



Issue 15 - July 2009

THE PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINE FOR ALL PROVIDERS OF CHILDCARE IN LAMBETH

Childcare Matters

Lambeth

Summer Holiday Activities 2009

"If you think there's nothing fun to do in the summer... think again."

Rekel Jackson attends **Blackfriars Playspace**

The truth is the choice of summer activities for children in Lambeth is huge. This booklet gives more details of what is available.

For information please call: **0845 601 5317** or visit: **www.younglambeth.org**

Summer University 2009

"I didn't know what to do about my future... but Summer University gave me options."

Jack Thompson attended **Introduction to radio course**

The truth is Summer University has lots of courses to help you learn new skills or just have fun. Read this booklet to find out more!

For information please call: **0845 601 5317** or visit: **www.younglambeth.org**

CHECK THE LABEL

- Holiday Activities & Summer University 2009
- Multi-Million Pound Makeover for Lambeth Play Areas
- Nursery Education Fund Monitoring



...and lots more

news & events

keeping you up to date with news & events in your area

Lambeth Holiday Activities & Summer University 2009

This year's holiday activities and summer university programme has been launched across the borough. Lambeth is offering a wide range of exciting activities and courses for children and young people.

Summer University is now in its second year and offers accredited and non-accredited courses, specifically aimed at 11-19 year olds. These include art and music, film and media, sport and career development.

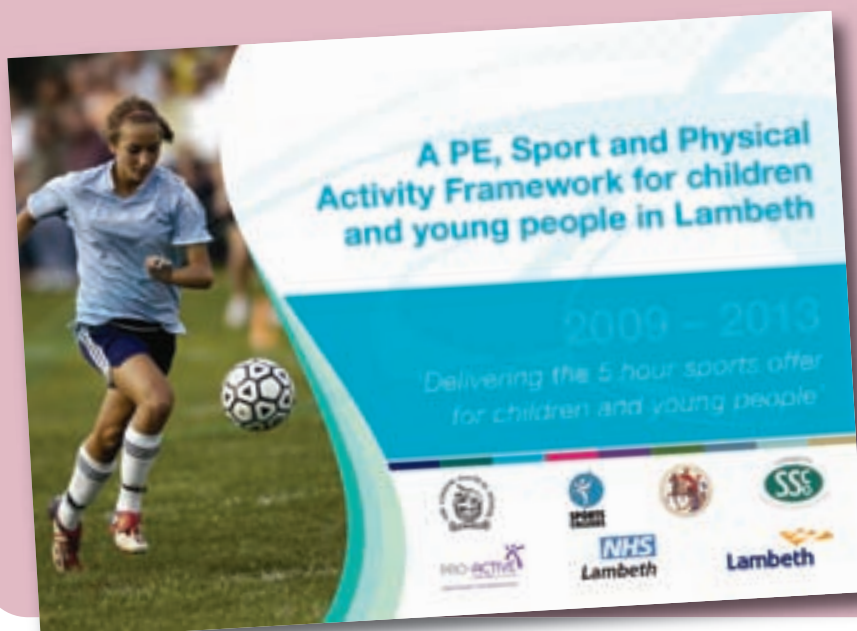
The investment that the council and partners make in funding and planning such a comprehensive programme, reflects the importance Lambeth places on providing fun, accessible, educational activities for children and young people of all ages and abilities to enjoy over the summer.

For more information log on to: www.younglambeth.org or pick up a brochure at libraries, sports and youth centres.



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Positive Relationships at Lambeth's Early Years Practitioners' Conference

The Annual Practitioners' conference was another big success this April. A day of reflection and fun was had by all, made even more pleasant by the hospitality of the Conference Centre at the Oval.

The EYFS theme 'Positive Relationships' was felt throughout the day. It gave practitioners the opportunity to really reflect upon their own relationships with the young children and families who they work with. The many stalls and workshops available gave practitioners some really practical ideas to take away with them, including a lively workshop on supporting developmental movement play for young children.

