

Autumn 2007

Teddy Bears' Picnic in the Forest

Home-Start Mid Devon held a wonderful Teddy Bears' Picnic in Haldon Forest Park, near Exeter, on a day when the weather was actually kind!

Families across Mid Devon boarded coaches to head for a big Teddy Bears' Picnic, deep in the heart of the forest.

Angie Radford, Senior Organiser, commented that discussions had taken place as to whether or not to cancel the picnic, due to the unpredictable weather conditions that we have lately been experiencing. We took a risk and 'hey presto', the sun shone down on us all day.

It was a really magical day. Sixty four people came to the picnic, which included 30 children under 5 years of age. Families had a wonderful time and activities such as a teddy hunt in the woods, lucky dip, face painting and a quiz took place. Even Winnie the Pooh and her two teddy bear friends came to lunch. The whole event was such fun. Home-Start Mid Devon would like to give their thanks to the Forestry Commission for supporting this event and of course, to our wonderful volunteers who helped before and on the day.

Home-Start wants to see a society in which every parent has the support they need to give their children the best possible start in life.

Home-Start offers support, friendship and practical help to parents with young children. Our support helps parents grow in confidence, strengthen their relationships with their children and widen their links with the community.

Home-Start Mid Devon are always looking for volunteers to support families and to have some fun along the way. If you have parenting experience and would like to know more about what we do, then please contact Angie or Lesley on 01884 252743 or email us at homestartmiddevon@btconnect.com.



Work Placement Questionnaires

A short questionnaire has been sent to all settings in Devon with a good or outstanding Ofsted asking them if they would be prepared to offer work placements to EYP's (Early Years Professionals).

Please can we encourage you to complete this questionnaire and take part in the project. Please also make sure you include your details on the form e.g. name of setting and telephone number.

Many thanks for your help with this.

Essential Toolkit for Daycare Providers

There is a free Toolkit available for all registered providers, one per setting. Some of you may already have one, but if you haven't then please contact us on 01392 385581/385987 to arrange pick up at St Saviours, Ottery St Mary or for us to deliver to you!

It contains essential information on Ofsted, guidance on policies and procedures, health and safety, creating an Operational Plan, staffing matters, Early Years Education Funding, marketing plus much more.

Government's new food-based standards for all school food other than lunches

A new Government guide has been produced by the School Food trust, to help and advise schools relating to the types of foods which can be served in schools other than lunches. This will include **Breakfast and After school clubs** which are being provided by the school. For those clubs which are independent or committee run, these standards DO NOT apply to you (although they would be a good practice guide towards Healthy Eating).

The Guide states:

'Ofsted is monitoring the way schools approach healthier eating as part of its regular inspections of schools. Tools will be available during Autumn 2007 on the School Food Trust website to help you work out whether your school food provision outside of lunch is compliant'.

The list below gives an indication to what foods are /are not acceptable.

More of these healthier items

Fruit and vegetables must be provided in all school food outlets.

These can include fresh, dried, frozen, canned and juiced varieties.

Free, fresh drinking water should be provided at all times.

The only drinks permitted during the school day are plain water (still or sparkling), skimmed or semi-skimmed milk, fruit juice, vegetable juice, plain soya, rice or oat drinks enriched with calcium, plain yoghurt drinks, or combinations of the above. Tea, coffee and low calorie hot chocolate are also permitted.

Restricted or no longer allowed

Confectionery such as chocolate bars, chocolate coated or flavoured biscuits, sweets and cereal bars must not be provided.

Salt must not be provided at tables or service counters. Condiments, such as ketchup and mayonnaise, must only be available in sachets or individual portions of not more than 10g or 1 teaspoonful.

Snacks such as crisps must not be provided.

Nuts, seeds, vegetables and fruits with no added salt, sugar or fat are allowed.

Cakes and biscuits must not be provided (except at lunchtime).

Two deep-fried foods per week are allowed across lunch and all other food services.

Starchy food cooked in fat or oil must not be used in the cooking process more than three times a week across lunch and all other food services.

A meat product (manufactured or homemade) from each of the four groups below may be provided no more than once per fortnight, providing the meat

product also meets the standards for minimum meat content and does not contain any prohibited offal:
Group 1: Burger, hamburger, chopped meat, corned meat;
Group 2: Sausage, sausage meat, chipolata, luncheon meat.

