

Spring 2008

Cheriton Bishop Playgroup are 'OUTSTANDING'



Many congratulations to Cheriton Bishop Playgroup who were inspected end of September and obtained an 'Outstanding' Ofsted inspection. This is a great achievement for a small rural pre-school and with comments like 'The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding' and 'Children thrive in an environment where they feel valued and nurtured', they should be very proud of themselves indeed.

To see the full inspection report log onto <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/portal/site/Internet/menuitem.7c7b38b14d870c7bb1890>

Cheriton take children from the ages of 2 1/2 to 5, and are open during school term time only. They offer care between the following times: Monday to Wednesday 9.30am to 12.00pm, Thursday

9.00am to 3.20pm. Thursday consists of two sessions, giving you the choice to use them individually, or to leave your child for the full day, in which case you should provide them with a packed lunch. On Wednesday they have a lunch club which extends the time to 1.20pm.

Monday to

Wednesday is based at Cheriton Bishop Village Hall. The Thursday sessions are based up at Cheriton Bishop School Hall.

They also have a parent and toddler group in the village, this meets every Monday 9.30 - 11.30am (term time only) in Cheriton Bishop School Hall.

There are still some child places available in the January term, if you would like anymore information please log onto www.cbplaygroup.ik.com or email sasha@sasha-jackson.net



Cheriton children having fun and learning too!

Changing childcare

Recent changes in the law gave local authorities new responsibilities and will change the way we register and inspect childcare providers. But what will the changes mean for all involved?

The Childcare Act 2006 introduces a new framework for children, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), and new registers – the Early Years Register and the Childcare Register.

Those on the Early Years Register, and Maintained and Independent schools, must deliver the EYFS for children until the August following the child's fifth birthday. The new framework brings together the **Birth to three matters framework, the Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage and the National standards for under eights daycare and childminding**, and is based around four themes, each of which is linked to an important principle:

A unique child – every child should be helped to become a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive relationships – children should be encouraged to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.

Enabling environments – care and learning must recognise that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

Learning and development – children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates, but all areas of learning and development are equally important and interconnected.

The framework is intended to provide a consistent but flexible approach to care and learning and ensure that whatever setting parents choose, they can be confident that their child will receive a quality experience that supports their development and learning.

Find out more about the EYFS at:
www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/eyfs/



What does the new Childcare Register consist of?

It has two parts: compulsory and voluntary.

The compulsory part is for providers looking after children from the end of the EYFS (age 5) up to the age of eight.

The voluntary part is for those caring for older children, home-based carers (such as nannies) and others exempt from compulsory registration but who would like to be registered. It allows some providers of childcare – such as nannies – to register with Ofsted for the first time, and many have already applied to do so.

Tricia Pritchard from the Professional Association of Nursery Nurses (PANN) welcomes the introduction of the new voluntary part of the Childcare Register:

'We are pleased that nannies are eligible to register on the voluntary Childcare Register. This means that, for the first time, nannies have the opportunity to be measured alongside other childcare professionals. We sincerely hope that nannies can be persuaded to register in this way and to approach voluntary registration as being a credible addition to their professional portfolio. We firmly believe that Ofsted registration enhances a provider's credibility and hope that by registering voluntarily other child carers will give nannies the professional respect they have long deserved.'

How we are preparing

Most of the new legislation came into force in September 2008, although we have been accepting applications to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register since April 2007.

Liz Elsom, Ofsted's Divisional Manager for Policy and Frameworks, is positive about the changes being introduced:

'The changes are designed to support better outcomes for the children who use the services we inspect and regulate. They will also reduce the burden on providers because we will focus our inspections on those who need them most, using a proportionate and risk-based approach. This means that the providers who are doing well are inspected less often and those that are not performing well receive more inspection.