The highlights of the event included presentations from the two guest speakers. Julia Manning-Morton author of 'Key times to play', delivered a heart-felt talk on the importance of the role of the Key Person and how early attachments are vital in supporting children's sense of well-being. The second speaker, Dr. Tessa Livingstone, creator of the BBC's 'A Child of Our Time', gave a fascinating talk on the making of the series and looked at how individual children from the series are continuing to develop.

Overall it was an inspiring event with a great atmosphere that left participants remembering just how important their role is in working with the young children of Lambeth.

Many thanks to everyone involved in planning and organising the conference and all those who participated so enthusiastically.

To receive a copy of the presentations contact Diana at **Email: dhockley@lambeth.gov.uk**



Launch of **Sports Framework...**

Lambeth launched its first Physical Education (PE), Sport and Physical Activity Framework for Children and Young People on 11 May. Partners and agencies from across the borough came together at the Oval to celebrate the launch of the Framework. It will provide a strategic approach to the delivery of the new national ambition of five hours of sport for children and young people per week.

The Framework will provide a coherent approach to the future delivery of PE, sport and physical activity for children and young people across the borough, through which participation levels and improved outcomes will

increase year on year. The overarching principle of the Framework is effective collaboration and partnership working, building on the good work already taking place in the borough.

For further information on the Framework or to request a copy, please contact Sheila Kelly on:

Tel: 020 7926 9841 or **Email: skelly@lambeth.gov.uk**

Little Starz Children's Centre and Community Play Area

The work of completing the new play area at the Little Starz Children's Centre is now complete. The new Play Area is funded by the Big Lottery Allocation of £75,000 to Lambeth Council.

Local Tenants, the Residents Association and children and young people from the Benton's Lane Estate, have been fully involved in the design of a new play area together with children from the Centre.

The new environmental play space has the following elements: planting areas, climbing boulders, sand play, musical features, and a range of fixed play equipment that includes a gazebo.

It also has a nature trail, interactive sensory garden, outdoor learning areas and a willow tunnel walkway into the centre.

Free community open play day activities are planned throughout the year including sports events, fetes, fundraising events and music, arts and craft activities.

The centre will also be offering free community activities for the young people in the area such as football skills and drama workshops that will include a Summer Play Scheme that will be funded through a variety of funding streams.

Children, young people and all members of the community will have increased environmental awareness and also an educational impute through sessions such as garden planning, planting, composting, and maintenance.

The centre plans to also further improve the opportunities for local children, young people and those with special needs and mobility issues.

The new Play area will be open and accessible to the general public during the weekends.

For further information contact the centre directly, or Peter McNally or Mirela Lopez – Play and Sport Unit Lambeth Children and Young Peoples Service

www.lambeth.gov.uk/playgrounds



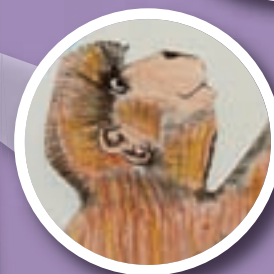


Family Learning Family Reading

Family Learning has long put engaging families in reading at the centre of what we do. Although programmes can run from 2 hours through to introductory sessions and short courses, the most successful projects around reading have run over 12 weeks. Parents work with a tutor in the morning talking about how children learn the importance of following the child's interests and engaging children in discussion and play around stories. In the afternoon the children join the group and the session revolves around a story - creating a world for the families to take home with them.

Quite often the whole course will run around one book. At Hill Mead Primary a huge amount of artistic talent was discovered in the Year 1 parents. They made story sacks, theatres, fridge magnets (illustrated) Handa puppets and developed their own journey stories for each child. One parent finished her course with the words: "This has changed the whole way my family works. Now when we come home from school the television stays off. We do things together as a family. We have fun. I wish I had known about this years ago."

For more information contact Abigail Norton, Family Learning Manager on: anorton@lambeth.gov.uk



Children's play to be given a multi-million pound makeover in Lambeth

An exciting project that will see a 'super playground' built at the heart of Lambeth and at least 28 children's play areas refurbished over the next three years is well under way.

Lambeth Council is celebrating the makeover of the first six children's play areas refurbished using Government grant money secured by the council from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), in November last year.

