

Early Years and Childcare
**West Devon
District Newsletter**



Spring 2008

Some Hellos – and a Farewell...

A Message from your District Co-ordinator

Hi Everyone

Happy New Year to you all. My name is Sharon Gehringer, and I am your new West Devon District Co-ordinator – a role which I am (slowly) beginning to get to grips with. Some of you may already know me from my role of Out of School Development Worker – a role which I am delighted to retain for the West Devon Area. I will continue to provide Information to Out of School Settings through this Termly Newsletter – this Terms edition contains Information on upcoming visits.

For those of you who don't know me, my background in Childcare started almost 12 years ago, working in a range of Settings such as Crèches, Day Nurseries, Schools and Playgroups. I recently retrained to become a qualified Playworker, and ran an Out of School Club for two years, so I understand many pressures that Providers face. I then took on the Development Work for Tavistock's Children's Centre in 2006, before becoming the Out of School Development Worker for the South and West Area later that year.

Other changes in West Devon include a new Team for our Area! Our Team now includes Pat Harrett – our Trio Childcare Development Worker, Lorna Pitts – our Registration and Inspection Support Worker, and Louise Arscott – our Childcare Referral Advisor – all of whom I would like to wish the very best of luck in their new roles, and who I look forward to working with.

If you have any queries, please contact me on 01392 386951 or email sharon.gehringer@devon.gov.uk . I look forward to meeting you all soon, either through visits or upcoming meetings and training!



Hello from Pat

Hi, I'm Pat Harrett your Trio Childcare Connections Childcare Development Worker. I have over 30 years experience in Early Years. I have worked in the private and voluntary sector also for Social Services and Education. Over the years I have worked in most districts in Devon and have now arrived in West to follow in Maggi Calvert's footsteps supporting and advising the Private, Voluntary and Independent sector. I wish her well, by now Maggi will have settled in to her new role with the Tavistock and Okehampton Children's Centres.

I look forward to meeting you on my visits, on training and at meetings. I will be working closely with Sharon Gehringer your District Co-ordinator.

Please note the Support Surgery in January advertised in the Trio Childcare Connections Newsletter last term, has had to be changed as we heard after the

newsletter had gone to print that the Ockment centre was not able to be used as a venue this term.

You can contact me on 01647 24828 or by email Pat.Harrett@triochildcare.co.uk

Farewell from Maggi

From last October, I will no longer be your Development Worker, but you will continue to receive support, visits and information from my colleague, Pat Harrett. I have worked with Pat for over 10 years and know I am leaving you in "good hands". I would like to thank everyone I have worked with in the last 10 years, including Volunteers, Early Years staff, owners and managers in the Voluntary, Private and Independent sectors, as well as the many Early Years professionals from a wide variety of agencies, for the warm welcomes and the professional, businesslike, and friendly working relationships I have had with you all.

I will hopefully continue to see many of you as I will be working with both Tavistock and Okehampton Children's Centres.



Some more hellos... and news from The 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.

Biographies

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.

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.

The Registration and Inspection Team covering West Devon are :

Mary Cousins; Registration and Inspection Support Officer.

Tel 07815 189 281 or 01392 385533

email: mary.cousins@devon.gov.uk

Lorna Pitts; Registration Support Advisor. Home based.

Tel 07969 684 569

email: lorna.pitts@devon.gov.uk

Sarah Edwards; Registration and Inspection Support Administrator

Tel 01392 381598

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

registrationsupport@devon.gov.uk

Louise Arscott; Childcare Referral Advisor. Home based.

Tel 07971 513 563

email: louise.arscott@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

Wednesday 5 March	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Totnes
Torrige		
Monday 11 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Holsworthy

Workforce Development Directory

Don't forget the Devon Early Years and Childcare Workforce Development Directory and Termly Bulletin, which details Short Courses and Qualification Training. This can also be found online at www.traintoworkwithchildrenindevon.org.uk. If there is a course you would like to do, please contact the Training Provider direct. Training can be delivered whenever there is enough interest shown in the courses. If you have not received a copy of the Workforce Development Directory or Termly Bulletin, please contact Judith Gioiella, District Administrator on 01392 386743.

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 for 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
Teignbridge		
Wednesday 27 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Newton Abbot
West Devon		
Thursday 14 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Lydford
South Hams		
Monday 25 Feb	7 pm – 9.30 pm	Ivybridge

TRAINING

Training for working with Young People

CORE TRAINING – 2 Day Substance Misuse and Young People Course

This core training gives participants an opportunity to learn more extensively about young people's drug taking. The courses are as follows:-

Exeter: 11th & 18th January 2008, 8th and 15th February 2008, 4th and 11th March 2008.

South Devon: 18th & 25th March 2008.

SPECIALISED COURSE - Working with Young People – 1 Day Course

To give participants a variety of tools and activities in order to aid in their working with young people about drugs and alcohol, in order to increase their confidence and ability to work with young people.