'In the next few months, we'll be piloting inspections in schools and early years settings to help us develop proposals to inspect EYFS provision. There will be a set of common judgements wherever the EYFS occurs. We'll consult widely this autumn, publishing the results early next year and using the feedback to train our inspectors during April and May 2008. As soon as the inspection frameworks and guidance are available we will publish them on our website.'

Out of School Development Worker Update

Hello again,

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

The Voluntary childcare Register has now been operating since April 07. This is for those settings who take over 8's only or who do not fall into the current Ofsted Registration.



Helen Stephenson

Any questions regarding this, please contact Lin Hibbard on 07815 185181. Information concerning Ofsted will also be available at the OUT sessions this term (dates in newsletter). It is important that either a member of staff or committee member (or both) attend these meetings, as useful and sometimes vital information is given out which you need to know.

If you have parents who are looking to return to work but not sure what benefits or support is available to them, direct them to this useful website – www.dwp.gov.uk/advertisers/publicity_register.asp they will be able to register an interest and receive up-to-date guidance and leaflets from the Dept. of Work and Pensions.

Myself and Calendula held a successful Christmas Workshop – Christmas Origami was the theme. Lots of fun and chat was enjoyed over tea and Mince pies. Thanks to Leapfrogs Nursery for hosting the session.

Don't forget to visit the 4Children website where lots of information around Extended Services and Out of School clubs can be found. Also remember to look through the Workforce Development Manual and keep your CPD up to date. There are lots of very interesting and useful courses available to attend. If you need help in supply cover, you can apply for the Transition Fund to help with some of the courses.

Don't forget to contact me for any help or advice 07970 451872

in grants to 258 charities between July to September 2007. Through the grants awarded, The Foundation continues to support charities that help disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in their community. Charities receiving funding include support services for ex-offenders, disabled people and disadvantaged families. The Foundation makes grants through a number of schemes. These include the Community Open Programme which is open to all charities whose work falls within the Foundation's overall mission statement; the Community Priority Programme which provides grants that meet specific regional needs and the Matched Giving Scheme which is for Lloyds TSB Group employees who are involved in charity fundraising. Organisations that received a grant during this period included St Mabyn Pre-School which received a grant of £5,000 towards the cost of training and mentoring support and the Big Buzz After School Club which received a grant of £25,000 towards the salary costs of the Family Liaison Worker and Senior Play Worker. Organisations interested in applying to the Foundation should in the first instance contact the Foundation so that they can obtain advice on how to make the best application.

<http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/PressandMediaCentre/Pages/Over%C2%A349mgivento258charities.aspx>

Paul Hamlyn Foundation Education and Learning Programme (UK)

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation is currently accepting applications under its Education and Learning



programme. In particular, the Foundation is looking to fund projects that promote innovation and change in the areas of supplementary schooling and tackling school exclusion and truancy. Eligible organisations that can apply for funding include charities, local authorities individual pre-schools, schools, out-of-school clubs, supplementary schools, colleges and youth clubs if they demonstrate benefits to the wider community and include partnership working that will result in increasing access to education and learning to all communities and age groups. The costs that can be covered by the Foundation's grants include running costs such as staff salaries and overheads such as stationery, rent, rates and utilities. There is no minimum or maximum size of grant that organisations can apply for but the average size grant awarded in 2006 -07 was £19,300. Applications can be made at any time.

<http://www.phf.org.uk/page.asp?id=85>

Funding News

Lloyds TSB Foundation

The Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales has announced that it has given £4,963,871



Lloyds TSB Foundation
for England and Wales

News from your Registration and Inspection Team

New team introductions

We are delighted to welcome Lorna Pitts and Kirsten Elswood, new members of staff to the Registration and Inspection Advice Team, and also Louise Arscott, (who is covering Sandra Doddington's Maternity Leave) to the Childcare Referral Team.