The projects built under the £2.5m Play Pathfinder scheme are innovative and focus on natural materials such as trees and allotments rather than traditional fixed play equipment such as swings and slides. All designs have been commended by Play England and the DCSF for being innovative and engaging.

The projects that have benefited from the first year of the scheme include:

- **Gordon Grove Adventure Playground (Coldharbour ward)**
- Tree house and natural play project
- **Slade Gardens Adventure Playground (Vassall ward)**
- Allotment and outdoor kitchen and climbing wall
- **Charlie Chaplin Adventure Playground (Oval ward)**
- Water play project
- **Tulse Hill Adventure (Tulse Hill ward)**
- Games and new natural play space
- **Knights Hill Recreation Ground (Knights Hill ward)**
- Natural play project
- **Ruskin Park (Herne Hill ward)** - Landscaping and natural play project



A further 13 children's play areas have been earmarked for similar improvements over the next 12 months, these include: Norwood Park, Portobello Estate, Mawbey Borough Estate, Oasis Adventure Playground, Solon Estate, Corrance Road Estate, Agnes Riley Gardens, Clapham Road Estate, Linton Grove Estate play area (next to the nursery), Loughborough Adventure Playground, Willington Adventure Playground, Play Space

Adventure Playground, and the Cowley Estate teenage play area.

Phyllis Dunipace, Director of Children and Young People's Service, said: "This is an inspirational project that will transform play in Lambeth. We know how important it is to provide positive activities for children and encourage them to be fit and active."

A £800,000 'super playground' will create an exciting new type of play area which will



see the Max Roach adventure playground integrated into the wider Max Roach Park in 2010. The project will include a performance area, relaxation area spaces and art and musical elements for eight to 13-year-olds. The existing building in the park will be redeveloped into a flexible space that can be used for play, training play workers, and as a resource for the whole community.

The new play park will be open all year round and staffed by a skilled team of play workers who will provide outreach - delivering play provision for children and offering guidance and support to playworkers across the borough. The project will also feature a play volunteer programme - recruiting, training, and placing volunteers of all ages to provide a range of fun activities for children and families.

The consultation for the design of the new Max Roach Play Park will be taking place throughout the summer with fun workshops and community events. Architects will be talking directly to residents and users to offer a hands-on approach to the design of the Play Park.

Adults and children are encouraged to take part in the workshops with the architects, which will provide the opportunity to find out about more information on the project and what you would like to see in your new play park.



Max Roach summer design event:

The Summer Design Event will be the next stage of the design process, hosting a range of fun activities for children, young people and adults.

The event will give you the opportunity to have your say about the design of the Play Park.

- **Saturday 25 July 2009 12.00pm to 4.00pm**
Max Roach Park, London SW9

For more information, please check www.lambeth.gov.uk or contact the Play and Sports Unit **Email: play@lambeth.gov.uk** or **Tel: 020 7926 9953**

Being Me...

Work Focused Skills Pilot –

Interview by Michelle Caesar with Job Centre Plus Advisors and a parent who uses the service.

The Work Focused Skills (WFS) pilot will run in 30 children's centres across 10 local authorities from January 2009 to March 2011 and will be supported by Together for Children (TFC), the Department for Children, Schools and Families' delivery partner for children's centres'.

The aim of the pilot is to test how Children's Centres can offer a more effective way of moving

parents into work from unemployment, improve their skills and support them in the early stages of work at the children's centres. The three pilot Children's Centres in Lambeth are Larkhall, Treehouse and Brixton. TFC will build on the progress made to date in establishing Children's Centres that offer easy access to a range of integrated services delivered by multi-agency teams.

Michelle Caesar, Family Support Development Officer for the Community Children's Service, interviewed Frankey and Zahida the two Job Centre Plus advisors, their supervisor and a parent who uses the service at Treehouse Children's Centre, to get their views on how they felt the pilot was going.





What for you is the main difference between working here at the Children’ Centre and being based at the job centre?

Being able to engage with parents who would not come into the job centre.

In this set-up we are available to all parents who need our support and we can offer them a sensitive, one-to-one service that caters to their individual needs.

