

Childcare Matters

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Issue 13



The professional magazine for all providers of childcare in Lambeth

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New capital funding for early years!

Private, Voluntary and Independent sector early years provisions (PVI's), including out of school childcare settings catering for under 5s, have already received £1.7m capital funding this year to support the implementation of the EYFS. This will provide improved access and inclusion and flexible free early years provision for 3 and 4 year olds. 84 settings have received up to £20,000 each to buy equipment, resources and to improve their physical environment, both inside and out.



Kids' City children are able to play come rain or shine

The same amount of funding is available for the next two years and we are inviting PVI's to put in expressions of interest by 31 October for large capital improvements and developments, as well as applications for more resources for the new financial year 2009-10. This time there is no financial limit to the size of the bids though they have to fit the three criteria for funding and improve the quality of the experience for those young children attending their setting. Guidance for applying for funding for 2009-2010 has been sent out to all PVI's.

For more information contact Angie West, Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring Officer on awest@lambeth.gov.uk

One O' Clock Club events

Brixton fun day - last Friday of the month

Madlyn Tuck Myatt's Field One O' Clock Club Senior Play leader says "On Friday 22 August at Brixton Children's Centre Stay and Play, our local One O' Clock Club staff held our first healthy Fun Day which was very successful and well attended. The children loved the face painting, bouncy castle and all the other fun activities we had on the day. The free fresh fruit smoothies went down very well with both the children and the parents/carers. We had health care specialists giving health and dental advice. We also had the Families' Information Service who gave lots of goodies to the children. We will be having one of these great events at the end of each month. Parent/carers and children 0-5 years are all welcome.

It's an event not to be missed - see you there!"

For more information please contact Maya Williams, email mwilliams7@lambeth.gov.uk



The children loved the face painting

3 and 4 year old free early learning update

From the 1 September 2008, all three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free early learning per week for 38 weeks, using a Lambeth provider.

Lambeth's Community Children's Service has published a leaflet and a booklet about early learning in Lambeth.

The leaflet '**3 and 4 year old free early learning**' provides specific information about free early learning and how to claim it.

The booklet '**Early learning in Lambeth for 3 and 4 year olds**' offers a step by step guide on how to apply for a free early learning place, the types of provision offering this service as well as some practical support for parents with children with disabilities or parents who may need support with childcare costs.

For a copy of the leaflet or the booklet please contact the **Families' Information Service** on **0845 601 5317**.



The booklet 'Early learning in Lambeth for 3 and 4 year olds'

Inspecting Lambeth's Children and Young People's Service

September saw the arrival at the Ritzy Cinema of a film called JAR City. The JAR also arrived at Lambeth Council in the form of the Joint Area Review. The JAR is an inspection led by Ofsted of the services provided in the borough for children, young people and families. The focus of the JAR is very much on the most vulnerable children and young people including children who are looked after, children with disabilities and special educational needs and children who need safeguarding. In Lambeth the JAR team will do two additional investigations about youth crime and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). The management of the service is also assessed. Lambeth's Children and Young People's Service will receive a rating from the JAR team on these areas with guidance about areas for improvement.

The team of JAR inspectors interview staff from across the Children and Young People's Partnership including the voluntary sector, meet with young people and their parents and carers, and make visits to provisions for children and young people. The JAR team visited two Children's Centres; Loughborough and Stockwell and Charlie Chaplin, the Adventure Playground for children with disabilities and special educational needs. The team also visited some family support projects including the Bi-lingual Advocacy Project at the Stockwell Partnership.

The JAR is an opportunity to show inspectors some of the excellent work that is going on in Lambeth as well as to make a thorough assessment of our strengths and areas for further development.

In the next issue of Childcare Matters we will let you know how it went. Watch this space!

The eighth Stockwell Festival – Saturday 20 September 2008

This year's festival took place in Larkhall Park. There were plenty of activities for the whole family with workshops and music for the young and the old. Stockwell Partnership ran the Festival and The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funded the event.

Among the many activities for children of all ages, there were digger rides, go-kart races, magic shows, face painting, hula hoops and circus skill workshops, eco craft activities, tour de france cycle rides and street theatre. Street performers ranged from stilt walkers, jugglers and acrobats. Besides the activities there were also various other workshops and stalls. There was a Dr Bike marquee repairing children's bikes. There was an information marquee with lots of invaluable information for families including the Lambeth Families' Information Service.

