

Childcare Matters

June 2007

Issue 9



The professional magazine for all providers of childcare in Lambeth

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Lambeth Early Years Practitioners Conference Parents and Practitioners Working in Partnership.

The annual Lambeth Early Years Conference was held at The Oval Cricket Ground in Kennington on 11 May. The conference was aimed at early years practitioners with a focus on promoting and sharing best practice in working with parents.

We secured an interesting mix of national and local speakers including Juliet Neill-Hall from 'Investing in Parents'. The workshops were based around practitioners working in partnership with parents, on issues such as working with, fathers, young parents and vulnerable groups.



Information stands were set up around the main conference room.

Lambeth Early Years - EYSSS Practitioners Conference

Continued...

Everyone was welcomed by John Readman, Divisional Director, Community Learning and the conference was chaired by Stella Clarke, Head of Research & Information. In the morning the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Jan Kirk from Lilford Day Nursery by last year's recipient, Shea Richardson. Jan was also presented with drawings and flowers from some of the children at the nursery and one of the parents, Adjoa Andoh said a few words.

Children's Information Service, Pre-School Learning Alliance, Family Welfare Association, EYSSS Workforce Development and Lewin Pre-School.



Jan Kirk, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award with the staff and children of Lilford Day Nursery.

Jane Theadom, Jan Kirk, Shea Richardson and John Readman

Display stands were set up around the main room with information from Lambeth's

Around 100 early years practitioners from the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors attended the conference along with a number of early years staff who helped on the day. The feedback from the day has been very positive and will be fed into the planning of the conference next year.

Providers

Congratulations to Tenderlinks on their successful Ofsted Inspection!

Tenderlinks Day Nursery, Streatham opened in 2005. The setting received a very positive response from Ofsted in their recent inspection. Since the last inspection the practitioners have worked alongside the Early Years Team to improve their practice.

Ofsted highlighted that Carol Quallo (Manager) has a 'strong commitment to develop the provision (and has) expectations of staff to assess children's progress'.

'Children ... benefit from the calm atmosphere created by staff ... who are affectionate and responsive to their individual needs'. Ofsted 2007

Ofsted also noted improvement in relation to the quality of care, qualifications, menus, range and variety of the curriculum.

Lambeth Early Years and Sure Start Service would like to congratulate and thank Tenderlinks for their continuing hard work and commitment to working in partnership with us to develop their provision.



Patricia, Carol, Rhondalee and Melicia from Tenderlinks



My day at Cavendish Lodge Nursery School ...through eyes of a 2 year old.

Maxine Henry, a Lambeth Childcare Development Officer, approached Rebecca Gardner, head of the new nursery Cavendish Lodge in Streatham to describe a 'day in the life' of one of the children...

I go through the front door and my teacher comes to me and says good morning and finds my name and coat peg. I give Mummy a cuddle goodbye before going off to play. Mmm, there are so many toys to choose from. I go to my favourite area, the role play corner. Here I have such fun dressing up with my friends.

Breakfast time! I see Helen coming through the door with a tray of different cereals, a jug of milk, bowls and spoons. After breakfast it is circle time with my favourite, Charlie the crocodile puppet. We sing our good morning song, say hello to each other and talk about the weather and what day it is today.

We have our very own children's kitchen where our chef is waiting to start an activity with us. Today we are making fruit salad ready to eat for our tea. I like cooking with cake mix too, it is really messy and lots of fun. After cooking and then snack time we head out into the garden, yippee!

The garden is really big with lots of hiding places. One of the grown ups takes me over to look at our vegetable garden and shows me how the vegetables are growing. I am

looking forward to exploring and discovering caterpillars, butterflies, snails and ladybirds.

After we have finished our lunch we wash our hands and face and brush our teeth. Now I am a little bit tired. Before I go to sleep I must change my dolly's nappy, read her a story and put her to bed.

In the afternoon we plant sunflowers in the Art room. We have a tub of soil, some watering cans and little seeds in packets ready for us to plant. I want to do it all by myself! We are each given a little pot, and then we take it in turns to shovel some soil into it before taking the seeds and placing them deep down in the centre of the soil.

In the afternoon before tea we enjoy singing, music and story time, sitting underneath the really big grandfather clock.

