

Autumn 2007

# Children's Centre Fun Day in Tavistock

## Tavistock Area



Father's Day was celebrated in style in Tavistock this year.

Barnardo's hosted a 'Father's Day Fun in the Park' event for families in the Meadows.

Local organisations and volunteers joined Barnardo's staff to offer non stop activities and family fun from 11am - 2pm on Sunday June 17th.

The aim of the day was to raise local awareness

of the children's centre initiative and to have the chance to talk to families about their needs and how the children's centre can effectively support parents and their families, including children 0-5 years old.

Activities included interactive music workshops, a magic show and story telling. There were also mask making, wet felt craft workshops, face painting and bouncy castle.

Thankfully the weather was sunny and over 200 people attended!

Anyone in the Tavistock area wanting to know more about children's centre services can speak to Jenny Coleman, centre manager on 01822 614210. Also working for Barnardo's are Janice Goodwin - Local Services Co-ordinator and Shona Towl - Project Administrator.

The centre's role is to involve parents and professionals in deciding what services are needed locally and where there are gaps. To do this we are very keen to involve parents and really listen to what they feel they need for themselves and their children. We especially would like to hear from Dads and parents of children who have additional needs.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this process and would like to know more; then please ring us on 01822 614210. There is usually someone in the office between 9.00am and 1.00pm Monday to Friday. You won't be committing yourself just by asking for more information.

The office address is - Office 8, Tavy Business Centre, Rowden Wood Road, Pitts Cleave Industrial Estate, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 0NU.



# More hellos and goodbyes!

## Goodbye to Mary Emery

A letter from Mary written just before she left.

Dear All,

After long threatening the time has finally arrived for me to leave Devon County Council in general and the Early Years Children's Services in particular. I first started working for Social Services in Tavistock, on a six week temporary contract, in February 1990 and here I am over 17 years later, still here!

I moved from the Social Services side to Early Years – which at that time had the snappy title of 'Devon Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership' - in 2001 very soon after its inception, and worked very happily with Lorraine Barlow for some time until she left for pastures new on the other side of the Tamar. I'm quite proud of the fact that I instigated the concept of a District Newsletter in 2001, an idea which was soon taken up and put into practice across the County, although when printing deadlines are looming I'm not sure that my District Administrator colleagues necessarily bless me for that bright idea!

Since then I fear that it's become a standing joke that although District Co-ordinators may come and go, (Tania, Jackie, Tina and Ruth), and names and logos are changed with confusing regularity, through it all I've been the constant face of Early Years and Childcare Services in West Devon. That in itself has been great for me as I've been able to see groups and organisations set up from scratch and then become established and successful, (most notably Hatherleigh Mini Sure Start – now the Hatherleigh Children's Centre), and along the way I've made some good friends and colleagues. But now it's time for me to move on too, and though I shall miss you all, I'm leaving with some happy memories.

I know some of you will want to know what I'm up to – so I'll just add that in conjunction with my husband being moved to a new post in South Wales, I'm moving back to my home county of Worcestershire, which will be an easier commute for him, and nearer to my family, both young and old, for me.

Thank you to everyone who has sent kind wishes for the future, although I wasn't expecting them I really do appreciate your kind thoughts.



It just remains for me to wish you all the very best fortune for the future, and to tell you to keep up the good work – and last but not least – KEEP READING YOUR NEWSLETTERS!

As for me – I shall be practising my new life-style . . . Relaxing!

Sincerely, Mary Emery  
Ex District Administrator

## And goodbye to Ruth Bushell

Initially my involvement with the early years and childcare service (zero14plus) was through undertaking the Children's Centre development work last summer in Okehampton. Since becoming district coordinator last autumn I have really missed that type of work - working directly with families and parents and so am going back to my roots and children's centre work by becoming the Local Services Coordinator for the Barnardo's Children's Centre in Okehampton.

My biggest regret is that, with so many of you, I only communicated by email or phone calls. I would have liked to meet more of you in person, to come out and see your settings and the good work that I know is going on in them. Perhaps some of you will pop into the Children's Centre and I'll get to meet you there!