There was a healthy eating and well-being stall plus many more.

All throughout the day there was music representing many cultures and people from all ages were dancing and having a good time. The Carnival started at 11.30 from Stockwell Primary School and ended up at the main stage at 12.30 and children and adults were all dressed up in the popular pineapple theme. There was plenty to eat and drink and the festival really seemed to unite the community with fun and information.

For more information please contact Sharon Bannister, Families' Information Service on 0845 601 5317



Stockwell Festival - children and adults from Stockwell Primary School in fancy dress

National Bookstart Day – Jessop Children's Centre

On Friday 10 October 2008 Jessop Children's Centre celebrated National Bookstart Day by dedicating it's Friday morning Reading Café to a fun Pirate story and play session. Parents and carers with children aged from 6 months to 3 years took part in a variety of activities, including making pirate hats and bling, pirate artwork and face painting.

Our interactive story, Pirate Pete, was read by Lydia Hutchings from Minet Library, who also sang songs and rhymes with the children. We finished with a treasure hunt in the centre's garden, where all the children went away with chocolate 'pieces of eight' - and no one was forced to 'walk the plank'!



Lauren, Chioma, Emily & Quincy all made brilliant pirate hats!

Eid Festival Brockwell Park Sunday 12 October 2008

This year's Eid was celebrated by the Lambeth Muslim Sisters at Brockwell One O'Clock. It was open to all nationalities and everybody was welcome.

This celebration was a woman's only event attended by at least 50 parents and 75 children. The event was thought of and organised by Parent Involvement Workers who volunteer at the One O'Clock Clubs.

They also promoted the event through word of mouth at various venues and donated money for all the activities as well as preparing and serving all the food and refreshments. Refreshments consisted of traditional home cooked food, sweets, salads and drinks and activities included traditional Henna hand painting, face painting and a children's entertainer.

Many women got together to celebrate Eid and there was a real feeling of sisterhood, support and friendship as well as plenty to do for the children attending who had lots of fun.

Many thanks to Michelle Thompson the Young Parents' Team Manager at St Michael's Fellowship for coordinating the whole event.



Young Lambeth website to be launched

The Children and Young People's Service Directory (branded Young Lambeth) will be officially launched next month. It is an on-line guide to services, organisations and activities for children, young people and their families.

The directory will enable professionals from the council, partner organisations and the voluntary sector to easily access information on local service providers including their location, eligibility criteria and referral procedures. This will help to improve communication and cooperation in the children's sector, resulting in better and quicker referrals, less duplication of effort and reduced time and effort of users looking for information.

The website will also have parent, children and young people friendly sections with information about services, advice and guidance on the many different issues that concern young people.

If you would like to check if your service is listed or verify whether the information held is accurate and complete, please contact the Young Lambeth team who will provide you with details of how to access and update your information on-line.

Contact Luiza Mattausch, Young Lambeth Project Officer on 020 7926 8584 or email lmattausch@lambeth.gov.uk.

CHILDCARE

Are you in contact with children who are living away from their parents?

Did you know that a child or young person who has been living away from their parents or close relatives for a period of more than 28 days, is part of a private fostering arrangement?

Anyone involved in making the arrangements for a child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) to be accommodated with someone who is not a parent or close relative for 28 days or more, must notify their local authority. A close relative is a sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent or step parent but not a cousin, great aunt/uncle, great grandparent or a family friend.

Lambeth's Private Fostering Service is here to help families. We are legally bound to ensure that privately fostered children are kept healthy and safe and we can provide information, advice and support to all those involved in the arrangement.

All professionals, agencies and community services must support and promote the need for notification of private fostering arrangements. The intention is not to get in the way of private family arrangements, but rather to ensure that the needs of privately fostered children and young people are safeguarded and promoted.

Even though these arrangements are usually made privately between the parent or person who has parental responsibility for the child and the person with whom the child is to be placed, it is a legal requirement that the council is informed.

