

Early Years and Childcare  
**South Hams  
District Newsletter**



Spring 2008

## Happy New Year to you all

We hope that you all had a good Christmas, and that those Settings that opened over the Christmas Break had a lot of fun?! Is it just me or does Christmas Come around quicker every year?

We hope that you find the information contained within the South Hams District Newsletter useful, it is your newsletter and if at any time you would like to make a contribution - maybe a success story or good news to share, then we are more than happy to publish it for you. If you have photographs of events you have held, we could include those too!

The autumn was a time with lots of changes, Trio Childcare is now offering the Early Years Support, and the new workers are Mo Hocking for Dartmouth and Totnes, Jane Vooght for Ivybridge and Kingsbridge. Their contact details are below and I am sure you will find their support and advice invaluable. Many of you will know Jane and Mo from three years ago when they covered the South Hams before Lorna was taken on.

**Mo Hocking Childcare Development Worker**  
**01647 440052**  
**mo.hocking@triochildcare.co.uk**

**Jane Vooght Childcare Development Worker**  
**01626 870144**  
**jane.vooght@triochildcare.co.uk**

Lorna Pitts has moved on to two new roles; Firstly as the Registration Support Officer for the Early Years and Childcare Service, and as a Support Childminder Worker for the South and West locality. So she will still be a familiar face in the area. Her contact details are later in this newsletter with more information about her new roles.

## Ivybridge Tots to Teens

This Booklet has been produced for the Ivybridge, Woolwell and South Brent locality. The aim was to provide a quick reference guide to all the services for children in the area. Information for each organisation consists mainly of phone numbers and web links for you to find out more. There are many services in the area, from toddler groups, pre-schools, schools to health centres and leisure activities. But many parents/carers don't know where to access these services. The booklets have been distributed one per family to all the schools and pre-school in the area.

This booklet is available on-line at [www.devon.gov.uk/disc](http://www.devon.gov.uk/disc) there are also web links to the schools, health centres and to Ivybridge Town Council.

Ivybridge Children's Centre, is due to be developed between 2009 - 2010. All the information in this booklet will be available from the children's centre when it is established. As sign-posting is a large part of the children's centre core offer, helping parents to get the help they need at a time that they need it.

This publication would not have been possible with out the kind donations and support for the local councillors Roger Croad, (Ivybridge), John Hart, Bickleigh & Wembury), William Mumford (Yealmpton) and Trevor Pennington (South Brent). The Early Years and Childcare Service, Ivybridge Local Learning Community, and Ivybridge Family Learning.



## Network meetings

We held two network meetings this term the first was in Tresillion in Kingsbridge, in October. When we had a very informative talk from Nic Dunn, about the Transformation Fund and Graduate Leader Fund. This was followed by a Christmas craft workshop, there were lots of ideas to take away but I think more coffee and cakes were consumed over a lively chat than actual craft items made. But this is what network meetings are all about, to meet and talk to other providers in the area and exchange stories. I am always looking for themes for new network meetings can you please let me know if you have any ideas, or can donate a venue.

The next network meeting was in December, at time of writing this network had not actually happened, will up date you all in the next newsletter!

## Kingsbridge Area Children's Centre Family Fun Day

Tuesday, 23rd October 2007 – 11am – 3pm

Kingsbridge Area Children's Centre held its first Family Fun Day at Kingsbridge Community Primary School during the autumn half term holiday. The day promoted the Children's Centre and the services provided in partnership with or by other organisations supporting families with young children.

A range of craft activities were on offer for children 0- 5 years old, including face painting, pumpkin decorating, felt making and a baby corner. The highlight of the day was magician 'Emazdad's show which delighted the children and the adults too! An opportunity was also provided for parents and carers to give their views on what they feel is needed for families with young children in the area.



A high number of families attended the day with 77 adults, 137 children including 105, 0-5 year olds. Feedback from families was extremely positive with comments such as :- "Brilliant fun, should be made a

permanent fixture", "a much needed fun day for the kids", "lots of easy things to learn and do again at home – great fun!"