Group 3: Individual meat pie, meat pudding, Melton Mowbray pie, game pie, Scottish pie, pasty, sausage roll.

Group 4: Any other shaped or coated meat product.

This is only a brief guide, visit www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk for more information

www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk for more information

Out of School Development Worker Update

Hello again, I hope you all had a great summer and are ready to start the new term.

Congratulations to all of you who have successfully achieved positive outcomes with your Ofsted Inspections recently. I have been aware that they are very much in the area at the moment – in fact I think they are following me around!! Please remember that Lin Hibbard and I are here to help you with any actions which you are not sure how to deal with – give us a call. Also remember to inform Ofsted of any changes you make within your setting, whether it's an increase in numbers, change in committee or staff – they have to know. If you are not sure, then again contact us.

Calendula (Mid Devon District Co-ordinator) and I held a very successful Network Support Meeting on the 7th June at the Sunningmead Centre, Tiverton. The topics covered were Risk Assessment and Child Consultation. Providers learnt why it is necessary to do a Risk Assessment, how to do it, what do we look for and by carrying out a Risk Assessment means that ALL activities can take place. In the afternoon, they were given a chance to show off their artistic skills by creating an outside space – choosing what they would like to see in their garden. This activity explained to providers that by consulting children you can create new and exciting opportunities within the setting, whilst allowing them to enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution. We also explored the barriers to Child Consultation and how to overcome these.

I am hoping to run this same network in North Devon in the Autumn Term – letters will go out in September/October. In Mid Devon, we will be running another Network Meeting on Funding and Christmas Origami during the autumn – watch this space.

During the summer holidays I visited some of the holiday clubs to do Quality Checks and I will be resuming the After School visits this term. Meanwhile if you have any concerns or issues you wish to discuss, please give me a ring on 07970

872451 or e-mail Helen.stephenson@devon.gov.uk
Helen Stephenson, Mid and North Devon Out of
Schools Development Worker

Foster Carer Awards 2007

Over 370 years of fostering recognised

Over fifty five carers, elected members and staff attended the Foster Care Awards Ceremony at County Hall on Tuesday 15th of May to celebrate the achievements of Devon's foster carers. Awards were presented to carers who have contributed between ten and thirty five years fostering for Devon, and to carers achieving the NVQ Level 3 in Caring for Children and Young People.

The longest serving carer was Margaret Matthews, who has contributed thirty five years of fostering. She was presented with a bouquet in addition to the certificate and vouchers received by all those being recognised.

Councillor John Smith, Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services offered sincere thanks on behalf of both the council and all young people cared for by foster carers for the carers' dedication and commitment to the fostering task. Councillor Smith also made reference to the good performance of the entire fostering service in the recent CSCI inspection. Anne Whiteley, Director of Children and Young People's Services thanked the carers, and recognised the importance of their input in promoting the five Every Child Matters outcomes for children in their care.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of certificates. All those present had



chance to reflect on the excellent service Devon's foster carers give to the children in their care – and, despite the challenges, on the great deal of satisfaction and fulfilment that fostering can bring.

For a fostering information pack call 0845 155 1013.

Human Flu Pandemic

No-one knows exactly when a pandemic will occur. Once a pandemic arrives, it is likely to spread throughout the country in a matter of weeks. It may come in two or more waves several months apart which may last two or three months.

Guidance has been issued on planning for a human flu pandemic, this has been followed by

guidance with infection control guidance to help reduce the spread of infection in a pandemic. To view the guidance - much of which would also be useful in dealing with more common viral infections - please visit: <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/humanflupandemic>

There are four sets of guidance: for day schools and early years and childcare settings; for residential settings; for childminders; for Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE).

If after reading the guidance you have any further queries, please e-mail flu.planning@dfes.gsi.gov.uk or telephone the DfES public enquiry helpline on 0870 000 2288.

Essential Ofsted updates

We are cancelling the Autumn Session Essential Ofsted Updates due to re-organisation and recruitment within the Registration and Inspection support team and the Early Years Support Teams. We will now be delivering the next Information sessions in February 2008. We have decided to extend these to two and a half hours sessions. Please look out for your District Newsletters in January which will have details of the dates, venues and agenda.