Tea this afternoon is set out on the balcony. I choose to sit next to one of my best friends. We all sit on chairs whilst the grown ups sit beside us. We then stay and play outside.

It's been a busy day, I'm a bit tired now but Mummy and Daddy will be here soon, I can tell them all about my day.

My day at nursery was such fun. I'm really looking forward to tomorrow and another day at Cavendish Lodge Nursery School.



Me in the children's kitchen

Providers

Launch of Tree House Children's Centre at Holmewood Nursery School.

Tree House held their launch on the 28 February 2007.

There were around fifty people at the launch, including families using the centre, school governors, representatives from the Early Years and Sure Start Service and the wider council.

The Head Sue Donovan gave a welcome speech and the Rt Hon Keith Hill, Tony Blair's personal secretary opened the Children's Centre by cutting the ribbon in front of the new mural. Councillor Sally Prentice, Lambeth's cabinet member for Children and Young People was also present.

There was also an opportunity to be shown around the Children's Centre and a buffet lunch was provided.



L-R Phyllis Dunipace, Sue Donovan and Rt Hon Keith Hill opening Holmewood in front of their new mural.

Clapham Manor Children's Centre is 'Outstanding'

Clapham Manor Children's Centre was rated 'Outstanding' in all categories when they had their Ofsted inspection on 1st and 2nd May.

Quotes from the report:

'Behaviour management is a clear area of strength within the centre and the staff are exceptional role models.'

'The emphasis is strongly on team work and all staff support each other well.'

'The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.'

Well done to all the staff, what a fantastic achievement!



Children at Clapham Manor Children's Centre

Colourstrings sessions at Minet Library

Every Wednesday morning in March, children from 1 – 4 years and their parents, carers and early years staff gathered at Minet Library to take part in Colourstrings music workshops with the London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO). These workshops were facilitated by Octavia Wilkinson, Literacy Development Co-ordinator for Lambeth Libraries and was funded by the old Sure Start Myatt's Field Angell Town.

Colourstrings is as an integrated approach to stimulating music learning in very young children using movement, rhythm and singing. The project aims to develop children's fine and gross motor-skills and their ability to focus and concentrate as well as giving "children the opportunity to have fun, explore, create and learn together in a non-threatening environment where music, story, rhyme and song are the focus" (LPO).

Three groups of 20 children – from Loughborough Children's Centre, Loughborough Community Centre Pre-School, and local Sure Start families – benefitted from a session each of music and fun. Feedback from parents, early years' staff and the children themselves was very positive. One mum said, "My daughter is 20 months. In 4 sessions she has learned to sit still while the singing goes on, she now waits her turn when it is time to play with the bells, scarves etc. and I have learned a few more children's songs to sing at home. Please run it again!"

Robert, aged 3, said "I like singing 'Si Mama Ca' and doing the chug chug." Staff, children and parents all learned lots of new songs and benefitted from a refreshingly different approach to sharing music. For more information, or to see a full evaluation of the project, please contact Octavia Wilkinson at OMWilkinson@lambeth.gov.uk. To discuss booking the course for your setting, contact Clare Lovett at the LPO on Clare.lovett@lpo.org.uk



Children at the Colourstrings session, Minet Library

News Bulletins

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate Latifa Shaibu, Administrator, Early Years & Sure Start Service, on the birth of her son, Bashir on the 28 February at 10.45am.

New DVD to help children with autism

Culture Online, part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, has launched an **animation DVD, *The Transporters*** to help children with autism recognise human emotions. It is narrated by Stephen Fry. The series of 15, five-minute episodes, features the adventures of eight lovable toys with human faces, each focusing on a different human emotion.

The DVD is available to be sent out with a booklet for parents, teachers and carers. Copies can be requested via the website at: www.transporters.tv.



Goodbye - Jane Theadom, Assistant Director of Early Years leaves Lambeth

Lambeth's Children and Young People's Service are sad to say goodbye to Jane Theadom, Assistant Director Early Years & Sure Start Service (EYSSS). Jane left on 18 May 2007 to take up a post covering school improvement, early years and youth at Southend Council.

Jane started her teaching career in Newham and became a Deputy Head of a primary school in Suffolk. She then joined OFSTED as an Additional Inspector and then mentor Additional Inspector. Jane stayed with OFSTED to inspect teacher training institutions and then got a job as a literacy consultant in Suffolk. She was then asked to be an acting Headteacher at Snape Primary School in Suffolk.