Local Services Coordinator Elaine Musgrave was delighted with the success of the event, "this has been a very positive event for the Children's Centre, providing an opportunity for families to have fun and be more informed about services in their area such as Family Play Bus, Home Start, Family Learning and DISC - it's been a great day for us all"

The Children's Centre plans to put on another Fun Day in the spring half term holiday 2008.

## Dartmouth Area Children's Centre Family Fun day

Kingswear. Thursday, 25th October 2007 – 11am – 3pm

This was a first to hold a fun day in Kingswear, but the turn out was really good, in spite of the weather. There were lots of activities on offer; all following the Halloween theme, Meg & Mog shadow puppet making, Halloween badge making, fir cone animals and Halloween cards, Creative spider making: Book stall and storytelling, Face painting, Pumpkin decorating: Play dough and a soft toy play area for babies: provided by the Family Play Bus. Many children just enjoyed the chance to play with arts and crafts and make a mess!



## Apply for a New Rupert Bear® Woodland Magic Pack!

Nursery teachers can now register to receive a free exclusive Rupert Bear® Woodland Magic Pack, containing a range of fun nature activities, a DVD, a height chart and a measuring ribbon, to help children 0-6 unlock the magic of ancient trees. <http://rupertbear.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/>

## Goodbye from Sharon!

I hope that you have had a restful Christmas Break, and that the Clubs who opened over the Christmas Period had a lot of fun with their Christmas Activities!!

As some of you may be aware, my Role has changed and I am no longer the Out of School Development Worker for your Area. Your new Out of School Development Worker will be contacting you in due course to arrange site visits. In the meantime, however, if you have any concerns or queries regarding reports that I have made, or advice that I have given you, please do not hesitate in contacting me. If you have a new concern, please feel free to contact either myself or your District Co-ordinator, Tania Skinner on 01392 386072, who will be happy to help or advise you, until your new Out of School Development Worker has settled into the Post.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for warm welcomes and the professional yet friendly working relationships that I have had with you all, and to wish you every success for the future.

**Sharon Gehringer, District Co-ordinator – West Devon**

### ...Give Us A Game... CLUMPS...

A game to get people into groups and raise awareness of things they have in common and to help settle new children into Settings – works best with 10 or more participants. Time: 5 – 10 minutes.

#### How does it work?

- Assemble the Group and explain the Rules – that the Group must sort itself according to what the facilitator calls.
- For example, if the facilitator calls “Clumps threes” people get into groups of three, or if the facilitator calls “Clumps sixes” people will need to get into groups of six, etc.
- You can use different examples – such as “Clumps shoe sizes”, clothes/shoes colours, month born in, pets, family, name begins with, etc.



#### Why do we like it?

- It's not competitive, so no-one wins or loses!!
- Can help new children settle in to your Setting, by talking with others.
- It can help forge new friendships and connections within a Setting.
- It can help break down barriers where children think that they or others are different or that they don't fit in.
- It helps to get children to move around! The space you use and the more you have playing will help develop spatial awareness, movement skills, etc.
- Communication and Language Skills are developed.

## Support for Childminders in West Devon, South Hams and Teignbridge

Barnardo's is one of the country's largest children's charities, working with children,



**BELIEVE IN CHILDREN**

young people and families in many different settings. We 'Believe in Children'. We believe that all children have a right to grow up free from poverty, abuse and discrimination. Barnardo's has been running Family Centres, Sure Starts and Neighbourhood Nurseries for many years and we are now managing Children's Centres in lots of areas, including nine in Devon. We have supported childminders through our work in Children's Centres and we have worked closely with NCMA, Trio Childcare and other agencies.

Barnardo's SW was delighted to be selected by Devon County Council to deliver the support for childminders across West Devon, South Hams and Teignbridge. We started this work in mid September by transferring Louise Fisher from DCMA and we have now recruited two other people to join Louise in her role as Childcare Development Worker. **Lorna Pitts is covering the South Hams**, and combining her new role with Barnardo's with her post as Registration Support Advisor at Devon Early Years & Childcare Service. Karen Mallett is covering West Devon – Karen is also an Accredited childminder, based in Okehampton, and her core days with Barnardo's will be Tuesdays and Thursdays. Louise is continuing to cover the Teignbridge area. Our team of three workers will be supported by Karen Davey for administration who can be contacted on 01566 779811.