Exeter: 22nd February 2008

For a booking form or more information on these courses, please contact 07890 715941 or email devondaatytraining@yahoo.co.uk

Child Protection Training

2-day multi-agency Child Protection Foundation Training is available to workers in the voluntary sector (paid and unpaid). The cost of the 2 day course will be £45 (reduced partner agency rate) per person. There are a range of dates and venues, though places are filling fast. For more information contact Anita Davidson 01392 383366, e-mail anita.davidson@devon.gov.uk, or Kristy Burnett 01392 383371, email kristy.burnett@devon.gov.uk

Playwork Training Courses

There are many Training Providers who deliver

Playwork Training, including Devon Play, EYCS, Acorn, Playlines and Meynell Games. Courses range from short day or Introductory Courses – such as Employment Law and Introduction to Playwork, through to full Qualifications. Details of Courses they offer and their Contacts can be found in the Early Years and Childcare Training Directory.

Meynell Games is a Training Provider who specialises in Playwork Courses, and offers the following courses, all of which can be found in the Directory:

Qualifications;

- CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Playwork
- CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Playwork
- Level 3 Award in Playwork for Early Years & Childcare Workers
- First Steps Playwork Induction Standard



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)
- Physical play and games (3 hours)
- Creative play (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 Devon Training & Development Playworker on 0845 217 8955 for further details, or to register your interest.

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.

Provider Network Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended the Provider Network Meeting at Nicholls Hall on 15 November 07. There was good attendance, despite it being a cold evening – both inside and out! – but the feedback was that everyone enjoyed themselves making



The star of the show!

Christmas Crafts and sharing Craft Ideas. It was a good opportunity to meet some of you in a more informal atmosphere, to update you on things that are happening in the Area, and for you to meet the new West Devon Team.

I would also like to thank everyone who completed a questionnaire on the future of Network Meetings. For those of who couldn't make it, there is a Questionnaire enclosed with this Newsletter. We would appreciate it if you could take 5 minutes to tell us what you think about Network Meetings, and help mould future ones – your thoughts really do count.



Sharing Ideas and Getting Messy!

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

Early Years Training – Spring 08

COURSE TITLE	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	VENUE
Planning day 1	15.01.08	10.00-3.00	South	Lavender House Hotel, Knowle Hill, Ashburton
EYFS day training for practitioners	16.01.08	10.00-3.00	Central	Fingle Glen Golf Hotel, Tedburn St. Mary
Planning day 1	17.01.08	10.00-3.00	Central	Exeter Racecourse, Kennford, Exeter
Early Phonics	21.01.08	10.00-3.00	South	Lavender House Hotel, Knowle Hill, Ashburton
Early Phonics	22.01.08	10.00-3.00	Central	Exeter Racecourse, Kennford, Exeter
Music, rhythm and rhyme	23.01.08	10.00-3.00	South	Tavistock Town Hall, Bedford Square, Tavistock
EYFS day training for practitioners	28.01.08	10.00-3.00	South	Tavistock Town Hall, Bedford Square, Tavistock
Child Development (0-3 emphasis)	31.01.08	10.00-3.00	Central	Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter
Planning day 2	07.02.08	10.00-3.00	Central	Exeter Racecourse, Kennford, Exeter
Planning day 2	08.02.08	10.00-3.00	South	Lavender House Hotel, Knowle Hill, Ashburton
The Role of the Practitioner	12.02.08	10.00-3.00	Central	Fingle Glen Golf Hotel, Tedburn St. Mary
The Role of the Practitioner	14.02.08	10.00-3.00	South	Ivybridge Town Hall, Leonards Road, Ivybridge
Observation and assessment	28.02.08	10.00-3.00	South	Tavistock Town Hall, Bedford Square, Tavistock
Fun with food	04.03.08	10.00-3.00	Central	Fingle Glen Golf Hotel, Tedburn St. Mary
Fun with food	06.03.08	10.00-3.00	South	Ivybridge Town Hall, Leonards Road, Ivybridge
Creche Workers Workshop	11.03.08	10.00-3.00	South	The Ockment Centre, North Street, Tavistock
The thinking child	19.03.08	10.00-3.00	South	The Ockment Centre, North Street, Tavistock
Developing and environment for independent learning	26.03.08	10.00-3.00	South	The Ockment Centre, North Street, Tavistock
Child Development (0-3 emphasis)	27.03.08	10.00-3.00	South	Ivybridge Town Hall, Leonards Road, Ivybridge

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 form must be completed. Telephone bookings cannot be accepted.

Out of School Development Worker News

Hi All, I hope that you all had a good Festive Break, and that those of you that ran Holiday Care during this period were very successful, and that you all had a good time!

I will be contacting you all over the coming months to discuss carrying out Financial Sustainability Healthchecks and Quality Checklists. Please don't worry about these! Financial healthchecks are good for ascertaining how your finances are and the sustainability of your Setting, and, if you intend to apply for Sustainability Funding, you will need to have one of these completed. Quality Checklists can show areas within your Setting that may need to be addressed – such as Training or Ofsted Requirements. Both are useful tools for yourselves and the Early Years and Childcare Service – for example, they can be used to show how better I can support you – such as identifying Sources of Funding or signposting you to Information to help update your Policies, Paperwork, etc.