Jane joined Lambeth firstly as an Associate Education Adviser in September 2001 and then was appointed to a permanent role about 9 months later. She was then promoted to the Assistant Director role in September 2004.

Jane has led the EYSSS through a number of changes and numerous achievements and she has done this with integrity, energy and above all a calm that has inspired confidence from colleagues both within the service and in other agencies. One of Jane's biggest successes is the delivery of the Children's Centre programme with 13 children's centres now designated and more well on the way.

There was a chance for colleagues and friends to say goodbye at a leaving do held at Loughborough School on Thursday 17 May and for the Early Years Team at International House on Friday 18 May.



Stella Clarke

Interim arrangements Early Years & Sure Start Service



Laura McFarlane

Stella Clarke, Head of Research & Information and Laura McFarlane, Head of Family Support have jointly taken on the role of Interim Assistant Director of Early Years & Sure Start Service.

The Children and Young People's Service has recently been realigned and the name of the Early Years & Sure Start Service will change to Community Children's Service, incorporating Lambeth's Play Service.

Communicators in Business (CiB) Awards 2007

In July 2006, the Early Years and Sure Start Service in conjunction with Spectrecom Films and Fluent Consulting produced an Early Years staff induction DVD. This was filmed in the council offices and surrounding borough and was made up of Lambeth staff talking about their roles within the service and the Every Child Matters Agenda. This was initially created to show at the staff induction in September, following a re-structure of the Early years & Sure Start Service and also as a reference point for new staff.

In December 2006 the Early Years Communications Team entered the DVD in the National CiB Awards and were shortlisted as certificate winners in the category 'Internal Communications: video/dvd, audio, podcast and webcasts.' The DVD did extremely well to get shortlisted and was up against both public and private sector organisations across the country. Lorna Wilamowski and Julie Stroud (Early Years Communications) and Steven Milton (Spectrecom Films) attended the ceremony in Newcastle on 25 May.



L-R Julie Stroud, Steven Milton and Lorna Wilamowski

LAMBETH PLAY DAY

WED 1ST AUGUST

MAX ROACH PARK

11 to 3pm

(will include the launch of
the Lambeth Play Strategy)

Early Years Workforce Survey

The Community Children's Service will be conducting a survey of qualifications of the early years workforce over the next few months. This is critical in supporting early years staff to gain further professional qualifications. More information will be sent by letter and followed up by a visit to your setting. **For further information, please contact Veronika Javorova on 020 7926 9567 or email vjavorova@lambeth.gov.uk**

Professional Development Centre – Training Planner

To book a place on a course, call Rochelle George on 020 7926 9552

Date:	Course type:	Number of days:	Course reference:	Course description:
20th June 2007	PVI's, providers and schools	1	EY-200607-F&P4	Professionalism in the Early Years Part 4- Feedback and Planning - CANCELLED
20th June 2007	PVI's, providers and schools	1	EY-200607-F&P4	Professionalism in the Early Years Part 4- Feedback and Planning - CANCELLED
23rd June 2007	Childminder Training	1	EY-SAT230607 C M	First Aid Refresher
25th June 2007	PVI's, providers and schools	1	EY-26607DAY2-FA4B	Meeting the EYF S Welfare R equirements - Paediatric First Aid (Part 2)
26th June 2007	PVI's, providers and schools	1	EY-260607-F&P	Professionalism in the Early Years Part 4- Feedback and Planning - CANCELLED
26th June 2007	PVI's, providers and schools	1	EY-260607-F&P	Professionalism in the Early Years Part 4- Feedback and Planning - CANCELLED
28th June 2007	PVI's, providers and schools	4	EY-141106-PSED	Professionalism in the Early Years Part 1 - Personal, Social and Emotional
3rd July 2007	PVI's, providers and schools	1	EY-030707-RYT	Introduction the the core principles and skills of teaching phonics to 3 and 4 year old
7th July 2007	Childminder Training	2	EY-SAT070707 C M	Paediatric First Aid - Part 1
7th July 2007	Childminder Training	1	EY-SAT070707 C M	First Aid Refresher
12th July 2007	PVI's, providers and schools	1	(AM) EY-120707-IF S	(AM) Introduction to the Foundation Stage
12th July 2007	PVI's, providers and schools	1	(PM) EY-120707-IF S	(PM) Introduction to the Foundation Stage
13th July 2007	Childminder Training	1	EY-FR1130707- C M	Birth to Three Matters
13th July 2007	Childminder Training	1	EY-FR1130707- C M	Child Protection
14th July 2007	Childminder Training	2	EY-SAT070707 C M	Paediatric First Aid - Part 1
16th July 2007	Childminder Training	1	EY-MON 160707- C M	Preparing for Ofsted
21st July 2007	Childminder Training	1	EY-SATSAT21070707	First Aid Refresher