What do you feel is the main benefit to parents?

Being able to talk face to face with an approachable, friendly person, rather than to a voice on the other end of a phone, followed up by a formal interview.

Coming to the children’s centre is far less formal and the setting is less intimidating for a lot of individuals.

What are the main challenges of the Work Focused Skills pilot?

One of the main challenges is the level of outreach that still needs to be done in order to get parents in here who are not using the job centre. The problem is that many people still do not know the Children Centre exists and the services it offers.

Do you think that the Work Focused Skills pilot can make a real difference?

Yes, we believe it has already. Getting parents back into work, training people, claiming the appropriate benefits and signposting parents to the right services is already making a difference.

Client/Parent feedback from Kaya: How did you get to know about the JCP advisors at the Children’s Centre?

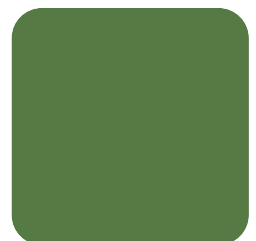
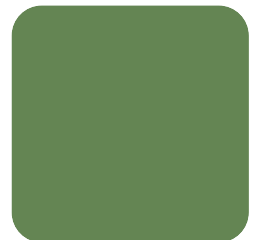
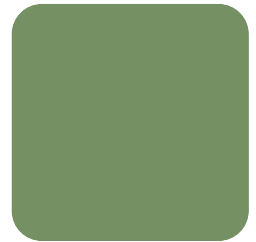
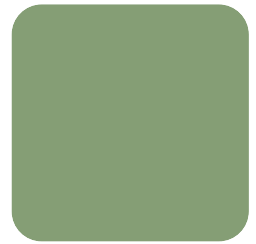
I take my child to nursery here and I saw the advertisement. I was really eager to get back into work as I had been off for some time after having a baby. The advertisement was about options for mums wanting to return to work. I wanted to find out about my rights as I was worried about not being able to go back to my job and being entitled to flexible working conditions.

Did the JCP advisors help you?

Yes they have been really helpful. The advisors gave me lots of suggestions. As a result, I found a really good organisation that helps mums in my position and my workplace invited me back to work with flexible hours and I was so pleased.

Would you have gone to the Job Centre?

I doubt it; the job centre has such a negative perception. You think they will not have very good jobs and that you only go if you need benefits. They take your personal circumstances into consideration here so anyone can feel comfortable. I tell all the mums I know about this place, you can drop the kids off at the nursery then just drop in here.



Want to know more?

For an update or further information please contact

Michelle Caesar
Family Support Development Officer
Community Children’s Service

Email: mcaesar@lambeth.gov.uk

Tel: 07534 221 744



WHAT NEXT

Black Practitioners Network: Black Voices

Princess Diana Memorial Offices - South Bank

Male and female practitioners from a variety of black and minority ethnic (BME) communities working in Child/Social care, and related fields, were in attendance at the second Black Practitioners Network event.

This important and popular event organised by staff at the National Children's Bureau had full attendance and a line-up of inspiring and thought provoking speakers. The day provided opportunities for reflection, discussion and networking. The South Bank venue provided an environment for a frank discussion of common issues effecting BME staff across the sectors.

The day was opened by Josephine Kwhali, (Senior Lecturer in Social Work at University of Kent), whose presentation provided the backdrop

for the day's theme - Black Voices. The historical and political content of her presentation challenged the audience to recognise a shared "history of struggle and advancement", and to "bring about the equality we say we want to see".

This message was echoed by Leethen Bartholomew, the second speaker of the day, who gave an insight into the work of Community Partnership Advisors. The audience engaged in a lively discussion around how Safeguarding can be viewed through the lens of different cultural contexts. Delegates also examined the possible conflicts that may arise and barriers to effective communications.

Both practitioner and client were viewed in equal measure in this regard. Contributions made by those present served to highlight the importance of developing a diverse and highly skilled workforce.

After Lunch, Tracey Reynolds author of "Caribbean Mothers: Identity and Experience in the U.K", gave an account of the research undertaken to write the book, and added a light hearted exchange to the days events. Haki Kapasi, of Inspire Consultancy, shared research findings conducted with BME practitioners across the country and Lisa Mckenzie gave a voice to the community of the troubled St. Anne's housing estate in Nottingham.