It is our vision that the support role will be linked closely to local Children's Centres and the services that they deliver. We are managing six of the Children's Centres in this part of Devon and we will make sure that childminders are able to find advice, help and development opportunities through their local Children's Centre. We will be offering to visit all childminders in our area (over 300 of them!) as soon as possible and we would suggest that in the meantime, anyone with an urgent enquiry can either contact Louise Fisher on 07876 214958 to seek support, or they can contact their local Children's Centre.

We are very much looking forward to working with this large team of professional childminders who deliver a vital role in providing flexible and accessible childcare which is so important to many families.

## News from your Registration and Inspection Team

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.

### 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 covering the South Hams are now:

Mary Cousins: Registration and Inspection Support Officer.

Tel 07815 189 281 or 01392 385533

email: [mary.cousins@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mary.cousins@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](mailto:lorna.pitts@devon.gov.uk)

### Administrator

Sarah Edwards: Registration and Inspection Support Administrator

Tel 01392 381598

email: [sarah.edwards@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.edwards@devon.gov.uk) or

[registrationsupport@devon.gov.uk](mailto:registrationsupport@devon.gov.uk)

### Childcare Referral Advisor for South Hams, Teignbridge, Exeter, East and Mid Devon

Mandy Cluett: Childcare Referral Advisor. Home based.

Tel 07971 513 567

email: [mandy.cluett@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.cluett@devon.gov.uk)

### 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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

## Staffing Matters Update

### Important Changes For Employers/ Employees From Oct 07

The **National Minimum Wage** has increased. The basic rate for people aged 22+ increases from £5.35 to £5.52 per hour. There are other rates for other ages.

Minimum right to holiday pay increased from 4 weeks (20 days) to 4.8 weeks (24 days). This can include bank/ public holidays. This is due to increase again to 28 days on 1st April 2009.

More information can be found on the Direct Gov website: [www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Employees](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Employees) and for information relating to the National Minimum Wage log onto [www.hmrc.gov.uk/nmw](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/nmw)

### **New Helpline Service**

Early Years and childcare employers and employees are now able to access a free, impartial and expert Human Resources Helpline, which has been launched. 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 contracts and terms of employment
- Grievances, disputes, disciplinary procedures and dismissals
- Holiday entitlements - including the latest on changes in law relating to Bank Holidays
- Notice periods
- Ensuring compliance with recent changes in law, e.g. Age discrimination and its impact on person specifications (for example)
- Good practice approaches to recruiting, (short listing, interviewing and conducting checks/ CRBs)
- Other issues relating to compliance with employment law, from employers and from staff

The Helpline can be contacted between the hours of 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday, on 01392 385555 or by email: [hrrshelp@devon.gov.uk](mailto:hrrshelp@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, e.g. 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 474747, ([www.acas.org.uk](http://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 contact the Recruitment & Retention Team. Tel: 01392 385398 or email [childrensworkforce-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:childrensworkforce-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)

## **“Outstanding” ... Congratulations...**

Congratulations go to **Kingsbridge Out of School Club**, who received an ‘**Outstanding**’ in their recent Ofsted Inspection. ‘Outstanding’ grades in Out of School Clubs are rare – but nonetheless achievable as this demonstrates. Well done to the team!!!

**Beehive Pre-school at Salcombe** have just received their second “Outstanding” in a row, so well done to Hazel and her team who have worked tirelessly over the past few years.

This brings the total of “**Outstanding**” groups in our area to four as both **Merry Go Round Pre-school** and **Modbury Pre-School** received outstanding reports earlier in 2007. If there are any groups I have missed please do let me know, we also have a few outstanding childminders so keep up the good work all of you!

I would like to have a regular “**Outstanding**” section in the future newsletters so if you have been awarded an outstanding please do let me know and send me a report (with a photo if possible) to print in the next newsletter.

## **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](mailto: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.