Early Years Workforce Development Forum at the Oval Conference Centre on 20 March 2007

This one day conference covered a range of topics with two key speakers providing different perspectives on the provision of quality childcare.

Mary West established one of the first Children's Centres - the Randolph Berresford Children's Centre on the White City estate. Mary spoke about the complex 'journey' towards developing an Integrated Centre. Nicky Road, Interim Head of Childcare Development in Lambeth and currently developing Lambeth's Play Strategy, spoke on 'How does it feel here? A Child's perspective'. Nicky has had a key role in developing and promoting the importance of listening to young children and the audience appreciated the focus on why we do what we do – for the benefit of the child!

Other contributors to the conference included Dawn MacDonald, who brought us up to date on the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and Debbie Hardy who spoke about the new qualification National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership (NPQICL) and the Early Years Professional status. Presentations by Pauline Gordon, a Lambeth childminder and Amanda DePez, deputy head at Maytree Nursery School were very well received.

The conference offered the opportunity for Training Providers to 'set up their stalls' and this was very valuable for conference members as the range of providers offered something for everyone. JAMs, London Metropolitan University, the National Childminders' Association (NCMA), the Pre-school Learning Alliance (PSLA) and the Children's Information Service were all represented together with a stall giving general funding information.

The very pleasant setting of the Oval and the delicious lunch were appreciated by conference members.

Interview with an 'outstanding' childminder

Donna Gatwood (DG) was recently rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted. Nicky Road (NR), Head of Childcare Development, met Donna to find out from her what makes an outstanding childminder.

NR Tell us a little about yourself.

DG I've been a childminder for about 5 years. I started because I'm a single mum and my mother used to look after my children. When she became sick I knew I wanted to be at home with my children, so being a childminder enabled me to do this. I haven't looked after many children because they tend to stay with me. I like looking after babies and now I have Ollie, who's three and his sister, Alice, whose's five and a half.

NR What training have you done?

DG I've done NVQ L2 and am starting L3 at Holmewood soon. I've done all the basic training like First Aid and Health & Safety. I'm doing Birth to Three Matters in the near future and have done Makaton training. I left school when I was very young so I didn't get any formal qualifications. I'm trying now to catch up now.

NR In your view, what makes for an outstanding childminder?

DG I can only tell you about myself. I'm really committed to my job. I look after other people's children as I look after my own. I give them lots of love and attention. I listen to what they want and are telling me. We go out every day to the park, 1 o'clock club or drop-ins because this

continued on next page...

Childcare Development/Early Years Foundation Stage

provides them with real stimulation. Ollie is really very sociable and has made lots of friends.

NR What are the particular challenges for childminders at the moment and how do you go about meeting them?

DG There are lots of developments and changes. More demands are made on us to keep up with the paper work. So I try to keep up-to-date, attend courses and make sure I know what is happening.

NR What do you most enjoy about your job?

DG The kids! I love them.

NR Thank you Donna. I hope your example gives other childminders the confidence to go for outstanding too.

Lambeth has launched a new childcare service

The Out of Hours Childcare Service (OHCS) was launched on 25 May at International House in Brixton. This new initiative is designed to provide quality 24 hour childcare provision within the child's own home. It is supported by Cross River Partnership using London Development Agency funding and will run within the London boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth.

Thirty people from a number of childcare settings, children centres and representatives from employers such as the fire service (interested in the service for their employees), attended the launch to receive information on how the Out of Hours Childcare Service could benefit their staff and the families they work with.

An extensive buffet lunch was provided for the attendees followed by a presentation detailing the aims of the service and key information about its benefits for carers and families.