There are many reasons for private fostering arrangements to be in place. These can include, but are not restricted to:

- Children or young people who are sent to this country for education or health care by their birth parents from overseas.
- Children or young people who are living with a friend's family or non-close relative as a result of parental separation, death of a parent, or family conflict.
- Children or young people from abroad who attend language schools in the UK and live with a host family.
- Unaccompanied minors, asylum seekers or trafficked children or young people who are looked after by non-close relatives or family friends while their parents remain abroad.

We want to work together to raise awareness of private fostering regulations amongst the parents and carers of the children in contact with your organisations.

If you work in Lambeth and think any children or young people you are in contact with may be in any of the above or similar situations, then please notify our Private Fostering Service. For more information please contact 020 7926 7081 or visit www.lambeth.gov.uk



Child Safety Week

The focus for Child Safety Week (23 - 27 June) in Lambeth One O' Clock Club this year was prevention of burns. During Child Safety Week each One O' Clock Club across Lambeth organised an event to raise awareness of ways to prevent burns in under fives, indoors and out.

This is a huge topic and covers preventing burns caused by sun, fire, hot water or steam. By nature all accidents are preventable. Our aim is to reduce burns by providing more information on preventing them and increasing awareness of child safety.

How long does it take hot liquid to produce a serious burn?

A young child's skin is thinner and more sensitive to heat than adults and therefore burns more quickly. At 60°C it takes less than 5 seconds for a second or third degree burn to occur. A survey by the Child Accident Prevention Trust of over 1,000 parents and grandparents reveals that half of those caring for children under five don't realise a cup of tea or coffee can still scald a baby 15 minutes after it's been made.

Take care with cups of tea or coffee when young children are around. A cup of tea made with just boiled water from a kettle will be much hotter than 60°C and stays hot for much longer than you think. After 5 or 10 minutes your cup of tea will be around 55°C and will cause a second or third degree burn in 10 – 15 seconds.

Bath water too can cause very serious scalds. The most effective way to prevent bath water scalds is to fit a thermostatic mixing valve, which mixes hot and cold water to a preset temperature before it emerges from the tap. (See the capt factsheet about thermostatic mixing valves). Otherwise, always run cold water into the bath before hot and never leave a young child alone in the bathroom.

Cooling a burn or scald as soon as possible can stop the damage from getting worse and can prevent scars. Contact St John Ambulance or British Red Cross for more detailed first aid advice and keep emergency numbers handy. The Fire Brigade and Lambeth's Community Safety Team were on hand at some of the One O' Clock Clubs and distributed information on free smoke alarms and fire prevention to families. The children enjoyed climbing into the fire engines and meeting the crew too.



The Fire Brigade offers personal fire safety advice

Staff at Slade Gardens One O' Clock Club organised outdoor games as the building was closed for repairs. Over the summer holidays free sun hats were handed out to children and parents were given advice on preventing burns of all kinds including sunburn.

Be safe and sound - make an appointment with the London Fire Brigade for a free home safety visit call 08000 28 44 28 website: www.london-fire.gov.uk

Further information is available from the Child Accident Prevention Trust website www.capt.org.uk

The Lead Adviser - your flexible friend: supporting providers with change.

Or are you ready for your Self Evaluation Form (SEF)?

September has come and gone but brought with it many significant changes to the working lives of early years practitioners. Firstly, the Early Years Foundation Stage framework heralded a more integrated approach to care and the development of children and their early learning came into effect from 1 September. This brought with it a renewed vigour and enthusiasm to the key and fundamental importance of play as vehicle for all children's learning and development.

Secondly there has been the introduction of the Ofsted's new Early Years and Childcare Registers.

Thirdly there are the changes to how Ofsted will inspect providers in relation to how they are delivering the EYFS and in addition to this there is the expectation that all practitioners will engage with the self evaluation process with the new Self Evaluation Form (SEF).

Last but not least, on a local level there is the long awaited arrival of the Lead Adviser (aka Early Years Consultants). These are times of tremendous change and we, the Local Authority are very well aware of how this might be experienced by providers. In the midst of these changes and new ways of working we have introduced the Lead Adviser. Whilst some might say this is yet another change, we hope that you will see it as a positive one, viewing us more as a consistent source of support and guidance through the statutory changes outlined above.