## Graduate Leader Fund

In a letter dated 1 August 2007 to Directors of Children's Services, accompanying the allocations of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant, details were given of the new Graduate Leader Fund. For the past two years Local Authorities (LAs) have received ring-fenced money through the Transformation Fund. The purpose of this was to invest in raising the qualifications level of the early years' workforce in the non-maintained sector. The fund was ring-fenced for training and related purposes but was significantly under spent, with further under spending predicted for 2006-07. It has now been replaced by the Graduate Leader Fund. This is not ring-fenced but is intended to provide sufficient resource so that LAs can train sufficient people to have a graduate level professional in every private, voluntary or independent sector childcare setting. DCSF will consult in the coming months and provide more detailed guidance on what is expected of LAs in the autumn. The other purposes of the Transformation Fund can be met from the main outcomes, quality and inclusion block of funding.

## 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.

### Teignbridge

Wednesday 27 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Newton Abbot
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### West Devon

Thursday 14 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Lydford
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### South Hams

Monday 25 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Ivybridge
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Wednesday 5 March	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Totnes
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## Childminder Pre-registration Briefing Meetings

Totnes		
Part 1	Saturday 19 January	11 am – 1 pm
Part 2	Saturday 26 January	11 am – 1 pm
Part 1	Tuesday 25 March	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Part 2	Tuesday 1 April	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Part 1	Monday 30 June	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Part 2	Monday 7 July	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Part 1	Saturday 20 September	11 am – 1 pm
Part 2	Saturday 27 September	11 am – 1 pm

Newton Abbot		
Part 1	Thursday 28 February	10 am – 12 pm
Part 2	Thursday 6 March	10 am – 12 pm
Part 1	Tuesday 29 April	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Part 2	Tuesday 6 May	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Part 1	Thursday 10 July	10 am – 12 pm
Part 2	Thursday 17 July	10 am – 12 pm
Part 1	Thursday 16 October	10 am – 12 pm
Part 2	Thursday 23 October	10 am – 12 pm

Ivybridge		
Part 1	Saturday 10 May	10 am – 12 pm
Part 2	Saturday 17 May	10 am – 12 pm
Part 1	Tuesday 18 November	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Part 2	Tuesday 25 November	6.30 – 8.30 pm

Attendance at both Part 1 and Part 2 is necessary but these can be at different venues and times. Please call the Devon Early Years Inspection Support Team on 01392 381598 to book.

Please phone Dawn Meredith (EYA Team Administrator) on 01392 385525 or email dawn.meredith@devon.gov.uk for an application form for either Cluster Group meetings or training events. Please note that an application forms must be completed. Telephone bookings cannot be accepted.

## Spring Courses Available

Please phone Dawn Meredith (EYA Team Administrator) on 01392 385525 or email dawn.meredith@devon.gov.uk

COURSE TITLE	DATES	TIME	VENUE
Pla Planning day 1	15/01/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Lavender House Hotel, Knowle Hill, Ashburton
Early Phonics	21/01/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Lavender House Hotel, Knowle Hill, Ashburton
Music, rhythm and rhyme	23/01/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Tavistock Town Hall, Bedford Square, Tavistock
EYFS day training for practitioners	28/01/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Tavistock Town Hall, Bedford Square, Tavistock
Planning day 2	08/02/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Lavender House Hotel, Knowle Hill, Ashburton
The Role of the Practitioner	14/02/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Ivybridge Town Hall, Leonards Rd, Ivybridge
Observation and assessment	28/02/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Tavistock Town Hall, Bedford Square, Tavistock
Fun with food	06/03/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Ivybridge Town Hall, Leonards Rd, Ivybridge
Creche Workers Workshop	11/03/2008	10.00 - 3.00	The Ockment Centre, North Street, Okehampton
Outdoor learning	13/03/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Passage House Hotel, Hackney Lane, Kingsteignton
The thinking child	19/03/2008	10.00 - 3.00	The Ockment Centre, North Street, Okehampton
Developing an environment for independent learning	26/03/2008	10.00 - 3.00	The Ockment Centre, North Street, Okehampton
Child Development (0-3 emphasis)	27/03/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Ivybridge Town Hall, Leonards Rd, Ivybridge
Pla Planning day 1	15/01/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Lavender House Hotel, Knowle Hill, Ashburton
Early Phonics	21/01/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Lavender House Hotel, Knowle Hill, Ashburton
Music, rhythm and rhyme	23/01/2008	10.00 - 3.00	Tavistock Town Hall, Bedford Square, Tavistock

## Child Protection Training

Two-day multi-agency child protection foundation training is again available to workers in the voluntary sector (paid and unpaid). The cost of the two day course will be £45 (reduced partner agency rate) per person and there are a range of dates and venues, though places are filling fast.

