts of the children's hands or feet, please check with the product manufacturer that it is safe to do so.

Contacts:

If you have any queries, please contact the relevant subject adviser at dcs or our establishment's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Adviser, either through the Helpline on 01392 382027 or via their direct contact numbers (see Contacts List in the Health and Safety Manual, Vol 1).

Redundancy pay and compensation

From 1 February 2007 'weeks pay', for calculating redundancy pay and some other entitlements, increases from £290 to £310. The maximum compensatory award for unfair dismissal is up from £58,400 to £60,600.

Changes to Statutory Minimum Annual Leave

The government has announced that the statutory minimum annual leave entitlement for all workers and employees is to rise from the current 20 days (4 weeks) up to a new 28 days entitlement. The increase will happen in 2 stages, 4 extra days from October 2007, with a further 4 days from October 2008.

This change provides all employees with 4 weeks holiday plus 8 extra days to compensate for situations where the employer previously may not have given paid time off for Bank Holidays.

A further change that is expected (when the legislation is finally published in June 2007) is that this increase will also apply to all part-time employees (pro rata) whatever days of the week they work.

Early Years Education Grant Increase

We are pleased to advise that an increase of 3.3 per cent has been approved for the Early Years Education Funding. Your sessional rate from Summer Term 2007 will be £8.50 per 2.5 hour session. Parents will continue to claim up to 5 sessions per week and your setting must offer a minimum of 33 weeks and a maximum of 38 weeks. Please note that there is an expectation for settings to offer 38 weeks per year as introduced from April 2006 and settings should be looking at extending where possible and to be prepared for this change. This is the second year running that we have been able to award an increase higher than inflation.

Devon Funding News Information

External Funding Team

Based in the Children and Young People's Service, the External Funding Team can offer advice and information on developing and funding educational and community projects. The team can provide up to date guidance on specific funds, including lottery grants.

Contact Kate Osment, External Funding Team, Children & Young People's Service, Devon County Council on 01392 382076 or email kate.osment@devon.gov.uk

Inclusive Funding Grant

The aim of this funding is to provide childcare for working parents and carers and could be used to provide or develop wraparound sessions to existing respite care. Grants can be allocated up to a maximum of £2000 per setting per annum. This funding will be allocated to increase staffing ratios to promote the inclusion of groups of disabled children in out of school settings offering childcare. Minimum ratio 1 member of staff to support 2 children.

For more information contact:

Liz Carroll Inclusive Play Co-ordinator
Kingfisher House, Western Way, Exeter EX1 2DE
tel 01392 386557 or
email liz.carroll@devon.gov.uk

Work and Families Act 2006

From 1 April 2007, the Work and Families Act 2006 will extend the maximum period of statutory maternity and adoption pay and leave, whilst also extending the right to request flexible working to carers of adults.

Early Years Quality And Inclusion Team



Summer 07 Cluster Groups

'How do children learn'

The focus for the summer clusters will be on how do children learn. Please bring along any ideas or strategies that have worked well for you.

Don't forget to bring along your

'Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage'

These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to:

- share good practice and contribute ideas
- network with colleagues
- view other settings.

If you have any queries, please phone Dawn Meredith on 01392 385525 or email dawn.meredith@devon.gov.uk

Axe Valley & Honiton Sue Collins
Wednesday 20th June, 4pm - 6pm
Seaton Primary School

Exmouth Liz Threlfall
Wednesday 6th June 2007, 1.30 - 3.30pm
Brixington School, Exmouth

Ottery & Sidmouth Julie Paddick
Monday 18th June 2007, 1pm - 3pm
Rainbow Pre School, Newton Poppleford

Paediatric First Aid Training

Ofsted requires childcare providers to have a first aider who has undergone a 12 hour Paediatric First Aid Course. There are many providers of suitable courses across the county including Adult Community Learning Centres (ACLs), private providers, Play Networks and SureStart.

You will need to contact the provider to book. Many will be arranging more dates and some will put on training on demand in your own venue.

A first aid certificate is valid for three years.