Important Reminder from Ofsted Complaints Log

Could everyone please make sure they are keeping a complaints log. Ofsted have highlighted this recently as many providers still do not have a complaints procedure.

Guidance and a template for this can be found in OFSTED publication 'Day care and childminding: Guidance to the National Standards.' revisions to criteria October 2005

Available from Ofsted on 08456 404040 or www.ofsted.gov.uk

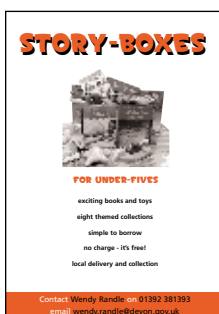
Workforce Development Directory 2007-2008

By now you should have received the new training directory for 2007 – 2008. It includes everything from Level 1 – 6 training courses to recruitment, retention and careers advice. All the training on offer is free and forms are included for applying for supply/ release and loss of earnings.

When you have identified a training need don't forget to use the new directory and keep your eyes open for the Autumn Bulletin. Courses can sometimes be delivered locally depending on demand. Please highlight any training needs to either Helen Stephenson or Calendula Bowen.

Story-Boxes

Story-Boxes consist of 12 books plus some small toys or artefacts linked to the theme, and they are intended to encourage reading for pleasure and imaginative play. Longer term we hope to include some suggestions or guide notes for carers.



The intention is that the boxes are loaned for about a month / six weeks, but this is really a pilot stage since we have no idea of the likely take-up. The library service is very flexible about how people request the boxes, how long they have them, where they deliver / collect - hope to make use of local arrangements to make things as easy as possible for the borrower.

The project is funded by us in collaboration with Devon School Library Service and Devon Learning Resources, with advice from Early Years advisers.

For more information on these please note that there is a request form on page 143 of the new Workforce Development Directory 2007 – 2008 or contact Wendy Randle on 01392 381393 / Wendy.Randle.devon.gov.uk.

Devon Free Milk Scheme!

As an extension of the successful partnership between Devon County Council and Cool Milk to supply local Primary Schools with free milk, we are inviting you to register for free milk for the under 5's in your Preschool or Nursery.

As you may be aware, "Every child under the age of five years is entitled to a daily 189ml serving of milk free of charge while in attendance of a registered day care provider".

Whether you claim for free milk presently or not, everyone can benefit from this new milk scheme...

If you already offer and administer your own milk...

You will no longer have to pay for the milk and wait for reimbursement every four months, or have to complete a WFRU claim form. Simply order it through Cool Milk, hand it out to the children to enjoy, and dispose of any waste. Devon County Council and Cool Milk will do the rest.

If you do not currently offer and administer your own milk...

Taking advantage of this initiative and launching a milk scheme is easier than you may think and you



won't have to pay for the milk for the children in your care. All you need do is order your milk through Cool Milk, hand it out to the children to enjoy, and dispose of any waste. Devon County Council and Cool Milk will do the rest.

To register contact Cool Milk on 01522 548484. Should you have questions please contact the Cool Milk helpline on 01522 845 013.



Domestic violence is repeated physical, psychological, sexual or financial violence and abuse by a person known to you, usually your partner or ex-partner or family member.

Domestic violence and abuse is one person exerting systematic abusive power and control over another. Domestic violence and abuse can be experienced by women and men whatever their race, age, class, colour, ability, religion or sexuality. The violence can begin at any stage of a relationship and may continue after the relationship has ended.

It is usually women who are at the receiving end of domestic violence and abuse, and it is often men who are responsible. However, men are also victims of domestic violence and abuse from female partners. Domestic violence and abuse also exists within gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender relationships.

For the first edition of adva's newsletter log onto www.devon.gov.uk/advanews_may07.pdf

Devon Rural Fund grants up to £500 for smaller parishes and communities in Devon

Devon Community Foundation is an independent local charity that aims to promote and support local charitable and community organisations throughout Devon to tackle disadvantage. This is achieved by acting as a conduit for grants for grassroots community organisations.