We have a temporary base/office in the Ockment Centre, contact details are 01837 658621 ruth.bushell@barnardos.org.uk Nicola Stoneman is also working for the centre as administrator and can be contacted at the above number.

## Welcome to Judith, our new District Administrator!

My name is Judith Gioiella, and I have recently taken over the District Administrator's role in Tavistock. I have spent the last 7 months based here at Abbey Rise working on the administrative side of the Children & Young People's Services which has been an invaluable experience. I previously spent several happy years working at West Devon Business Information Point based in Okehampton, again in administration, working to provide information and training to both people starting in business and to the agricultural sector.

I became a grandmother for the first time in August last year and this opened up a completely new role for me. My daughter was returning to work after her Maternity Leave and so we entered the world of Childcare together. I had no conception of the services which are now in place to assist parents

in returning to work together with the activities that are available. This was the beginning of my interest in Early Years, so together with my previous experience in Children & Young People's Services I am at the beginning of my journey. I look forward to working with you all in the future.

## Out of School Development Worker News

Hi All

Congratulations to all the Playworkers who made it through their Summer Holiday Clubs!!! I enjoyed getting out and seeing you all – and taking the opportunity to get involved in some of your activities as well!! Thank you for making me so welcome during my visits.

Also, welcome back to all those Playworkers who had a break over the summer period – I hope that you all had a restful break, and are ready for the new term. I will be making visits to all the After School and Before School Settings over the coming months, so I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Sharon Gehringer,  
Out of School Development Worker  
email: [sharon.gehringer@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.gehringer@devon.gov.uk)

### Muddy Faces

Muddy Faces have established an online shop to support challenging outdoor play and education.



Whether you are out in the garden, school grounds or local woodland, are an established or developing Forest School. The product range, put together by experienced practitioners, is both useful and inspiring. Go to [www.muddyfaces.co.uk](http://www.muddyfaces.co.uk) and click on the Forest School Equipment Section for a Range of Tools, the Outdoor Play Section for Den Building or Imaginative Play Kits, the Health and Safety Section for Resources, Information and Kits, or the Gardens and Wildlife Section for Gardening Tools and Animal and Insect Attractants, Feeders and Homes! For further Information, please email [info@muddyfaces.co.uk](mailto:info@muddyfaces.co.uk) or phone 0114 2583151.

### ...THANK YOU...

Many thanks to all the Out of School Groups who contributed to the Childcare Sufficiency Audit, by Consulting with Children in your Settings to gain their views on the Childcare that they receive or would like to receive. This information will be collated to form an insight into the thoughts of children across Devon, and included in the Childcare Sufficiency Report, which will be made available to you. We hope that you found the activities useful, and that you will

continue to consult with children about your settings.

If you were not involved in the Audit, but would like ideas and information on consulting with children, please email me at the above address.

### ...NETWORK MEETINGS...

Thank you for your responses regarding Network Meetings. The general feedback is that you would all still like to have them, but to tailor them specifically to Out of Schools and Early Years. This may eventually mean separate Network meetings for each type of care, and they could follow on from other meetings that settings attend (such as OUTS and Cluster Groups), to ensure that settings can co-ordinate their valuable time more effectively. In the meantime, we will aim to have one Network meeting for all providers, around November, for Christmas planning and activity ideas. However, the new District Co-ordinator and Sharon Gehringer (Out of School Development Worker) will arrange this and release the date, venue and theme information to you all at a later time.

### ...UPCOMING DATES AND THEMES...

Dates to inspire activities and themes in your settings!

#### September

The Mayflower Set Sail - Sept 6th  
Ramadan - Sept 13th to Oct 12th  
Rosh Hashanah - Sunset Sept 13th - Nightfall Sept 15th  
Mexican Independence Day - Sept 16th  
Yom Kippur - Sept 22nd (Sundown)  
Grandparent's Day - Sept 22nd

#### October

Sputnik 1 Launched - Oct 4th, 1957 (the first space vehicle)  
United Nations Day - Oct 24th  
Halloween - Oct 31st

#### November

All Saints Day - Nov 1st  
Guy Fawkes Day /Fireworks Night - Nov 5th  
Diwali - November 9th  
Remembrance Sunday - Nov 11th  
Mickey Mouse's Birthday - Nov 18th  
Thanksgiving Day (USA) - Nov 22nd  
Feast of Saint Andrew - Nov 30th  
(Whilst every effort is taken to ensure these dates and events are correct, settings are advised to research them prior to planning activities as some dates change each year)

#### Don't Forget!

We have a range of equipment (including musical and physical), in our office at Abbey Rise that is available for hire. This equipment can be used to 'spice up' activity plans or enhance children's play opportunities. For further details, please email me at the above address.