For more information contact either Anita Davidson (01392 383366 or e-mail anita.davidson@devon.gov.uk ) or Kristy Burnett (01392 383371 or email kristy.burnett@devon.gov.uk).

## First Aid Training

**£345+VAT for a group of 12**

First aid courses delivered at your premises, our Emergency First Aid for Appointed Persons course is just £345 + VAT for a group of 12 people, that's only £28.75 + VAT each! We also offer a range of other competitively priced courses including HSE First Aid at Work Training, First Aid for Schools and Paediatric First Aid plus many more.

For further details contact us to discuss your training requirements or visit our website: [www.factstraining.co.uk](http://www.factstraining.co.uk) to find out more or call us on 01803 525256.

## Trio childcare

Trio childcare are holding some voluntary committee surgeries in the New Year these are aimed at the committee members rather than the staff, and should be very helpful. They will cover issues such as staffing, business, and management. If the committee don't normally see this newsletter please can you pass it on to them!



### Voluntary Committee Surgeries

Tuesday 15 January	7pm - 9pm	Daisy Play Centre, Totnes
Saturday 26 January	10am - 12noon	Newton Abbot Race Course
w/b 21 January		Okehampton Venue tbc

## Meynell Games Training

What Makes a Meynell Games Play Work Training Course or Event Special?

Meynell Games believes in fun and challenging training. Participants are encouraged to negotiate the content of the sessions and actively participate through a learning atmosphere that values people's contributions. Meynell Games is committed to raising the standard of play work training and the professional standing of play workers and as an organisation is committed to developing positive practices in play work.

When working with adults i.e. in training sessions the aim is to treat the adults in the same respectful and playful way children and young people are treated. Improving play opportunities is not only about ideas for activities it is about a playful attitude.

Training Courses: Include Qualifications; CACHE level 2 and 3 courses in playwork;



Short Courses (CPD Programmes), An introduction to the eye opener, Parachute Play, Rain doesn't need to be a pain, Bringing fire into the play setting (3 hours), Creative play (3 hours), Physical play and games (3 hours).

Meynell Games is working in partnership with Devon Children & Young Peoples Service. If you are interested in any of the above courses please contact the Meynell Games Office on 01323 730500 or Louise Kennedy the Training & Development Play worker on 0845 217 8955 for further details. or fill-in the flier enclosed with this newsletter.

## Launch of a Brand New Early Years News Service

Early Years News UK is the country's first national purely online news and information service for early years. It is packed with updated news; valuable features; training opportunities; jobs; and a free online discussion forum. Early Years News UK is aimed at busy professionals who want to keep up to date with current events and improve their practice. There is something for everyone including childminders, out of school staff, nurseries, nursery schools, heads of early years departments, pre-school playgroups and all those interested in the sector. The coming months and years promise to be an exciting time for early years with billions of pounds of government investment. We will explain new initiatives and examine the impact on your business or service. Where possible, we will interview the key players to ask the questions you want to know the answers to. With a target audience of over 20,000, it is the ideal place to advertise or find a wide range of jobs anywhere in the country. Run out of ideas for high quality activities for children? Read our valuable features on fun, engaging and educational ways to keep young children on task and happy! You can also join in with discussions on our early years forum. Share your thoughts and experiences with others and enjoy lively debates!

Log on to our website: [www.earlyyearsnewsuk.co.uk](http://www.earlyyearsnewsuk.co.uk)

This Newsletter is produced by Devon County Council, Early Years and Childcare Service, South Hams District, Parkers Barn, Parkers Way, Totnes TQ9 5UF. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Devon County Council. Got any news? Please contact Tania Skinner on 01392 386072 or e-mail [tania.skinner@devon.gov.uk](mailto:tania.skinner@devon.gov.uk)

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.