In 2001/02 the Community Council of Devon issued the Community Foundation a challenge to set up a Rural Fund for Devon. The Community Council pledged £50,000 if the Community Foundation could raise sufficient to match it over a two year period. The match was secured and the Fund is now up and running.

"Devon Community Foundation secured match funding for a Community Council challenge grant and has invested the money in a Fund which ensures a steady stream of income is available for making grants to support Devon's most rural

communities. It's a great way to reach isolated people and to provide help in times of need. Over the years the Foundation will have the opportunity to grow this Fund to provide an even larger source of grant making income." Jay Talbot, Chief Executive, Community Council of Devon.

The Devon Rural Fund makes grants up to £500 to projects tackling poverty and disadvantage in the smaller parishes and communities within 7 rural districts of the County (Mid Devon, East Devon, West Devon, South Hams, Torridge, Teignbridge and North Devon).

For more information about the Devon Rural Fund and other Devon Community Foundation grant programmes go to: http://www.devoncf.com/applying_for_a_grant/Documents/informationforapplicants.pdf

Devon County Council Locality Grants

Following its successful introduction last year, Devon County Council has increased its Locality Grant budgets for County Councillors to £10,000 per Councillor for 2007/08.

Under this scheme, County Councillors are able to give small grant awards to local projects and good causes.

So far this year, grants have been awarded to Crediton Arts Centre (£800), Heathcoat Community Centre (£750), Crediton and District Community Transport (£500) and Halberton Village Hall (£500).

Awards appear to be largely discretionary - there being no formal application process to go through other than to contact your local County Councillor (go to: http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/democracycommunities/county_councillors/councillor_information_name.htm to find out who your County Councillor is). While there are disadvantages in having a discretionary scheme, one of the main advantages is that form filling is kept to a minimum and grants can be released within a relatively short space of time.

Do you have Sustainability Issues?

- Are your child numbers low?
- Has your rent or utilities increased?
- Are you having difficulty recruiting staff?
- Worried about your redundancy fund?
- New provider opened in the area?

Then come and talk to us your District Co-ordinator or your Out of School Development worker. We have a large team that can offer advice and support and if your problem is short term you may be eligible for a Sustainability Grant. Contact details on the back page.

Childcare Referral Scheme

Interview with Chantelle Messey and Tracey Messenger

Background
Chantelle is

17 years of age, 18 in September.

She has two children, Corey aged 2½ and Tobias aged



Chantelle, Corey and Tobias

1½. She decided she

would like to go back to college with the help of the Care to Learn scheme to improve her qualifications.

Connexions office in Tiverton referred Chantelle to the Childcare Referral Service (CSR) in January 2007. She was interested in assistance in finding good quality childcare for her children to enable her to go to East Devon College in September 07. She had looked at local nurseries, but due to the boys' ages, they would be put in separate groups and she wanted them together. We agreed that a childminder may be a better option. Chantelle does not have transport so we had to find a childminder close to the college. Mandy, the Childcare Referral Adviser put her in touch with Tracey, a local childminder.

Questions

How did you hear about Childcare Referral Scheme?

Chantelle – Through the Connexions office at Tiverton.

Tracey – Through Mandy. She phoned to explain the service and said she had a client in the area and described the client's situation.

What did you think of the service?

Chantelle – 'Really good!' 'Lots of support.' I was a bit nervous and concerned at going to visit the childminder as I did not know her. During the chat, Mandy explained how different childcare worked and what I should look out for. She said she would come on visits with me, which made me feel better as I was a bit nervous and concerned at going to somebody I did not know and it helped having somebody with me. The visit to the childminder went really well. Tracey was really nice and I felt comfortable to talk to her about my situation.

Tracey – 'Brilliant'!. The payment for the Taster Sessions allow you to get to know the child and I would encourage any childminders with vacancies to take part in the scheme. I found Mandy very

approachable and feel that the service supports providers as well as parents. There was good communication between client, myself and Mandy.

How could it be improved?

Chantelle – No improvements necessary.

Tracey – ‘Devon County Council were spot on’. I did experience some difficulties with the Care to Learn Helpline. I found the information I was given was not consistent. Obviously, childcare has to be found before registering with the college and it would help if Care to Learn paid some sort of deposit to encourage childcare to keep places open until the client starts at college. They do pay one month in advance.