### ... GIVE US A GAME... 'Snatch the Keys'...

A Different Game to Try in Your Settings.....

You will Need ... A Coin, A Set of Keys and a Minimum of 10 Players (Two Equal Teams, both with a minimum of 4



players, a Game 'Leader' and a Game 'Ender'). Object of the Game ... To become the Team to get the Keys first! This Game will enable Children to explore competitive feelings, such as Winning and Losing (and Cheating!).

How to Play ...

- Players form two lines in front of and facing the 'game leader' (who holds the Coin). These will be the two teams.
- Players in each Team should stand side by side, with their backs to the opposing Team, holding hands with the person next to them. Everyone except the front player of each team should close their eyes. The end player should look at the keys.
- Place the Keys at an equal, accessible distance from the last player on each team. The 'game ender' will need to stand with the keys to observe fair play!!
- Explain that when the coin is flipped to Heads, the first player on each team must pass a gentle 'hand squeeze' to the person next to them, and this then travels down the team. When the last player is squeezed, they should 'snatch the keys'. The Team that grabs the keys first, scores a point.
- If a 'hand squeeze' is passed on Tails, and keys are snatched, the team loses a point.
- After each 'snatch', players move up one – so everyone has the opportunity to start the 'hand squeeze', and to 'snatch the keys'.

Possible Adaptations for Inclusion ...

- Play standing or Sitting on Floor or Chairs
- Tap Hands or Feet instead of Squeezing Hands
- Whisper instead of touching/holding hands
- Whispered Trigger Word Instead of a Coin
- Object can be changed to make the 'snatch' easier

## Ofsted Newsletter

You can subscribe free to Ofsted News at <http://ofstednews.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Read it to keep up to speed on developments in inspection and regulation, put the best of good practice in context, take part in consultations and choose from our latest published findings.

Don't forget your colleagues and friends can subscribe too log on to <http://live.ofsted.gov.uk/newsletter/> and follow the link.

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

## Every Child Matters Awareness Sessions

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

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

**South Hams** - The Daisy Centre, Totnes Children Centre, Thursday 18th October 6.30pm - 9pm

**Teignbridge** - Old Forde House, Teignbridge District Council, Newton Abbot, Tuesday 6th November, 9.30am - 12 noon

**West Devon** - Tuesday 4th December 4-6.30pm - venue to be arranged.

To book please contact Judith Gioiella West Devon district administrator on 01392 386743

Every Child Matters  
Change For Children

## 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 and Time	Venue
Tavistock	Judy Topley	Monday 12th November 1.00 - 3.00 pm	Tavistock Community Pre-school, Alexander Centre
Okehampton	Ailsa Trenerry	Friday 2nd November 1.00 - 3.00 pm	Ockment Centre

### More training through Devon Early Years and Childcare Service

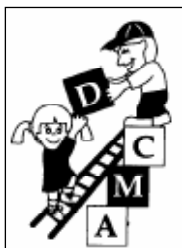
COURSE TITLE	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	VENUE
Writing and implementing an inclusion policy	10/10/2007	10.00 -3.00	Central	Fingle Glen Golf Hotel, Tedburn St Mary
Creche Workers course	22/11/2007	10.00 - 3.00	Central	Fingle Glen Golf Hotel, Tedburn St Mary
Letters and sounds. Early Phonics	18/10/2007	10.00 -3.00	South	Ivybridge Town Hall, Leonards Road, Ivybridge
The importance of movement in the Early Years	08/11/2007	10.00 -3.00	South	Lavender House Hotel, Knowle Hill, Ashburton
Early Writing	05/11/2007	10.00 -3.00	South	Alexander Centre, 62 Plymouth Road, Tavistock
Code of Practice	01/11/2007	10.00 -3.00	South	Ivybridge Town Hall, Leonards Road, Ivybridge
The Development of communication	29/11/2007	10.00 -3.00	South	Ivybridge Town Hall, Leonards Road, Ivybridge
Early Number and problem solving	27/09/2007	10.00 -3.00	South	Ivybridge Town Hall, Leonards Road, Ivybridge
Writing and implementing an inclusion policy	11/10/2007	10.00 -3.00	South	Passage House Hotel, Hackney Lane, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot
Supporting positive behaviour (0-3 emphasis)	22/11/2007	10.00 -3.00	South	Passage House Hotel, Hackney Lane, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot
Gathering Evidence at Early years Action	31/10/2007	10.00 -3.00	South	Passage House Hotel, Hackney Lane, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot

To book on the above training or the Cluster Group Meetings, or If you have any queries, please phone Dawn Meredith on 01392 385525 or email [dawn.meredith@devon.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.meredith@devon.gov.uk)

# Child Minding News

## 4 Children Childcare Awards

Devon Child Minding Association was nominated for this year's 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](http://www.devonca.org)



## Children and their Childminders have Fun at the Pony Centre

Devon Child Minding Association (DCMA) celebrated 21 years of working with childminders and parents in style this year with 9 local events held across Plymouth, Devon and Torbay. The "Wild About Devon" series of fun days out were supported by Awards for All and highlighted children's learning and development within our Devon culture.

On Tuesday 19th June, despite the black clouds

and showery weather twelve childminders, one parent and forty two children came out to play at The Original Pony Centre in Moretonhampstead. They helped feed the animals, went



in the paddocks with the ponies, had pony rides and played in the play areas.

They enjoyed snacks from the café and picnics out doors before the heavens opened and thunder struck, luckily enough it was time to go, so a good day was had by all.

DCMA spokesperson Paula Honeychurch-Hann said, "It was great to see so many adults and children enjoying this fantastic local resource.

Watching the faces of the children light up as they fed armfuls of hay to the ponies, and seeing them in the paddocks with the ponies and donkeys, you could tell how much they were enjoying the hands-on experience of our local countryside."

## 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 we have been very fortunate to receive a grant from Awards for All to enable us 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. We 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.

**For more information concerning DCMA and the Toy Library, visit [www.devonca.org](http://www.devonca.org) or call Janet Dix on 01752 202059.**

## National Minimum Wage

National Minimum Wage will rise by 17p to £5.52 an hour from October 2007.

The rate for 18-21 year olds will increase from £4.45 to £4.60

The rate for 16 and 17 year olds will rise from £3.30 to £3.40

The rise represents an increase in adult wages of 3.2% for 1.3 million workers.

## Early Years Education Grant Funding Information

Parent Rota - To confirm and clarify that providers of EYEF sessions cannot impose parents to carry out a parent rota duty nor make charges to them for not doing so. Should you require any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact Marie Stone Finance & Systems Officer  
[marie.stone@devon.gov.uk](mailto:marie.stone@devon.gov.uk) Tel: 01392 385443

## Changes to Government Departments

Three new departments were set up by the Prime Minister on 28 June 2007. They replace the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is responsible for improving the focus on all aspects of policy affecting children and young people, as part of the Government's aim to deliver educational excellence.

## Smoke Free England

On July 1st 2007, England introduced a new law to make virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England smokefree.

All smokefree premises and vehicles need to display no-smoking signs that meet the requirements of the law.

No-smoking signs make it clear which premises and vehicles are smokefree and demonstrate that you are taking the necessary steps to meet the requirements of the new smokefree law.

Go to <http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/> and click on Business and Employers, where you can read more about the Legislation and Download or Order the Required Signage or Guidance.