Biographies

Kirsten Elswood

Hello, my name is Kirsten Elswood and I am the new Registration and Inspection Advisor for Exeter, East and Mid Devon. Some of you may recognise me as I have worked for the Pre-School Learning Alliance and Trio as a Childcare Development Worker for two and a half years, supporting groups in Mid and part of North Devon.



Before becoming a Development Worker I enjoyed five years as a deputy head in a private nursery school in Mid Devon. This experience enabled me to gain my Early Years Professional Status this June. I have also worked in primary schools teaching French and German to older children, as well as setting up, and volunteering in, a breakfast club in my son's school.

I am really looking forward to working with you and meeting you in the forthcoming Ofsted Update Training sessions.

Louise Arscott

My name is Louise Arscott and I have been employed by Devon Early Years and Childcare Services as a Childcare Referral Advisor to cover the North Devon, Torridge and West Devon areas. Over the last 10 years, I have worked in a variety of different settings including Probation, Substance Misuse Services and Connexions as a careers advisor. I am currently training as a psychotherapist. I have recently come back from a year in Sri Lanka where my partner and I set up a small charity. I have 3 children aged 10, 3 and 6 months and am well rehearsed in finding appropriate childcare!! I have only been living in Devon since the Summer and I am enjoying exploring the beautiful countryside (and sometimes getting lost!). I am looking forward to making good



links in the area and helping support parents back to work or education through finding appropriate childcare.

Lorna Pitts

Hello, for those of you that I have not yet met, my name is Lorna Pitts and I will be covering the South (which includes Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon). I was previously employed by Trio and before them the Pre-school Learning Alliance as a Pre-school Development Worker in Ivybridge and the South Hams.



I first became involved with Early Years when my daughter started at my local pre-school 16 years ago. I have worked in many different settings over the years, these include voluntary pre-schools, private day nurseries, crèches and out of school clubs. I was also a registered childminder for over ten years.

Many of you I will have met over the last few years, and I am looking forward to working with you again.

The Registration and Inspection Team and areas covered are now:

Mary Cousins; Registration and Inspection Support Officer.

Tel 07815 189 281 or 01392 385533

email: mary.cousins@devon.gov.uk

North Devon, Torridge

Lin Hibbard: Senior Registration and Inspection Advisor. Home based.

Tel 07815 185 181

email: lin.hibbard@devon.gov.uk

Exeter, Mid and East Devon

Kirsten Elswood; Registration and Inspection Advisor. Home based.

Tel 07837 207 749

email: kirsten.elswood@devon.gov.uk

Teignbridge, South Hams and West

Lorna Pitts; Registration Support Advisor. Home based.

Tel 07969 684 569

email: lorna.pitts@devon.gov.uk

Administrator

Sarah Edwards; Registration and Inspection Support Administrator

Tel 01392 381598

email: sarah.edwards@devon.gov.uk or registrationsupport@devon.gov.uk

The childcare referral team are now

Mandy Cluett; Childcare Referral Advisor. Home based.

Tel 07971 513 567

email: mandy.cluett@devon.gov.uk

Covering South Hams, Teignbridge, Exeter, East and Mid Devon.

Louise Arscott; Childcare Referral Advisor. Home based.

Tel 07971 513 563

email: louise.arscott@devon.gov.uk

Covering North, Torridge and West Devon

Ofsted Website Keeping you in touch

The Ofsted website is an invaluable source for you to keep up to date with the latest Ofsted news, updates and publications.

Did you know you can subscribe to the Ofsted news letter to be sent automatically free by email?

If you have problems accessing the internet please call the Registration Support Team and we can print off and send you hard copies of the articles you would like to read.

Recent Articles from the website to interest you: Ofsted Annual Report 2007-08

The first annual report for the new Ofsted finds a broadly positive picture across education, child care and adult skills, but warns that not enough is being done to narrow the gap and improve the care and education of disadvantaged children and young people.

Getting on well

Getting on well is the second national report on how early years and childcare providers are supporting Every Child Matters outcomes for children. It focuses on how the best providers are promoting children's enjoyment and achievement, and helping them to make a positive contribution.