Event organisers have pledged to host similar events in the near future.

For more information about the Black Voices Network contact Patrice Lawrence on PLawrence@ncb.org.uk

Early Years Workforce Forum 3 June 2009

Based on the feedback from 49 participants, last month's forum was a huge success. The afternoon programme on the theme of 'Planning professional development for 09/10' was repeated in the evening which enabled many childminders to attend.

Delegates rated the event as 'excellent' or 'good' for content. "Informative, inspiring, brain-stimulating", "Good cross-section of topics, to meet needs at all levels", "Varied and informative speakers" were just some of the comments. There was a packed programme on the day. The Childcare Company's director, Sally Eaton presented "A whole new concept in childcare training" about their on-line NVQs. The audience were interested to hear about this new approach to training.

Tribal Training introduced an exciting new venture – the Early Years Professional Pathways in Lambeth (see next page for details). They presented a short film about the role of the Early Years Professional. They also introduced a childminder who is an EYP which the evening audience found inspiring.

Last but not least, Brixton Exchange, based in the Tate Library, told us about Skills for Life, including IT. They explained how to access their training, free of charge, in a very accessible and friendly local service.

Delegates can get individual advice from any of the organisations represented, including the Workforce Development Team members. Contact the team with suggestions for topics for future forums.

Tel: 020 7926 9469 / 1831 / 8783

Email: eytraining@lambeth.gov.uk



Early Years Professional Status

Dear early years practitioner,

You are invited to attend one of our upcoming Early Years Professional Status drop-in information events, due to be held at International House, Brixton. These will offer you the opportunity to find out more about EYPS training and how it could benefit you and your setting.

Early Years Professionals (EYPs) are graduates who lead practice within early years settings and will be key in raising the quality of early years provision. The Government aims to have an EYP in every full day care setting by 2015 and one in every Children's Centre by 2010.

As an approved training provider of all four Pathways to EYPS, Tribal offers training from multiple locations and is working in partnership with Lambeth Community Children's Service to offer EYPS training in Lambeth.

We are recruiting now for our September 2009 intake, with Short and Long Pathways available in Brixton and Long and Full Pathways available in West Norwood. Our drop-in event will take place on the following date (no booking required):

Monday 27 July: 2-8pm

You can drop in at any time throughout the afternoon and evening -

presentations will be repeated over the course of the session and there will also be the chance to speak to our representatives on a one to one basis, so we hope to see you there. Visit our website

www.eypsatribal.co.uk for more information, **Tel: 0117 983 8800** or

Email: sarah.dewar@tribalgroup.co.uk

Training news and information

By now you should have received your copies of the new training booklets:

1. Training and professional development for early years and play practitioners 2009 – 2010.

Community Children's Service promotes a range of short courses for all early years and play practitioners working in Lambeth.

Qualifications and funding for early years and play practitioners 2009 – 2010: this booklet provides information and guidance about which qualification is suitable for different job roles, sources of support and funding, where to get more information and the application process for Study Awards.

There are new courses this year including

- Early Support (an accredited qualification for working with children with additional needs or disabilities)
- Leadership and Management training (4 days for managers, deputies and supervisors in early years PVI settings)
- Speech and language therapy courses open to all.

2. On-line information about training You can also access the booklets (and other useful information about training) on line at www.lambeth.gov.uk/earlyyearsprofessionaldevelopment (save this link in your Favourites).

3. Feedback about booked early years and play training courses General queries about course bookings should be sent to eytraining@lambeth.gov.uk.

We value your comments and aim to provide an excellent service. If you have a comment or complaint please email : PDCCustomerservice@lambeth.gov.uk.

4. Contact the Workforce Development Team If you need further information about training, qualifications and funding, please contact a member of the Workforce Development Team:

Tel: 020 7926 9469 / 1831 / 8783

Email: eytraining@lambeth.gov.uk

Business Planning Toolkit

To meet the demand for business support, the Business Development Team have devised a business planning toolkit to support all Early Years childcare providers across the borough.