I feel that a lot of childminders would not know of the service and feel more promotion of the service is necessary. Childminders may be reluctant to enter into the scheme with young parents.

How has the service helped you?

Chantelle – Tracey has helped me a lot and has been very supportive. She helped me to organise my college application and even takes me to college if necessary. She really loves my boys and they really like her too. ‘I feel more confident knowing the children are safe and well looked after. I would not go to college if my children were not happy.’

Tracey – It has given me satisfaction knowing that Chantelle is going to college and will have better career prospects. She did not get into the course she originally wanted to, but this did not deter her and she is now doing some GCSE’s with the PACE Course at East Devon College. This is a one year course, which could lead to continued learning. I found the college offers various incentives to make the courses more interesting for the students. The Care to Learn Scheme pays for childcare (up to £155 per week) and will even pay for transport to and from childcarer. The boys will be well looked after and have opportunities to do trips with other children. The Taster sessions helped financially as I was paid £5 per hour. The Childcare Referral Service can lead to full-time childcare.

Tracey was recently inspected by Ofsted and received an Outstanding Inspection – Well done Tracey! For more information on the Childcare Referral Scheme call 0800 056 36 66.



Tracey Messenger

Out of School Feedback!

A really positive session on behaviour management in out of schools settings was held recently. The

session looked at strategies and scenarios and provided a practical hands on approach to behaviour management. Over twenty settings attended and the feedback was fantastic!

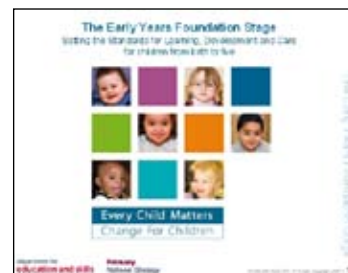
The session was run as a pilot but it hoped that more may be available later in the year.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

Statutory Framework - This new document sets out all the legal requirements of the EYFS relating to Learning, Development and Welfare. It includes detailed information on providers’ obligations under the framework. You will be receiving this shortly if you have not had one already as it is the new framework that comes into force in Sept 2008.

Practice Guidance - contains essential advice and guidance for all practitioners working with children from birth to five. It includes detailed information on the six areas of Learning and Development and supporting children from birth through various stages of maturity and development.

Each pack also contains Principles into Practice cards, a wall poster and a CD-Rom.



Child Minding News

Celebrating 21 Years of Child Minding in Devon

Devon Child Minding Association (DCMA) is celebrating 21 years of working with childminders this year. During National Childminding week in June registered childminders across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay were invited to go “Wild about Devon” at a series of fun days.

In all there were nine events across the county focusing on Devon Culture and aiming to emphasise the development of children under the government’s “Every Child Matters” agenda.

In Mid Devon, on the 18th of June, childminders of Devon, along with the children in their care, joined in with the celebrations at the Canal basin in Tiverton.

Led by canal ranger Jo French, the children enjoyed: pond dipping; a nature walk and craft activities. This



was followed by a free cream tea for all.

Thank you to all the children and child minders who helped make the day so enjoyable.

Thanks also to the Canal rangers and to Awards For All who funded the event.



4Children Childcare Awards

Devon Child Minding Association was nominated for this years award in the category Childcare Team of the Year sponsored by Morton Michel. Erika Willson of DCMA said "We were delighted to be short listed to the two finalists. Four representative members of the thirteen-strong team went to an interview at the Lloyds Building in London before eagerly awaiting the results at a spectacular gala dinner and presentation. It was just like the Oscars or BAFTA's of the childcare world! We were not chosen as the overall winners but feel very proud that we were runners up in an event that attracted hundreds of nominations around the UK. We can confidently say that we were the winners in England as the overall winners were from Scotland. I am sure I speak for all the members of the staff team when I say we are proud to be associated with DCMA and to have the service we endeavour to provide recognised at such a high level." Further information is available on the DCMA website www.devonca.org

Devon Child Minding Association 21st birthday conference

Every year Devon Child Minding Association (DCMA) celebrates the unique child care provision registered childminders run from their homes (e.g. small group numbers so more opportunities for 1-1 attention, community based work, comfort of a home environment) with childminders, parents and other childcare professionals at our annual conference and AGM.