This new service will help parents that are in employment or training during non-standard working hours and offer respite care for families with children that have a disability or special educational need. It will also offer relevant training to people who are interested in working in the childcare sector once they have applied to become a carer for the service.

For more information please contact Grace Malcolm on 020 7926 9954 or Email: gmalcolm@lambeth.gov.uk

Introduction to childcare in Stockwell

Sixteen parents from Stockwell and Larkhall Sure Start have just successfully completed a ten week 'Introduction to Childcare' course. They were presented with their certificate of achievement by Gary White, Lambeth's Children's Information Service Manager and the tutor Tracy Lattimore.

The course was run at Stockwell Refugee Women's Centre in Stockwell Road by Radia Ahmed from Stockwell Partnership and Dawn Muirhead, Early Years and Sure Start Service. Each of the participants has created a portfolio of their work which covers aspects of the course. The topics covered ranged from child development, managing behaviour and the different types of childcare. Most of the women have made the decision to continue pursuing their career in childcare and will be looking out for opportunities for further training or employment in this area.

Stockwell Refugee Women's Centre has been working with Lambeth College and the LINX project to run an accredited NCFE Level 1 Working with Children course at Stockwell Refugee Women's Centre that is due to finish in July 07.



Ofsted Changes

Once the Childcare Act takes full effect Ofsted will operate two registers:

The Early Years Register: this includes all providers who look after children from birth to the end of the Foundation Stage, who are required to register under the Childcare Act and must deliver the new Early Years Foundation Stage.

The Childcare Register: this is in two parts. A compulsory part for providers caring for children from the end of the Foundation Stage up to eight years and a voluntary part which is for providers of care for children aged eight and over and some other provision such as short term and home based provision.

The two registers will operate fully from September 2008. However the voluntary part of the Childcare Register will be phased in before then and will be able to take registrations from mid April 2007. Ofsted now have a single contact address and telephone number which is:

Ofsted

**National Business Unit
Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester M2 7LA**

Tel: 0845 640 4040.

There is a free on-line newsletter Ofsted Direct: Early Years for anyone interested in childcare. You can subscribe to this publication at: www.ofsted.gov.uk/ofsteddirect-ey/.

Providers Forum

To continue supporting the development of your services, both Early Years Foundation Stage Consultants and the Childcare Development Team will facilitate the providers forums (previously called managers forums.)

Here are the dates:

**18/9/07
20/11/07
15/1/08
11/3/08
29/04/08
24/06/08**

Venues will be confirmed nearer the time but will be in locality areas. We are looking for providers to host, so if you have space to accommodate 10 to 20 colleagues please contact **Maxine Henry** on **020 7926 1485**.

Effective Provision of Pre-School Education (EPPE)

The Effective Provision of Pre-School Education (EPPE) project is the first major European study of a national sample of young children's development (intellectual and social/behavioural) between the ages of 3 and 7 years.

To investigate the effects of pre-school education for 3 and 4 year olds, the EPPE team collected a wide range of information on over 3,000 children, their parents, their home environments and the pre-school settings they attended. You can obtain more information on the project at:

www.ioe.ac.uk/schools/ecpe/eppe/
or

www.surestart.gov.uk/research/keyresearch/eppe/

Hot off the Press – Recently published Early Years documents.

The Foundation Stage: a survey of 144 settings

This is a major survey of the Foundation Stage. Ofsted visited a variety of different settings to evaluate standards, achievement and the quality of provision for children aged three to five, as well as local authorities' support.

It can be accessed on the Ofsted website:

www.Ofsted.gov.uk

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is here!

The document has been published and includes a statutory framework document, a practice guidance document, a CD Rom, a poster and 'Principles into Practice cards'.

The document aims to "Set standards for Learning, Development and Care for children from birth to five" and will be statutory September 2008.

Over the next year we will be running training courses related to the document and our aim is make a gradual transition from the existing documents to the new framework.

Dates for your diary

EYFS

12 July 2007:

Briefing session

This is an introductory session to the EYFS Framework and will be distributed to settings who have not already obtained a copy (one per setting).

Further copies can be obtained from DfES publications or downloaded at www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

September 2007:

Training courses

Courses will run throughout the year.

Please refer to latest Lambeth Training Brochure for more details.

September 2008:

EYFS becomes a statutory requirement

The EYFS will replace the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage, The National Standards for Daycare and Birth to Three Matters. The Foundation Stage Profile will be known as The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile.