Provider for booking	Location	Dates	Cost
Bicton College 01395 562387	At own venue 8 – 12 people	By arrangement	£456 (group rate)
Devon First Aid 01626 853005 hsmith@devonfirstaid.co.uk	Up to 12 people	By arrangement	£495
South Devon College 01626 202520	Newton Abbott Group of 8-12 people	By arrangement	£600 (group rate)
South Devon College 01626 202520	At own venue Minimum of 8 people	By arrangement	£675 (group rate)

OUT Training Summer 07

Free training sessions on essential Ofsted information (for childminders, crèches, nurseries, out of school clubs, pre-schools)

Course content includes:

- Essential toolkit for day care providers
- Ofsted childcare register
- Childcare sufficiency assessment
- Childcare referral service

Bookings are necessary. Places are limited to two people per setting and can be arranged by calling Lindi or Sarah, Devon Early Years Inspection Support Team on 01392 385 536

Exeter Monday 4 June 2007, 10 am – 12 noon

Exeter Thursday 7 June 2007, 7 – 9 pm

Tiverton Wednesday 20 June 2007, 1 – 3 pm

Honiton Wednesday 13 June 2007, 6.30 – 8.30 pm

Every Child Matters

Change For Children

Every Child Matters

Briefing Session

- **Do you work with children or young people in any capacity?**
- **Are you aware of the implications of Every Child Matters?**
- **What does Every Child Matters mean for the children you work with?**
- **How does Every Child Matters affect everyone who works with children and young people?**

We all need to know more!

FREE 2 hour Awareness Raising and Information Sessions are being held at the following:

Axminster

Wednesday 9th May, 4:30pm - 6:30pm
Axe Valley Community College, Axminster

Sidmouth

Monday 14th May, 10am - 12noon
Knowle Council Offices, Sidmouth

Exmouth

Tuesday 22nd May, 7pm - 9pm
Exmouth Community College

Exeter

Tuesday 26th June, 4pm - 6pm
and 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Ellen Tinkham School

The aims of this briefing is to:

- **Understand the background and rationale of Every Child Matters (ECM) and how Integrated Working (IW) fits in;**
- **understand the Guiding Principles for front line staff that underpin ECM;**
- **know where to find further information.**

To book on to any of these ECM Briefing Sessions, please contact:

Deborah Shepherd, East Devon Early Years and Childcare District Administrator,
St Saviours, Exeter Road, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1RE.
on 01392 385987 or
email deborah.shepherd@devon.gov.uk



Out of School Development update

Thank you to all the groups that have taken up the offer of a Sustainability Health Check, I believe most settings have found them to be beneficial, if you haven't done one yet and would like to, please contact Alexa Sclater on 01392 385538 or email on alexa.sclater@devon.gov.uk to arrange an appointment.

After attending The Planning Inclusive Play Level 3 Short Course provided through Liz Carroll at Devon Early Years and Childcare Service I cannot recommend it enough, (see training directory page 71). I feel it is essential training for all managers and or Playleaders in an Out of School setting.

To find out more contact Liz Carroll on

01392 396557 or email liz.carroll@devon.gov.uk

Also over the year I will be contacting groups to do a Quality Development Visit, this is another useful tool for myself and The Early Years and Childcare Service to see how best we can support you and your setting.

I would also like to draw your attention to the 'Play Induction Toolkits'. They are available for use in the workplace and would be excellent for 'In house' training as they cover a wide range of issues affecting a Playwork setting.

To borrow a 'Play Induction Toolkit' contact: Alyson Edworthy 01392 385528 or email alyson.edworthy@devon.gov.uk

GAME: Fishes and Sharks

Played in four groups of equal numbers. Each group being based in one of the four corners of the room or playground.

One player is the shark occupying the ocean in the centre of the room/playground. Each group chooses the name of different fish, for example, Cod, Plaice, Sardines and Trout. The game leader calls out the names of two groups. Those two shoals of fish must then swim across the ocean to change corners.

The sharks chase the fish and anyone who is caught becomes a 'rock' in the ocean. If the game leader calls 'Shark Attack' all groups change corners. The game continues until everyone is a rock.

Note: This game can be played at any pace to suit the group. The job of the shark becomes more difficult as the ocean fills up with rocks.



Pre-school Learning Alliance Update



Finance Visits

We have been continuing our support to groups by helping them to look at their budgets, sadly many groups have had to make changes to help make them viable. But now that they are so much better at putting together a minimum of three terms' predictions, it is giving them time to make adjustments or perhaps to apply for grants. If you foresee any problems don't hesitate to get in touch.

Ofsted

Some of you have had Ofsted inspections recently. It is important to let us know as soon as Ofsted visit you in case there is something we can help you with. We have recently been told that any group that has not been inspected since October 2005, will be visited by Ofsted before April 2008

PLA AGM

Don't forget that the Preschool Learning Alliance National AGM is in London on June 29th.