Getting on well: enjoying, achieving and contributing focuses on two of the five Every Child Matters outcomes which the Children Act 2004 identified as vital for every child. The report shows how childcarers are helping children in their care to 'enjoy and achieve' and 'make a positive contribution'.

Outstanding providers 2006-07

The list of providers judged to be outstanding following an inspection in 2006/07 is now live on the Ofsted website.

Have a look and see how Ofsted reached the judgement of outstanding for these providers. It may help you to read how providers evidence to Ofsted how they are meeting the standards for all the five outcomes for children.

For more information and the full reports log on to www.ofsted.gov.uk

Essential Ofsted Information Sessions

These will be taking place in February 08 and include information on the major changes coming in September 2008.

The information at this training is very relevant and important to every provider. Don't get left behind! Please attend if you can.

Please note every essential Ofsted Information session has a different agenda. It is not a one off training session and you should try to attend even if you have been to these sessions before.

Course content includes:

- Information from the new early years support teams, Trio Childcare and Barnardo's.
- Up to date information from the Early Years Advisors on the EYFS.
- Latest information on the Voluntary and Compulsory Childcare Register
- News from the recruitment team and information on future changes to CRB checks
- News from the childcare referral team

Bookings are necessary. Places are limited to two people per setting and can be arranged by calling Devon Early Years Inspection Support Team on 01392 381598.

Exeter		
Saturday 16 Feb	10.30 am -1 pm	Exeter
Monday 4 Feb	7pm – 9.30 pm	Exeter
North Devon		
Saturday 2 Feb	10.30 am – 1 pm	Barnstaple
Thursday 7 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Ilfracombe
Mid Devon		
Friday 29 Feb	10.30am – 1 pm	Tiverton
Teignbridge		
Wednesday 27 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Newton Abbot
East Devon		
Tuesday 26 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Honiton
West Devon		
Thursday 14 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Lydford
South Hams		
Monday 25 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Ivybridge
Wednesday 5 March	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Totnes
Torridge		
Monday 11 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Holsworthy

If you haven't obtained an "Essential Toolkit for day care providers" you can collect one at the Ofsted Update sessions. One per setting.

Phase 3 Children's Centre Developments

Consultation is now underway for the final phase of development 2008 – 2010.

Currently the only wards/areas not covered by Children's Centre services within The Mid Devon area are: Bradninch, Lower Culm (Culm Valley Children's Centre), Cadbury, Cannonsleigh, Halberton (Tiverton Children's Centre), Sandford and Creedy, Upper Yeo, Way, Taw and Taw Vale (Crediton Children's Centre).

The plan has always been for some of the existing Mid Devon Children's Centres to extend their services to cover these remaining areas. Although consultation regarding the Phase 3 proposals was included in the Phase 2 Children's Centre development, circumstances and boundaries within the Mid Devon area have now changed. This particularly relates to the AXS Pathway areas.

If you would like further information about the above proposals please contact Calendula Bowen, District Co-ordinator for Mid Devon on 07969 684663 or email calendula.bowen@devon.gov.uk



Early Years Quality And Inclusion Team Cluster Groups

These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to

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

If you have any queries on Cluster Group dates or queries in general, please phone Dawn Meredith on Tel: 01392 385525 or email dawn.meredith@devon.gov.uk Please note bookings cannot be taken by phone.

If unable to attend please could you give us some indication of why this is, e.g. time, unavailability of supply cover, finances etc and an idea of what changes would facilitate your attendance in the future.