Providers Forum

18 September 2007:

EYFS Focus

Venue: TBC

Time: 4.30pm – 5.30pm

Business Development News

Budget 2007: What changes are there for the voluntary and community sector?

The Office for the Third Sector will give out £80 million through local organisations with relevant knowledge of the sector to small groups. Futurebuilders (grant and loans to deliver public services) will expand their criteria to cover any public service delivery area. Community investment tax relief might become more flexible. 'Tax effective giving' eg. Gift Aid, giving of shares, will get another £11 million to fund 24 projects in Invest to Save. And Sir Michael Lyons' Review of Local Government finally published. **See www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_07/bud_bud07_index.cfm & www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/budget07**

Legal stuff your community group needs to know:

Need information on companies...

When the new Companies Act is implemented (October 2007) this will mean charitable companies with an income between £10,000 and £90,000 will need at least an independent examination of their accounts (at present, no scrutiny is usually required). Unincorporated charities with an income between £10,000 to £500,000 can opt for an independent examination for financial years starting on or after 27 February but remember you should check your governing document & funders.

Want to pay your Trustees? Want to cover them in case things go wrong?

The Charity Act 2006 section 36 allows trustees of charities (or person connected with s/he) to receive remuneration out of charity funds (this is not about employees) if they fulfil four conditions: a) it is set out in agreed statement what the relevant person will provide, not exceeding what is reasonable in the circumstances; b) charity trustees must have decided beforehand it was in the best interests of the charity for services to be provided by that relevant person to the charity (duty of care in Trustee Act 2000 applies here) and must have used Charity Commission guidance; c) the agreement affects only a minority of trustees; and d) the charity trusts do not contain express provision preventing the relevant person from receiving remuneration. So you shouldn't need to amend your constitutions to allow payment to trustees for services e.g. accountancy or architect but if this is not followed, the relevant person will have to pay it all (or part of it) back.

As for insurance, section 39 of the Act allows trustees to buy insurance to indemnify the charity against personal liability in respect of any breach of trust or duty – however this will exclude indemnity against criminal proceedings, penalties due to non-compliance with regulations, liabilities defending criminal proceedings in which he is convicted; and liability incurred from conduct known not to be in the interests of the charity. As long as you comply with section 39, you also will not have to change your legal document either, to be able to buy insurance. Adapted from www.harbottle.com - charity law specialists, and **also look at www.bateswells.co.uk**

Do you think you have self-employed workers? It is worth checking...

A recent court case (highlighted by www.russell-cooke.co.uk) undertaken by HM Revenue & Customs v Demibourne has held that an individual who paid tax on a self-employed basis for 10 years was really seen to be an employee. HMRC recovered PAYE from the employer and did not give any credit for employee tax. Implications? Check your contracts with consultants and other self-employed staff, and require them to be responsible for their own tax & indemnify the employer for any liability. Enforcing this would be difficult so check at the outset and keep them under regular review. **Also see www.lvsc.org.uk/peace for voluntary sector info on employment.**

For more information call Michael Materesi on 020 7926 8604

Lambeth's One O'clock Club Service

The Family Support team manages 10 One O'clock Clubs, which are all located in Lambeth's parks. The clubs are open 4 afternoons a week from 1pm – 4pm.

One O'clock Clubs are an excellent way for young children to learn through play and provide an ideal opportunity to mix socially with other young children. Parents and carers can also learn about how play is an important experience for young children and that they can be part of the fun too. They are also an excellent way to prepare children for transition to nursery or school settings. Parents and carers can also find information at the clubs about a wide range of family support services including Children's Centres.

A day in the life a One O'clock Club play leader.

Donna Gray is a senior play leader and is currently based at the Larkhall One O'clock Club with her colleagues. Donna has a very busy afternoon which begins at 12.30pm when she arrives at the club, and ends at 4pm.

"I really enjoy welcoming parents and carers from such a wide variety of cultures. Parents and carers like to know they can come to the One O'clock Club to meet other parents, share experiences and support each other. They can also get information about other activities that are happening in the area and learn about children's development through play.

I have a special baby corner where babies can have the space to sit or lay down. Parents often ask me if I think their baby may be too young for the session. I say no, babies can learn right from birth."