Start planning your representatives' trip to London now. We may be able to help with funding some of the travel costs. If you don't want to travel on your own please let us know and we will put you in touch with others going from your area. If you really can't find someone to attend, watch out for information on how to send postal votes. More information will be in April's Under 5 magazine.

CACHE Level 3 Transitional Award in Playwork for Early Years and Child Care workers

This 60 hour course comprises of two units and has been designed for practitioners who hold a Level 3 qualification in Early Years and who work, or wish to work, in a playwork setting. The award is linked to the National Occupational Standards.

There are two unit assignments: one externally marked – 'The theory and practice of children's and young people's play'. The other assignment is internally marked – 'aspects of playwork practice'.

Date Tuesday 24th April 2007 for 12 weeks, term-time only

Time 9.30am till 3pm

Venue Old Heathcoat Community Centre, King Street, Tiverton EX16 5JJ

Fee £50 commitment fee – funding has been awarded by Devon Early Years and Childcare Services

Please contact your development worker for a booking form, telephone 0117 907 7073 or email southwest.region@pre-school.org.uk

The Early Years Foundation Stage - Update

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

From September 2008, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) will be a single quality framework of learning, development and welfare for children from birth to the end of the Foundation Stage.

It will provide an integrated approach to care and education, underpinned by a play based approach.

The EYFS will reflect continuity with the principles and approach of: 'Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage', 'Birth to Three Matters' and 'National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding'. The overarching aim of the EYFS is to bring together all aspects relating to young children's development and achievement in relation to the five Every Child Matters outcomes: be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, achieve economic well-being.

When will the EYFS be implemented?

The EYFS will begin to be implemented in all registered early years settings and maintained and independent schools from September 2008.

What will the EYFS look like?

The final documents have been published and are available at www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/EYFS/ There will be an EYFS pack of resources containing:

- Statutory Framework for EYFS booklet
- Practice Guidance for EYFS
- A1 Poster
- 24 cards
- CD Rom

Will this mean more work?

Feedback from the consultation highlighted the positive response that there will now be just one framework which relates to all aspects of children's learning, development and welfare from 0-5 years. Those who are familiar with the existing frameworks will find that the principles and approach remain largely the same.

What about training and support?

There are National Strategy briefing sessions for headteachers in Spring 07 and there will be EYFS briefing sessions for managers of settings in Summer 07. The Early Years Adviser team will be offering training sessions to staff from settings and schools across Devon from the Autumn 07. We will give briefing sessions on the structure of the EYFS and all training courses will relate to the framework from Autumn 07 onwards.

How will we get the EYFS?

The EYFS framework boxes will be delivered to central points in Local Authorities. We will then organise distribution to settings, schools and childminders. This will be during the summer term 07.

CWDC asks Children's Workforce to Share Views

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) has launched an online survey to gather the views and feelings of the children's workforce about the Sector Skills Agreement (SSA).

The SSA is designed to increase the quality of service by ensuring that the workforce is highly skilled and fit for purpose. A five-year strategy, the SSA will map out the current and future skills requirements of the workforce.

CWDC is asking a variety of people from the children's workforce including childminders, nannies, nursery managers, CAF/CASS workers, Education Welfare Officers, Learning mentors and children's social workers to respond to their survey and give them a clear understanding of what skills they think the workforce needs. Respondents to the survey will be asked what they think is needed now and in the future and what actions need to be put in place to ensure that these needs are met.

The 'Skills and Training' web based survey is available today at www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/projects/sectorskillsagreement

CWDC will also be engaging with members of the children's workforce through a series of regional briefings being held in 2007 and a formal consultation phase has also been planned for later in the New Year.

Transformation Fund

Early Years and Childcare Service now has extra funding available from the new Transformation Fund to support students undertaking qualifications and to support childcare settings that employ graduates. You can undertake fully funded qualifications **and** claim supply funding. The funding is available for full day care settings that employ graduates, can support training for all staff in the setting improving the overall quality of the childcare setting and can boost staff wages!