All of the above have a common aim, framed by the Every Child Matters agenda and that is to improve outcomes for all children by ensuring that they have access to high quality early play and learning experiences.

The EYFS

Play beats at the heart of the new framework and is promoted as the main component in how children learn best. The EYFS supports practitioners in the creation of stimulating environments, safe and secure relationships that best foster children's innate curiosity and desire to explore. It is underpinned by a sound understanding of how children develop and learn. It acknowledges that children should be actively engaged in their own learning and how practitioners should monitor and support this process.

Whilst the EYFS is welcomed, it is nevertheless a different way of working for many practitioners. If you have any questions, issues or need signposting to training you can ask your Lead Adviser.

The SEF

The new revised early years self evaluation form is based on the fundamental principle that in order to improve practice, one needs to know where it currently is. Self evaluation and reflection enables change to occur. Whilst it is not mandatory to fill in the SEF, any sensible provider will see it as an opportunity to improve their practice. It will form a part of the evidence that the Ofsted inspector considers when planning and carrying out the inspection of the EYFS. The SEF will enable practitioners to evaluate their practice against important aspects of the EYFS that Ofsted will inspect and make judgements about.

The form is much longer and requires more detailed evaluation than the previous one and that is the whole point creating a reflective practitioner who engages with the process of improvement and change. Filling in the form may require some support and this again, is where your Lead Adviser can play a role.

The Lead Adviser

In July 2008 we ran a series of briefing events aimed at giving providers advance warning of the introduction of the Lead Adviser role. We see this role as offering a more flexible and simpler service than previously experienced. Instead of having to know the range of different contacts that might visit your setting we are creating just one. You will have to link with one person who will provide you with information and support to develop your practice. Your Lead Adviser will be able to address questions you might have regarding the EYFS, the SEF or any issues that are pertinent to you.

The Lead Adviser, however, also has another role and that is of a critical friend. This role is about challenging providers to develop even better practice. As a critical friend we see our role as celebrating your successes but also highlighting areas in your practice where you need to improve. We are not inspectors, and whilst we will be carrying out audits of your practice we will also give you the support and guidance you will need to make changes - Ofsted inspectors do not do this.

This role is about the beginning of a constructive dialogue between the local authority and providers whereby we hope to engage practitioners in improving or extending the quality of practice within their provision. It is part of Lambeth Community Children's quality improvement drive to create positive outcomes for all children through the development of high quality care and learning (through play) environments.

What to expect

You should have received a letter recently informing you of who your Lead Adviser is, and they will be contacting you in the coming months, if you have not been contacted already. Your Lead Adviser will be providing you with a folder containing information about the Lead Adviser and how they will work in supporting you.

**If you have not received any information about your Lead Adviser or would like to know more about any of the issues discussed in this article please contact:
Sonia Abed El-Razek 07951 974 425 or Jo Baker 07931 310 306**

Woodmansterne Primary School & Children's Centre Launch - 1 Oct 2008

LAMBETH'S newest Children's Centre opened its doors for the first time this month.

The centre based at Woodmansterne School and Nursery in Streatham is the 26th in Lambeth.

The centre brings together a range of services for children aged under five and their families. It means parents can get advice on returning to employment, health and family support services alongside childcare and learning and development for their children.

The centre manager Melissa Devine said one of the main aims of the centre is to give families something to do together.

"We work with any family who have a child aged 0-5 and we offer them a range of services and it's aimed at bringing families together. As well as activities for children we have English for Speakers of Other Languages and we will be looking at having ICT classes," she said.

The centre is open to all families with children aged five or under and it will run a series of activities, including Rhythm and Rhyme sessions, Fun with Music and story time. It has already gone down well with parents who attended the opening day.

The head, Anita Wright and Phyllis Dunipace, Executive Director, CYPS said a few words and Cllr Paul McGlone cut the cake to officially launch the centre.

Melissa said:

"We had a very mixed group attend the day, from Lambeth support staff, partnership organisations and dignitaries to parents and children. Some people stayed all day and others popped in to see what we had on offer."

"It went really well, we were so busy. It is one of the few places around this area that families can come to and spend time together and do activities with their children. It was a great chance to listen to parents to find out what they want and we will try to do as much as we can to meet those needs."