This year they have been very fortunate to receive a grant from Awards for All to enable them to put on a bigger and better event than ever before at Sandy Park Conference Centre, Exeter on Saturday 22nd September where there will be a selection of eight exciting and interesting workshops plus a nationally recognised keynote speaker.

DCMA is an independent childminding organisation and a registered charity. They work together with childminders, parents, local authorities and other children's organisations to provide high quality home-based childcare for children aged

between 0 and 16 years.

To find out more about DCMA, visit www.devonca.org, contact your local Area Development Worker Judi Jones on 01884 254939 or call Janet Dix 01752 202059.

Gateways Therapy & Respite Centre

Gateways Therapy and Respite Centre is nestled in the hills above Barnstaple. Gateways is a farm based facility with an ever increasing animal family and a wide range of sensory integration



indoor and outdoor play equipment designed to encourage children to be active in a therapeutic and creative way. Children take part in Equine Facilitated Learning or Reiki sessions as a stand alone activity or as part of a package of day or respite care.

The Centre provides Day Care & Emergency or Planned Respite Care for children age 3 months to 12 years (older children by special arrangement). The setting caters for children with social/emotional issues, autistic spectrum disorders, physical disabilities, and complex health needs.

They are open 10 am – 4 pm every Wednesday - Sunday for day children and 3 pm Tuesday – 7 pm Sunday for overnight respite care. Children can be collected from and dropped off at school by special arrangement. For those parents eligible for carer's breaks this service can be accessed through your key worker or through Direct Payments. Please contact Laura Barbour on 01271 850106 for more information.

New Support Contract for Devon

Trio Childcare Connections Limited was established in 1996 and since this time has diversified and grown greatly, now providing a range of childcare services across several counties. Trio are passionate and committed to on-going professional development.

Under our new Devon contract, we will aim to provide all voluntary, independent and private early years group settings, and all childminders with support and information. All groups and childminders in Devon will be visited on a regular basis. We will be working very closely with the Early Years and Childcare team to give you the best possible service for every contingency within your setting.

We look forward to working with you soon.

Early Years Quality and Inclusion Team

Autumn 07 Cluster Groups

These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to

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

'The development and use of communication and language is at the heart of young children's learning.'

Over the next year we will be looking at ways to support personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy – both vital for children's development and future success. In the Autumn term we will share ideas on how to enable children to develop a positive sense of themselves.

'Successful personal social and emotional development is critical for very young children in all aspects of their lives and gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning.'

Cluster Group Meetings

Cluster Group	Early Years Adviser	Date	Time	Venue
Crediton	Lesley Ackerman	17/11/07	1 - 3 pm	Boniface Centre
Culm Valley	Jenny Henriques	6/11/07	4 - 6 pm	St Andrew's Primary, Cullompton
Tiverton	Jenny Henriques	8/11/07	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Kingfishers Children's Centre, East Devon College

Please contact Dawn Meredith (EYA Team Administrator), DCS, Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter.EX2 7NL. Tel: 01392 385525 Fax: 01392 385216 E-mail: dawn.meredith@devon.gov.uk

Contact Details

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Registration/Inspection Support Advisor

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For a free copy of the 'Marketing Guide' please contact Neil Copland on 01392 386558.

Looking for a Workshop idea?

Annie Quicke, an entertaining performer, improviser and educator, runs performance and fun hands-on activity with musical instruments from the woodwind family.

The performance and workshop lasts for about an hour and the suggested age range is 5 to 11 years.

The cost of the performance/ workshop is £55 per session, plus travel expenses of 35p per mile outside a 10 mile radius from Crediton and cost of materials: 25p per child (ie for a group of 20: £5.00, for a group of 30: £7.50). For further details, to discuss your group's needs, and to book a session, contact Annie Quicke: Email: annie@nuffmore.eclipse.co.uk or Tel: 01363 772003/ 07866 592018 (leave a message).

This Newsletter is produced by Devon County Council, Early Years and Childcare Service, Mid Devon District. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Devon County Council. Got any news? Please contact Debbie Shepherd on 01884 252706 or e-mail deborah.shepherd@devon.gov.uk
Early Years and Childcare, Wilcombe Primary School, Tiverton EX16 6AL

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