By using the toolkit you can;

- **Direct the quality of the service you provide**
- **Manage the performance of your business**
- **Identify areas where your business may need to improve**
- **Prepare for the future and forward plan**
- **Establish criteria against which you can manage**



• The toolkit will also support planning for sustainability and achieving value for money. All of which creates excellence in the delivery of services to children.

• The toolkit will be distributed to all Early Years childcare providers during the Autumn term.

• **For further information please contact Jillian Jones, Business Development Team (Resources)**

• **Tel: 020 7926 8611**

• **Email: jejones@lambeth.gov.uk**



Effective Financial Awareness in Childcare

The Business Development Team held a successful 'Effective Financial Awareness in Childcare' training session on 23 April for Private, Voluntary, Independent and Children Centres. Over 24 settings attended.

The training material was devised by the Business Development Team, Children and Young Peoples Resources team and was delivered by Maltway Training Consultants, in conjunction with Lambeth Community Children's Service.

The aim is to equip Private, Voluntary, Independent early years settings and Children's Centres with the knowledge to identify and control both financial and non-financial risks associated with grant allocations. And to also assist settings with meeting both grant monitoring and audit requirements as per grant instructions.

The next training session will be held on Thursday 8 October 2009 and Thursday 15 October 2009. The details of the full training programme will be circulated directly to the settings as soon as possible. Bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis.

For further information please contact Elaine Thompson-Dixon, Business Development Team (Resources)
Tel: 020 7926 8622
Email: erthompson-dixon@lambeth.gov.uk



Nursery Education Fund Monitoring

(Early learning entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds)

Shernett Gordon has worked in Early Years for over eight years, and some of you will already know her. She is the Dedicated School Grant Support Officer for the Nursery Education Fund (NEF). Shernett is based at the CYPS Resources Division at International House and also works closely with the Community Children's Service.

Her role and responsibility is to co-ordinate monitor and allocate the NEF grant funding paid to Early Years settings to provide free part time early learning for all three and four year olds.

The NEF comes through the Authority's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) received from the Department for Schools Children and Families.

Lambeth is required to support the audit of such grant and ensure that funding paid to Early Years settings is administered appropriately through a monitoring process.

As part of the funding claim process, Shernett checks all data submissions from Early Years settings for the headcount of three and four year old children, ensuring data compliance, accuracy and for any

discrepancies; before claims can be approved and processed for payment by the Community Children's Service. All payments and adjustments are made by Community Children's Service.

As part of the grant monitoring process Shernett carries out at least one annual monitoring visit with each Early Years setting receiving NEF, ensuring settings systems and records held covers:-

- Child application / registration forms
- Children's Register
- Family file
- Payment notifications received from the Authority
- Completed and signed parent declaration forms

Shernett works closely with settings both to support and ensure that records are fully maintained.

Shernett says, "I would like to extend my appreciation to the 60% of settings I have visited since April 2008 for their co-operation and support. I am looking forward to visiting and working with the remaining 40% of settings whose monitoring visits will be arranged during 2009".

The monitoring process is an annual cyclical programme and I look forward arranging future visits and our continued work together.

For further information advice or support please contact Shernett Gordon, Business Development Team (Resources) Tel: 020 7926 9562 Email: sogordon@lambeth.gov.uk





useful information

Lambeth Country Show

18-19 July - Brockwell Park

As usual, our marquee was packed full of information, entertainment and arts and crafts to get the whole family involved!

Information was given out on:

- Childcare
- Family support services
- Health services
- Young Lambeth website
- Sports and play opportunities
- One O'clock Clubs and Adventure Playgrounds

and we had:

- Face painting
- Hook the duck
- Score a goal
- Puppet show
- Make a giant mosaic
- ...and lots more

For more information on activities and events across the borough, log on to: www.younglambeth.org



For further information contact:

Lambeth Children & Young People's Service

Community Children's Service

3rd Floor

International House

Canterbury Crescent

London SW9 7QE

Telephone: 0845 601 5317

www.lambeth.gov.uk