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

Staffing Matters Update

New Helpline Service

Early Years and childcare employers and employees are now able to access a free, impartial and expert Human Resources Helpline, which was launched last month. The Helpline, which is being provided by Devon County Council's HR team, can offer managers information and advice on a wide range of staffing issues, including employment law compliance, contracts, disputes, benefits and rights in the workplace. The Helpline can be contacted between the hours of 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday, on 01392 385555 or by email: hrsshelp@devon.gov.uk

Suspension and Pay

Employment contracts can be a complicated matter, and sometimes it can be hard to think of everything that needs to be included. Recently, a query raised the issue of suspension, and whether or not suspended employees should be paid during the time they are absent from the setting. We're now urging employers to consider this matter, and ensure policies and employment contracts are updated to reflect the setting's decisions. This will help employees to understand the financial implications of suspension, and help managers and committees to appreciate the potential extra costs, such as the recruitment of temporary staff cover. It's important to bear in mind that in some circumstances, an employee has to be suspended through no fault of their own, eg. if they are applying for a waiver through Ofsted, because they live with someone who is disqualified from working with children.

For more information and advice on this matter, please contact the HR Helpline on 01392 385555 or contact ACAS on 08457 47 47 47, (www.acas.org.uk).

Age Discrimination

A quick reminder to employers that the Age Discrimination Act was passed last year, and in practical terms, this means you must not discriminate against any potential job applicants (or existing staff) on the basis of their age. Make sure that you don't ask for "x" years of experience in person specifications, as this is deemed to be discriminatory. Instead, you can focus on the skills, type of experience and qualifications needed to fulfil the duties of the role. In the same way, ensure that all staff receive equal opportunity to access relevant training and development options linked to their work. If you need any advice on this matter, contact the HR Helpline, or ACAS, as above.

If you have any queries, please can contact the Recruitment & Retention Team. Tel: 01392 385398 or email childrensworkforce-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Hello to all Childcare Practitioners in Devon!

Hello from **TRIO CHILDCARE**, the new providers of your Early Years and Childminding Support Services. As you may all be aware, resulting from the tendering process with Devon County Council, we have taken over these services from the Pre-School Learning Alliance and Devon Childminding Association. Childcare Practitioners must be well used to change by now so this is just one more!



Trio are a company who set up in 1996, initially overseeing the Childcare requirements of a major UK Insurance company. With the advent of the Early Years and Childcare Partnerships, we started working with Local Authorities across the South West, managing Support Workers and Childminding Network Coordinators. The company has grown from an initial 5 staff to over 50, as we are now an accredited NVQ Assessment Centre as well as continuing to manage a variety of support and training projects for Local Authorities. Our work in Devon will be managing the support for Early Years Groups and Childminders so many of you will see the same staff who have been supporting you for some considerable time.

We relish the challenge of working with your existing support workers and in providing you with an even better service of advice, support and guidance. All our Devon staff will have the title "Childcare Development Worker" and be working with Childminders, Private, Voluntary and Independent Group settings. Each Childcare Development Worker will have an individual telephone contact number plus the contact for our head office is 01793 849621 where we have a range of staff who can answer your queries.

We look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months and assure that the service will provide you with an excellent range of services. It is good to be working in Devon!

5X30 Project Funds

The 5X30 Project is an exciting local initiative to help people become "More Active, More Often", aiming to benefit the health and well being of our communities. The project is **very keen** to receive applications for its grant programmes (see below).

The World Health Organisation recommends that you accumulate at least 30 minutes of (moderate intensity) physical activity at least 5 times a week... 5X30! It doesn't have to be sports; moderate physical

activity is anything that raises your heart rate and makes you feel slightly out of breath (but still able to speak comfortably!), and can be anything from housework to horse riding!

The project has a team of five "Community Activators" covering Mid and West Devon that are on hand to provide free support and motivation towards getting active, as well as helping to establish new physical activities in your area.