For details about what's on offer call Melissa on 07505 912 366 or email childrenscentre@woodmansterne.lambeth.sch.uk



Sam Brooks enjoys play, with one of Woodmansterne's Early Years Educators

Who is looking after your child?

Lambeth Safeguarding Board in conjunction with the Community Children's Service are highlighting the risks of using unregistered minders and the benefits of using a Registered minder in a current campaign.

Did you know that if a child is being looked after by:

- someone who is not a close relative
- who cares for them in their home
- for more than two hours a day
- for a payment (even with flowers or chocolates)
- and who is **not registered** with Ofsted?

... they are certainly breaking the law.

Many people are still using minders who are not registered, perhaps unwittingly. However, aside from ensuring their child's safety, there are many benefits of using a Registered Childminder which people may not be aware of :

- Registered childminders will have a Criminal Records Bureau check to ensure they are suitable to care for children
- Registered Childminders are visited and inspected by OFSTED and the Local Authority. They are inspected against the Early Years Foundation Stage if they look after children under the age of 5 years
- Registered Childminders will provide care and education for the children in their care to a high standard,
- They will complying with Health & Safety Standards
- Ensure equal opportunities for children of different ethnicities, religions and abilities
- Will have completed an introductory childminding training course within 6 months of registering, and hold a current paediatric first aid certificate

There may also be extra benefits for working parents:

- They may also be eligible to apply for the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit
- They can offset the cost of the fees with childcare vouchers if their workplace uses that scheme

To find out details of registered childcare providers and minders, call our local Families' Information Service on 0845 601 5317 for a list of all registered childminders in our area, or to find out how the person caring for those children can become a registered childminder.

Lambeth Playbuilder Programme 2008

As a Playbuilder authority, Lambeth has recently secured over £1.1 million of capital funds to develop between 20 and 25 play areas in the Borough over the next three years. This represents a significant and welcome investment into local play facilities, which will both see an investment into existing provision and offers the potential to develop new sites.

The programme will consist of a planned roll-out of refurbishments and new developments, starting with six projects to be completed in year one by 31 March 2009, and approximately eight projects in years two and three, totalling 20 to 25 completed projects by 31 March 2011.

The Play Partnership, a group consisting of both voluntary and statutory partners, oversees the programme. Following the announcement in June 2008, the Play Partnership identified six projects for year one, using data from the Play audit and Play strategy consultation as well as deprivation data. Issues such as planning were also taken into account to ensure the tight deadlines for year one could be met. The year one projects identified are:

- Gordon Grove Adventure Playground:
Installation of a tree house with both challenging play and 'chill-out' area, linking to an existing slide structure.
- Charlie Chaplin Adventure Playground:
The installation of a Water Play area providing an opportunity to invest in natural play within an inclusive provision.
- Ruskin Park Play Area:
Playground and Park renewal: refurbishment of the play area by introducing some new equipment and natural elements.
- Slade Gardens Adventure Playground:
The building of an allotment and orchard and installation of an outdoor children's kitchen.
- Tulse Hill Youth and Play Project:
The development of a mini multi games area within the Adventure Playground site, widening the offer at the site and refurbishment of the natural play area.
- Knights' Hill Recreation Ground:
Refurbish the existing play area incorporating natural play elements and extending the age range at the provision.

Further consultation will be undertaken in the coming months to help identify year two and year three sites. This will be an opportunity for Lambeth residents and partners to input into the current list of sites and put forward new suitable sites. Please check back the Lambeth website for updates.

For more information, please contact Peter McNally, Operations Manager Children's Play 020 7926 9949, Clovis Bergere, Project Manager – Play and Sports 020 7926 9953 or Sarah Warman, Strategic Lead – Play and Sports 020 7926 8789

Max Roach Play Project Case Study

Tristian Edwards has attended Max Roach Play Project in Central Brixton since the age of five.

He attended the centre after school and during all school holidays, he frequently enjoyed activities such as cookery, candle making, basketball, and music and still lives locally.

Tristian formed very close relationships with the staff, who always encouraged his participation and took interest in his participation at the centre as well as at school.