If you would like further details about this fund, or if you would like an information pack on the Transformation Fund, please contact Zen Bailey on 01392 385420 or email zenaida.bailey@devon.gov.uk

EY Essential Packages

There are a number of EY Essential Software licences still available. If you are interested in finding out more or to apply contact Rob Cornock on 01392 385537 or email rob.cornock@devon.gov.uk

The Playwork Principles

A consultation led by Play Wales took place in 2004/05 to update the Assumptions and Values of Playwork and replace them with a new set of Playwork Principles. The new Playwork Principles have now been given formal approval by The Playwork Education and Training Council and have received endorsement by the Skills Active Playwork Unit. These Principles are currently being used alongside the Assumptions and Values.

These Principles establish the professional and ethical framework for playwork and as such must be regarded as a whole. They describe what is unique about play and playwork, and provide the playwork perspective for working with children and young people. They are based on the recognition that children and young people's capacity for positive development will be enhanced if given access to the broadest range of environments and play opportunities.

- A.** All children and young people need to play.
The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and well being of individuals and communities.
- B.** Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control and content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.
- C.** The prime focus and essence of playwork is to support and facilitate the play process and this should inform the development of play policy, strategy, training and education.
- D.** For playworkers, the play process takes precedence and playworkers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.
- E.** The role of the play worker is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play.
- F.** The playworkers response to children and young people playing is based on a sound up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice.
- G.** Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people's play on the playworker.
- H.** Playworkers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All playworker intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and well being of children.

Summer Play Directory 2007

It is that time of year again and we need your assistance to compile our play directory which is distributed to parents, schools and providers across the Exeter district. It is free of charge and generates a lot of interest.

To this end, I have enclosed a short questionnaire within this newsletter which I would ask you to complete and return to Nik Wright, at the address below, as soon as possible. The deadline will be **Friday 18th May 2007**. If your details have not been sent to us before this date they will not be included within the Directory. This will give us time to get the details to our printer and distribute them before the summer.

Nik Wright, Devon Early Years and Childcare Service, Kingfisher House, Western Way, Exeter, EX1 2DE

Funding Information

Lankelly Chase www.lankellychase.org.uk

Lankelly Foundation Trustees set aside funds for summer playschemes for children between the ages of 5-13 years. Preference is given to small local playschemes which last 4-6 weeks, and groups planning special activities for youngsters who are disadvantaged or who have a disability.

Contact The Lankelly Chase Foundation, 1 The Court, High Street, Harwell, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0EY

Yapp Charitable Trust

www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk

The Yapp Charitable Trust makes small grants, for running costs and salaries, to small registered charities to help sustain their existing work with: elderly people, children and young people aged 5-25; people with disabilities or mental health problems, people trying to overcome life-limiting problems of a social, rather than medical, origin such as addiction, relationship difficulties, abuse, a history of offending. Contact 01484 683403 or email info@yappcharitabletrust.org.uk

Lloyds TSB Foundation

The Lloyds TSB Foundation has published new national and regional application guidelines and priorities for 2007. Details at www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk or call 01823 444032.

Funding Bricks

Join the weekly email bulletin containing up to the minute funding information compiled by Mid Devon District Council at www.middevon.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3566

Free Guide to Good Fundraising

The Institute of Fundraising has launched The Good Fundraising Guide, an introduction to fundraising for charities and fundraisers. This can be downloaded at www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk

Home-Start East Devon

Home-Start is the largest voluntary organisation that supports families in their own home. Trained volunteers are matched to a family, who they visit weekly helping in a variety of ways and offer informal, friendly support to parents with at least one child under the age of five. In recognition of a lack of family support services in East Devon we have recently expanded our current service based in Exmouth to Honiton, Sidmouth and surrounding areas.



- Are you an individual or agency involved in family work?
- Are you interested in preventive services?
- Perhaps you are just passionate about helping parents to give their children the best possible start in life.

So are we!

If you are interested in supporting our expansion of our family support service throughout East Devon, by volunteering to be part of the Planning Group and/or a Committee Member, Home-Visiting Volunteer, or a Referrer, please give us a call on 01395 26596

Home-Start East Devon Family Fun Day Saturday 9 June 10.30am - 3.30pm

Elizabeth Hall, Exmouth seafront - come and join us!

10.30am

GEMINI FM'S Tractor Boy will be opening the day

12-3pm

FREE - Toy Making Workshop - Seaside Theme

FREE - party animal entertainers, balloon modelling, magic and games

FREE - arts and crafts

FREE - inflatable obstacle course and bouncy castle

FREE - under 5s soft play area.

There will also be:

- a fire engine
- light refreshments and BBQ
- clay modelling
- various side stalls
- face and nail painting
- lucky dip.