12.30pm WE SET UP the indoor area for the session with a variety of activities and prepare the main planned activity which is connected to the month's theme. I clean any rubbish outside and do a health and safety check. I catch up on any admin jobs and have a chat with my colleague about the focus of the session.

1.00pm TIME TO OPEN THE GATE and welcome the parents in. I seize the chance for a quick chat and remind them to sign in. A new father arrives and I take the time to make sure he has a guided tour and fills in a new registration form. It is his first time to a One O'clock Club and he says he will be back.

2.00pm TIME FOR TEA – one of us starts to prepare for snack and drinks. This is a fun time for the small children to participate in buying their own snacks, and making decisions for themselves.

3.00pm TIME TO SPEND some time with a few children on a one to one. I will often sit with a child and take part with them in the activity they have chosen to play with. The rest of the session is spent tidying up and many children enjoy helping us to get the room back to how it was when we began the session.

4.00pm THE SESSION IS OVER. Now we start to lock up and leave for the day. Just a few minutes left to put up some information on the board about a new playgroup that has started at the nearby Children's Centre.

Even though the session is over and it's a very demanding job, I still leave with a smile on my face!

Childcare support for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) - Childcare Affordability Programme (CAP2)

Lambeth's Children and Young People's Service will be taking part in a pilot scheme that will provide financial support for parents and carers of children with a range of complex support needs. CAP2 is funded by the London Development Agency and will help parents and carers with the cost of childcare while they are seeking work, education or training.

What are the eligibility criteria?

- The parent or carer has to live in Lambeth.
- The parent or carer has to have responsibility for a child under the age of five.
- The child has to have been assessed as having special education needs

The parent or carer will have to fit at least three of the following criteria:

- Lone parent
- Teenage parent
- Unemployed
- Asylum Seeker receiving NASS support.
- Refugee
- Joint family income, inclusive of all associated support, of less than £20,000
- In receipt of Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support or Incapacity Benefit
- Considered to have a disability/special need
- In receipt of Working Family Tax Credit

The parent or carer has to be:

Actively seeking work and need childcare support to carry out their job searching or intending to take up a training course with a recognised training provider.

We are unable to fund clients with 'no access to public funds'.

If you know of any parents or carers that are suitable for this scheme - please contact the Childcare Advisor, **Loreen Wellington in the Children's Information Service on 0845 601 5317** for more information. We are also accepting self-referrals from parents and carers who can also contact Loreen.

REMINDER ALL PROVIDERS!

Do you currently have childcare and job vacancies that you are unable to fill?

We will advertise your vacancies free of charge.

You can advertise by calling Lambeth Children's Information Service and we will upload them onto the Childcare Link website (www.childcarelink.gov.uk)

**For more information please call 0845 601 5317
or email CIS@lambeth.gov.uk**

Date for your diary...

Lambeth Country Show 2007

Date: 21 and 22 July

Location: Brockwell Park

A promotional poster for the Lambeth Country Show 2007. The background is a dark purple gradient with silhouettes of people engaged in various activities: a person jumping, a person on a scooter, and two people talking. A Ferris wheel is visible in the background. The text is in white and yellow. The Lambeth logo is in the top right corner.

Lambeth

Are you ready for summer in Lambeth?

Whatever activities you are into – sports, arts, music, learning new skills or just generally having fun and meeting new people, the 2007 Holiday Activities Programme (HAP) is for you. The HAP includes activities for children and young people in Lambeth.

An online version of the HAP can be found at www.lambethchildrensfund.org.uk

CHILDCARE MATTERS SCHEDULE 2007

Issue: Article deadline: Distribution date:

SEPTEMBER

Fri 17 August

Fri 14 September

Spanish

Si desea esta información en otro idioma, rogamos nos llame al

Portuguese

Se desejar esta informação noutro idioma é favor telefonar para

French

Si vous souhaitez ces informations dans une autre langue veuillez nous contacter au

Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্য কোনো ভাষায় আপনার প্রয়োজন হলে অনুগ্রহ করে ফোন করুন

Twi

Se wope saa nkaeboy yi wo kasa foforo mu a fre

Yoruba

Tí ẹ ba ẹ ìmoràn yí, ní èdè Òmíràn, ẹjọ, ẹ kàn wà l'ágogo

Tel: 0845 601 5317