He is now 18 years of age and has made positive contributions towards the development of Max Roach Adventure Playground.

Some of his achievements are as follows:

Panel member of the Play Service Children’s consultation program at age 10

- A Children’s Consultation program that looked into children’s play needs and wants borough wide, supported by Play Train, a Birmingham based consultation organisation.

Youth Committee chairperson at age 15

- The Development of a successful bid to the Youth Opportunity Fund [YOF]. He was successful in securing £8,000 to develop a music studio from a disused storage cupboard.

Adventure Playground at age 16

- The development and delivery of a music production and creative writing course for young people at the centre.

Code 7 - Youth Organisation at age 16/17

- The involvement in a Lambeth Youth organisation where he is participating in a business and project management initiative.
- The application for funding from various charities to support young people who live in Lambeth to achieve to their fullest potential.
- The individual is a typical role model to the young people he is representing. He does all of this and is still in full time education and has a part time job.

The young person has progressed to higher education and is still involved in the venue as a mentor.

For more information, please contact Peter McNally, Operations Manager Children’s Play 020 7926 9949, Clovis Bergere, Project Manager – Play and Sports 020 7926 9953 or Sarah Warman, Strategic Lead – Play and Sports 020 7926 8789



Success stories – 3 and 4 year old entitlement

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free early learning in Lambeth. We spoke to two families who are using the service to find out what difference it makes for them and their children.

Family one



Elena is 3 years old and has just started nursery for the first time. Snezana, Elena’s mum, received a leaflet through in the mail telling her about the free hours and how to access them. She then picked up a booklet at the Agnes Riley One O’ Clock Club and found it had a list of all the nursery provisions in Lambeth.

Snezana went to a new nursery that had opened locally at the Weir Link Centre and was able to register Elena easily with help from the friendly staff. Stay at home mum Snezana wanted Elena to attend so that she would socialise more, learn new things and make new friends.

Snezana feels that more families could benefit from this free entitlement but sometimes don’t because of language barriers.

Family two

Eron has been at The Sophie Centre for 11 weeks. His mum Ehi, chose the nursery because she had heard “very good things about it” from friends. On the term after his third birthday, Christine, the nursery manager talked to Ehi about the free entitlement and registered him with Lambeth to claim the free hours.

Ehi feels that her son is doing very well as he used to be very shy but now she feels “he is coming out of his shell”. He also developed good social skills, is sharing more and has even started to help clear the breakfast table at home. She also feels it has been good for her as a parent as she has learned to have clearer boundaries with Eron.

Ehi is a working mum with another 3 children under 5 years old. She works shifts but the nursery is able to help by offering a free pick up and drop off service from home.

For more information, contact the Families’ Information Service on 0845 601 5317.



Do you want an Early Years Professional in your nursery?

Why do we need a new profession?

At a time when there are more career opportunities for young people, we need to attract good new entrants to the early years sector. Retention has also been a problem, as able practitioners have left the sector in search of better opportunities, even though working with children was their real love. Providing a professional career path will help to recruit and retain practitioners for the future.

What is an Early Years Professional?

The Early Years Professional (EYP) is a new graduate-level status for experienced and qualified early years practitioners. The EYP is expected to lead and improve practice in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

EYP is not a qualification and candidates must already hold a relevant foundation or BA degree. There are various routes to becoming an EYP, which take from 3 to 15 months depending on the starting point. All EYP candidates will be assessed against early years professional standards¹, including observation of their practice in an early years setting.

What are the benefits for your business?

You want the best care and learning environment for the children in your setting. Research shows that one of the most important factors in providing a quality service is having an appropriately qualified graduate practitioner in the team. Parents are increasingly aware of the importance of good quality childcare and a national marketing campaign in 2009 aimed at parents will encourage them to ask "is there an EYP in this nursery?"

Most settings will want to support an experienced and long-serving member of their staff to achieve this new status, which acknowledges, values and rewards their skills and knowledge - the "home grown graduate" approach.

Quality improvement benefits from a member of staff who is a good role model for other practitioners and committed to improving the service for children. They are probably already qualified to at least Level 3. They love what they do and would like to do it even better.

Is there any financial help available?