If you have any queries regarding these Visits or Forms, please do let me know – my Role is to support you. I look forward to seeing you all again soon! Sharon Gehringer, District Co-ordinator and Out of School Development Worker – West Devon 01392 386951

...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, 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.

New Parent Carers' Voice Worker

Helen Phillips is the new Development Worker of the Parent Carer Forum for Families of Special Needs in West Devon, South Hams and Teignbridge. Helen has a background in special needs education working in autistic spectrum, undiagnosed learning difficulties and physical and sensory disabilities. She is in the process of organising future local forum meetings and would welcome anyone who has any ideas for these and how they can be developed. You can contact Helen on 01803 863761 or at South Hams CVS, The Cottage, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, TQ9 5NE. Helen can be contacted by email – Helen@parentcarersvoice.org. Pam Hogan covers North and Mid Devon and can be contacted on 01237 459111 or email – Pam@parentcarersvoice.org. Please note that Okehampton is covered by the Mid Devon area.

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: 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, 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

Minimum Wage

You may already be fully aware of the important changes for employers/employees. Just in case – National Minimum Wages increases the basic rate for aged 22+ from £5.35 to £5.52 per hour. 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 01.04.09.

More information on both can be found on www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Employees and relating to National Minimum wage www.hmrc.gov.uk/nmw

Help with Claims

Any family in Devon who has a child with special needs is welcome to contact Devon Welfare Rights Unit to find out whether they are receiving all the benefits they are entitled to. Over half of the families who have so far been involved with the project have found that they may be missing out – on Disability Living Allowance, Carer's Allowance and other financial help. Almost 200 families have already received extra money – an average of over £4,000 per family, most of which is regular annual income. Devon Welfare Rights Unit is part of Citizens Advice and can be contacted on 01392 274869. The project runs until 31/3/08.



West Devon Children's Centres

Tavistock Children's Centre

Tavistock Children's Centre is now running two Drop In's, one in Princetown on Wednesday mornings 10.00-12.00 at the Pavilion off Barrack Road, and one in the United Reform Church in Tavistock on Thursday mornings 10.00-12.00. Families and carers are welcome to attend; there are toys for the children to play with and staff available to meet and support the families. It is hoped that we will be able to start offering visits to these sessions by other agencies for part of the session. One week it could be a Health Visitor and the next week someone from Job Centre Plus. It very much depends on which services families would like to come along.

Our second Newsletter is about to be put together, over 250 copies of the first one went out to families. From that we have had quite a bit of feedback from parents in the area and we are looking to set up services from the requests we received.

Baby massage has begun in Tavistock and we hope to keep this as a rolling programme. There has also been a demand for baby signing and we are hoping to set that up soon. Several families are interested in baby and toddler first aid. The centre will put on a couple of basic taster sessions and if there is a good uptake, we will offer a six week certificated course. There are also plans to start Post Natal exercise classes as soon as we have suitable venues.

A breast feeding peer support group is starting soon and training will be provided. They will meet during the Tavistock Drop In to start with. A letter has gone out to all business and venues in the area to see if they are 'Child Friendly' and offer opportunities for breast feeding and baby changing in their establishments. A list of the cooperative venues will be made available to families in the area.

The team are: Jenny Coleman - Manager, Janice Goodwin - Co-ordinator, Shona Towl - Administrator. To register with the Children's Centre and receive our newsletter, please contact us at: Tavistock Business Centre, Rowden Wood Road, Pitts Cleave Industrial Estate, Tavistock. Tel: 01822 614210.

Okehampton Children's Centre

Okehampton Children's Centre is up and running!

The project is managed by Barnardo's, and we now have a team of six members of staff. At the moment we have an office at the Ockment Centre, however it is uncertain as to where our permanent base will be.

Our aim is to bring together a range of services for families with children aged 0- 5. Our regular sessions include Bounce and Rhyme and Toy Library sessions, baby massage group, parent's forum and holiday activities. We are offering some new family activities but are also working with other agencies and organisations in the area supporting the existing services they are offering. We are here to provide you with information and advice, and we offer support for families in the important early years of their children's lives.

The team are: Jenny Coleman - Manager, Ruth Bushell - Co-ordinator, Nick Stoneman - Administrator, Chris Parsons and Maggi Calvert - Project Workers, Lisa Buckley - Play Worker. To register with the Children's Centre and receive our newsletter, please contact us at: Ockment Centre Office, North Street, Okehampton. Tel: 01837 658621, Mobile: 07787162184

As all the team work part-time please use answer machine to leave us messages. We do pick them up daily!

Hatherleigh Children's Centre

In November 2007 Hatherleigh children's centre celebrated one year of being in residence in its fantastic new building within the Hatherleigh Community Centre. It also celebrated the project and its staff providing services to families in this area for five years. Originally set up as a mini Surestart project working from offices above the local fish and chip shop for four years, the centre has now become a Surestart Children's Centre serving families over 11 very rural parishes. Services have developed substantially, with a busy programme filled with baby massage, baby yoga, heuristic play and treasure baskets, to name but a few.

To celebrate the double anniversary we held a soft play party for Children's Centre families on November 21st with fun, food and activities, which was very successful and a lot of fun.

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 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.