## Learning and Development Opportunities Autumn Term 2007

The New Workforce Development Directory 2007 – 2008 is now available, as is the Autumn Term Workforce Development Bulletin, which details upcoming courses throughout September - December. All settings should have received a copy, if you have not received yours, please contact Alyson Edworthy on 01392 385528 to receive your copy, and a chance to access a wide range of Short Courses and Qualifications. Providers can also go online for further information or to check for upcoming courses in the area. Visit [www.traintoworkwithchildrenindevon.org.uk/calendar:php](http://www.traintoworkwithchildrenindevon.org.uk/calendar:php)



## Academic Year 2007 – 2008

Autumn Term	
Term Starts	3 September 2007
Half Term	22 – 26 October 2007 (inclusive)
Term Ends	21 December 2007
Spring Term	
Term Starts	3 January 2008
Half Term	18 – 22 February 2008 (inclusive)
Term Ends	4 April 2008
Summer Term	
Term Starts	21 April 2008
Half Term	26 – 30 May 2008 (inclusive)
Term Ends	23 July 2008

Please Note – Easter Bank Holiday Weekend 21 – 24 March inclusive, Spring Holiday 7 – 18 April inclusive. Settings should contact their Local Schools to find out when they are holding Non-Pupil Days.

## Paediatric First Aid Training

Totnes Training run a 12 hour Paediatric First Aid course (as required by Ofsted) suitable for childcarers and childminders, including those who work in



nurseries. The course contents include dealing with emergencies, safety, unconsciousness and causes of unconsciousness, suffocation, causes of suffocation, choking, blood loss, burns, fractures, minor and major illness. Also included are Older Children, Infant & Child Resuscitation. The next course will be running on 24th November and 8th December inclusive at Lower Weston Community Hall, Weston Lane Totnes. However, if there are 8 or more of you requiring training in your setting (or you can join up with another group), Totnes Training will run a course specifically for you. Cost around £60 per person. For further information, please Call 01803 866979, email [Enquiries@totnestraining.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@totnestraining.co.uk) or go online at [www.totnestraining.co.uk](http://www.totnestraining.co.uk).

## 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 with support and information. All groups 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.

## Playing Out and About: new outdoor play training courses from Playwork Partnerships

Professional training courses for playworkers in enabling, facilitating and developing children's outdoor play funded through Children's Workforce Learning Network (CWLN). Further information about these endorsed playwork training courses is available from SkillsActive at [www.playwork.co.uk](http://www.playwork.co.uk)

Two training courses have been developed

1. **Playing with the Elements**
2. **Playing on the Range.**

### Playing with the Elements (Level 3 training course)

This training course will use the theme of the four natural elements - Earth, Air, Fire and Water – to allow those with existing playwork qualifications to develop greater knowledge and skills in environmental playwork. Training will include approaches for how to find, access and develop sites for outdoor play, how to facilitate child-centred outdoor experiences and how to incorporate risktaking into children's play. Whilst the value of natural spaces for play will be explored through the residential tutor training at environmental centres in Wales, providing engaging outdoor play in limited outdoor settings will also be a key element of the course.

### Playing on the Range (Entry-level + level 2 course)

This course will focus on providing training support for the growing number of playworkers involved in play ranger projects – open-access outdoor play provision in public parks and green spaces. The course will facilitate identification of national and local barriers to outdoor play provision and methods for bridging barriers. It is envisaged that the course will provide specialised training, skills development and support relevant to play ranger work roles, but also meet the need for introductory playwork training for those new to play who are starting play ranger jobs.

### Playing on the Range Questionnaire

This questionnaire has been designed for playworkers, playleaders and managers of outdoor open access play projects for children. It aims to establish: a clear definition and scope of outdoor open access play provision; additional training needs that new or existing staff will need in delivering effective open access provision. Download questionnaire from their website [www.playwork.co.uk](http://www.playwork.co.uk)

## 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. Each wave may last two to three months across the UK as a whole.

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](mailto:flu.planning@dfes.gsi.gov.uk) or call the DfES public enquiry helpline on 0870 000 2288.

This Newsletter is produced by Devon County Council, Early Years and Childcare Service, West Devon. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Devon County Council. If you would like to contribute to this Newsletter, share good news etc please contact Judith Gioiella on 01392 386742 or e-mail [judith.gioiella@devon.gov.uk](mailto:judith.gioiella@devon.gov.uk) or write to Early Years and Childcare, Abbey Rise, Whitchurch Road, Tavistock PL19 9AS with your article and pictures.

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.