High quality daycare and well-qualified staff cost you money. The good news is that the government has made new funding available – the Graduate Leader Fund (GLF) – to support quality improvement in all full daycare settings in the PVI² sector. It replaces the Transformation Fund. The money is to enable you to recruit, train and retain an EYP to lead high quality early years practice in your setting, with the aim of every full daycare setting having at least one EYP by 2015.

How can you apply?

Look out for the information pack which will be sent to you. This includes an application form, more information about the GLF and where to get help in applying if you need it.

For more information about training and qualifications for early years practitioners in Lambeth see www.lambeth.gov.uk

¹ For more information on EYP and the EYP standards see www.cwdcouncil.org.uk

² Private, voluntary and independent sector

The Real Experience of an Early Years Professional

Since getting my degree in 2004, I have never stopped topping up my 'academic career'.

In 2005, after starting at "The Italian Day Nursery" in Stockwell I committed myself to working hard in my career in childcare. I always kept myself well informed about the professional courses offered by Lambeth at International House, (which I found so useful) as well as keeping up to date with any literature available, magazines, books, web and CD ROMS. This helped me to gain the position of room leader and subsequently move on to Deputy Manager in less than 3 years.

However, I found that something was missing and it was necessary to gain a nationally recognised qualification. When my nursery started to receive the first information about the Early Years Professional Status (EYPS), I told myself 'that's for me!' My manager was keen for me to start as soon as possible and she offered me help and support during the enrolling process.

In September 2007 I started at London Metropolitan University on the Short Pathway which is based on a 3 month academic Module, plus a 3 month course specifically on the 39 standards you have to cover to be awarded with the EYPS.

My initial module was about 'Leadership and Management in the Early Years' and covered many pivotal aspects of being a leader, such as team building, dealing with the challenge of change, plus more practical skills such as how to formulate a development plan. I personally found this module exciting, although very intense at times, (especially the final essay!)

The second term was all about the 39 standards, and although the quantity might seem a bit scary, here is where you can find what an expert in Early Years is made of!

To conclude, the course an external assessor came to my setting and believe me it looked like an Ofsted inspection just for me. Now that I have got my EYP Status I feel so proud of myself and although it seemed hard at the beginning, it ended up like one of the most exciting things I have ever done.

By Cristina Cesetti - The Italian Day Nursery, Lambeth

Training related news and information

Communication Help Point

Communication is a central skill for life. It is vital that all those who work with children and young people have the right skills and knowledge to promote speech, language and communication development in children, are able to identify those experiencing difficulties and effectively support children and young people with speech, language or communication needs.

On the Communication Help Point there is help to:

- evaluate your own skills and knowledge
 - find ways to develop your skills including relevant training courses
 - find answers to questions you have about developing your skills and supporting children's communication
- www.communicationhelppoint.org.uk/

Paediatric First Aid

All practitioners and settings should note the following

1. **EYFS requirements** state that all paediatric first aid training 'leading to a certificate or renewal certificate [must be] a minimum of 12 hours'. So all courses which form part of the Lambeth Early Years continuing professional development programme, will run over 2 days.
2. **Ofsted report and training:** Leading to excellence: a review of childcare and early education provision 2005–08 is the third review of inspections of registered childcare and early education in England by Ofsted. In relation to training, the report highlights the importance of keeping your paediatric first aid and safeguarding children training up to date. www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Leading-to-excellence
3. **Missing certificates:** Clayton's Training Group advertised in your 'Training and Professional Development for early years and play practitioners', is no longer providing training on behalf of Lambeth Community Children's Service. These courses will now be delivered by Enhance Services Ltd from 1 September 2008 until further notice. Community Children's Service is taking steps to pursue Clayton's for practitioners' missing certificates.

Plug for the next EY Workforce Forum

Do you want to be involved in planning training for practitioners in Lambeth for 2009 onwards? Come to the next **Early Years Workforce Development Forum, on Thursday 6 Nov 2008** either morning or afternoon with networking lunch. Look out for the invite (which will include a questionnaire in case you can't make it to the meeting). See the "Training and Professional Development for early years and play practitioners" booklet for other forum dates.