If any toddler group or nursery would like a poster - contact: Home-Start East Devon on 01395 265969 or email home-start.exmouth@care4free.net

Child Protection Training

Due to a high number of people requesting Child Protection courses we would like to try and hold some local courses. If you are interested then please contact us directly in the first instance.

Kerry Thorne 01392 385581 kerry.thorne@devon.gov.uk or Debbie Shepherd 01392 385987 deborah.shepherd@devon.gov.uk

Early Support Family pack

The Early Support Family pack is for families with young children with additional support needs associated with disability.

Print copies are available free of charge to parents or carers with a baby or toddler in England - and all the contents can be viewed online on this website.



Families are normally introduced to the pack by someone who is already working with them.

Please be aware that the pack is not normally read in isolation - families get the best out of it when it is explained by someone they know and trust and when it is used over a period of time. The pack is designed to facilitate effective partnership working with parents and carers.

New editions of the Early Support Family pack and other materials are being issued in spring 2007. for more information go to www.earlysupport.org.uk

Early Support Information booklets

These publications complement the Early Support Family pack.

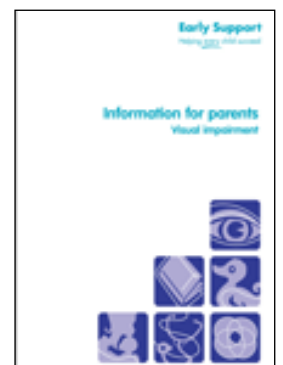
This series of booklets gives families basic information about particular conditions or disabilities that are relevant for their child. They pass on information and suggest ways forward. Readers are also signposted to other useful sources of information and support – publications, organisations, helplines, support groups and websites.

Each booklet was developed in consultation with families who have 'been there before' and the content reflects what they say it is useful to know in the first couple of years of a child's life.

- Autistic spectrum disorders
- Cerebral palsy
- Deafness
- Down's syndrome
- If your child has a rare condition
- Learning disabilities
- Multi-sensory impairment
- Speech and language difficulties
- Visual impairment
- When your child has no diagnosis

New editions of other Information for Parents booklets and other materials are being issued in March/April 2007.

For more information contact Sue Phillips your local DISCplus Co-ordinator on 01392 385932.



Ofsted Update

New electronic application forms available:

- CM2** Declaration and Consent Form
- DC1** Application Form for Day Care
- DC2** Declaration and Consent Form
- DC3** Notification to Ofsted of involvement in the registration of a day care provider

Applicants can fill in these forms on the computer and then print them out. However, please note, these forms cannot be submitted electronically. All application forms require the signature of the applicant. Therefore applicants must post the completed forms to the National Business Unit, Manchester, in the usual way.

The electronic versions of the forms can be located on the Ofsted website by selecting the care and early education link in the forms and guidance section. www.ofsted.gov.uk

Form Filling!

Important information for day care providers on filling in Ofsted forms from the Registration and Inspection advice team

DC1 This application form should be completed by the registered person, and asks for information about the registered person, and the premises on which he/she intends to provide day care.

DC2 This form should be completed by the applicant or day-care provider including:

- the person in charge of the day-to-day running of the provision
- the applicant or day-care provider where they intend to work directly with:
- the nominated person representing the provider
- committee members
- partners
- directors.

Definitions

Registered person: a person deemed qualified to care for children and whose name appears on the certificate of registration. The registered person has overall responsibility for ensuring that the requirements of the national standards are met.

A company, committee or other group may be the registered person.

Manager: the person in day to day charge of the setting. The manager need not be the same person as the registered person. If not, the manager will be recruited and vetted by the registered person. A manager must have appropriate qualifications and experience.

Please call the registration helpline 01392 385536 before making any changes to your registration in order that we can advise you.

Contact Details

District Co-ordinator

Kerry Thorne

01392 385581

kerry.thorne@devon.gov.uk

District Administrator

Debbie Shepherd

01392 385987 or 01884 257902

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Out of School Development Worker

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This Newsletter is produced by Devon County Council, Early Years and Childcare Service, East Devon District. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Devon County Council. Got any news? Please contact Debbie Shepherd on 01392 385987 or email deborah.shepherd@devon.gov.uk Early Years and Childcare, St Saviours, Exeter Road, Ottery St Mary EX11 1RE

This Newsletter can be requested in other formats, including audio tape, large print, symbols and other languages, please contact us on 0800 056 36 66 for further information.