The project has four practical funds available to help set up new activities –

1. **Physical Activity Fund** - Used to buy equipment and help promote your new club / group. This can be up to £500 and up to 80% of the project cost.
2. **Training Fund** - To help get someone qualified to lead the group! This can be up to £250 and up to 80% of the training cost.
3. **Transport & Access Fund** – Help to get people to an activity and remove barriers to people accessing the activity. This can be up to £500 and up to 80% of the project cost.
4. **Taster Session Fund** - Which can be used to cover the costs of an initial session for people to try for free! This is a smaller fund used to cover basic costs and give communities the chance to try an activity - contact your local activator for more information if you have an idea for an activity that you would like to try out in your community!

The project can also provide;

- Information (Details of facilities, activities and contacts available to you in local community)
- Advice (5X30 Community Activators are available with advice to ensure that you are aware of what is available)
- Support (Available to provide motivation, training and initial support for individuals and groups) and
- Assistance (Funding and resources available to assist groups and individuals overcome barriers to getting involved in physical activity)

There is also a website www.5X30.org, and if you would like to get more involved (maybe you are part of a community group, are an activity provider or represent a village hall?) you can join the 5X30 Network, which gets local people together to discuss how they can work in partnership to create more physical activity opportunities.

If you would like more information about the 5X30 project, its events, grants, support or information on activities available in your area please see the 5X30 Project website www.5X30.org or contact the head office on 01884 234390 to get in touch with your local 5X30 Community Activator.

For any other information, please contact Project Co-ordinator, Esther Richmond on 01884 234390 or e-mail admin@5x30.org.

Transformation Fund and Graduate Leader Fund

Devon Early Years and Childcare Service still has extra funding available from the **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; and you may also be eligible for a Bonus Payment when you complete your qualification. The funding available for full day care settings that employ graduates can support training for all staff in the setting, and can boost staff wages.

If you would like further details about the Transformation Fund or if you would like to apply for funding, please contact Zen Bailey on 01392 385420 or email zenaida.bailey@devon.gov.uk

The Transformation Fund is a two year fund until March 2008, it will then be replaced by the **Graduate Leader Fund**. The Graduate Leader Fund is initially a 3 year fund with the same aim as the Transformation Fund but with greater flexibility. We are currently awaiting final guidance about the fund which should be available by the end of this year.

Prospectus for Extended Services in and around Schools (ESS)

A very useful prospectus has now been developed for Extended Services. To obtain a copy go to : www.devonchildrenstrust.org.uk/index/axs/ess.htm

Polish translated leaflets available

Just to let you all know that the EYEF Grant Funding leaflet is available in Polish and can be obtained by logging onto www.devon.gov.uk/eyef_polish.pdf

The Devon County Council 'Welcome' leaflets are available from Loraine Davis, Head of Service, English as an additional Language Service - email: loraine.davis@devon.gov.uk

Stop The Rot

Is a free, non profit, non-political campaign to prevent tooth decay in young children.

Go on line to www.stop-the-rot.co.uk to register your nursery/pre-school and receive your pack.



Contact Details

District Co-ordinator

Calendula Bowen
01884 257902 or 07969 684663
calendula.bowen@devon.gov.uk

District Administrator

Debbie Shepherd
01392 385987 or 01884 257902
deborah.shepherd@devon.gov.uk

Out of School Development Worker

Helen Stephenson
07970 451872 or 01884 257902
helen.stephenson@devon.gov.uk

Early Years Advisors

01392 384856
Culm/Tiverton
Jenny Henriques

07791 157283
jenny.henriques@devon.gov.uk

Crediton

Lesley Ackerman

07791 157223

lesley.ackerman@devon.gov.uk

Recruitment

Charlotte Moss
01392 386459 or 07815 185096
charlotte.moss@devon.gov.uk

Heather Quance

07815 185608

heather.quance@devon.gov.uk

Registration/Inspection Support

Advisor Lin Hibbard

07815 185181

lin.hibbard@devon.gov.uk

TRIO Childcare Development Workers

Alison Smallacombe

alison.smallacombe@triochildcare.co.uk

01363 881468

Judith Jones

judith.jones@triochildcare.co.uk

01884 254939

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

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.