Information about EY training

Information about EY training in Lambeth can also be accessed on www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/UnderFives/Childcare/EarlyYearsTrainingProfessionalDevelopment.htm

For more information please contact Alex Webber, Workforce Strategy Manager for Early Years

Email: a.webber@lambeth.gov.uk

Celebrating success!

Lambeth Community Children's Service held an award evening on Monday 21 July to celebrate the achievement of early years and play practitioners in the borough, who successfully completed long courses including NVQs, Early Years Foundation and BA degrees, or who gained Early Years Professional Status in 2008.

Nearly 100 practitioners were invited, including childminders and playworkers. Most of them came and they brought partners, children and friends to enjoy the evening. Invited guests also included heads, managers and representatives of learning providers. This also provided a chance to thank the employers, families and others who have supported practitioners in their achievement.

John Readman, Divisional Director, Community Learning, Lambeth Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) opened the ceremony and took the opportunity to thank all the practitioners present for the wonderful work they do, making such a difference to the lives of children in Lambeth. He also highlighted the significant improvement in children's Foundation Stage results in Lambeth in 2008.

Marcella McHugh, Head of EYFS and Childcare, and Sue Scarsbrook, Early Years Consultant and ex-head of Sudbourne School also gave well-received speeches. All three speakers handed out the certificates and posed for photos with the award winners.



John Readman presents students with their NVQ certificate

Refreshments were provided in the Assembly Hall at Lambeth Town Hall which had been specially decorated for the evening. Everyone dressed up for the occasion and some of the participants spoke from the heart about their happiness and sense of achievement. There was a wonderful, warm atmosphere and we hope very much to make this a regular annual event.

Please be sure to let eytraining@lambeth.gov.uk know if you complete a course for which you have received local authority funding or if you gain EYPS in 2008/09 so we can invite you to next year's celebration.

For more information please contact Alex Webber, Workforce Strategy Manager for Early Years
Email: a.webber@lambeth.gov.uk

New Financial Awareness Training for Childcare Providers

The Business Development Team is developing a financial training scheme with Maltway Consultants for Children's Centres and other Early Years settings. This is to commence in November 2008 and will run into 2009.

The training will cover financial management and risk control; and the aim is to:

- Assist those involved in Children's Centres and other Early Years settings, ensuring that they have robust processes for controlling, reporting and monitoring their finances and financial resources.
- Inform and clarify best practices and authority requirements for the proper recording, reporting and monitoring of their finances.
- Describe the key policy frameworks (eg Financial Regulations, value for money) that govern financial management.
- Identify the key financial risks of operating a children's centre/setting, and develop and maintain appropriate measures to control those risks (in areas such as cash handling, income collection, procurement and management of resources).
- Gain commitment from staff to practice sound financial management.

The training will be a one day session from 9.30am to 4.00pm and is free. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Each session will be held in different localities so as to accommodate all settings.

The training will be in two phases:

Phase 1 to commence in November and will specifically target:

- Children's Centres Family Service Managers
- Children's Centres Administrators
- School Finance Officers/Senior Administrative Officers

Scheduled Dates: 24 November 2008
25 November 2008
28 November 2008

Venue: Streatham Hub
Brixton Children's Centre
Vauxhall Children's Centre

Phase 2 will commence in January 2009 and will target the staff of Private, Voluntary and Independent settings - i.e. Managers, Administrators, Finance Officers and Treasurers. Scheduled dates will be advertised shortly and flyers sent to settings.

**For further information, please contact the Business Development Team (Resources)
Jillian Jones – Sure Start Early Years Childcare Grant Monitoring Officer.**

Tel: 020 7926 6811

Email: jejones@lambeth.gov.uk

Monitoring update:

During the summer, the Business Development Team has undertaken over 80 visits to both Children's Centres and PVI settings, which were productive. The team will continue their schedule of visits in the autumn and we look forward to your continued support and working in partnership. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to those Children's Centres who have completed and returned their quarterly budget monitoring returns. This work is essential in assisting the Authority in the monitoring of the Sure Start Early Years Childcare Grant.

**For further information or advice on monitoring issues, please contact Bunmi Idowu -
Sure Start Early Years Childcare Grant Revenue Manager**

Tel: 020 7926 8604

Email: bidowu@lambeth.gov.uk

Course - Managing your Business

Date: Thursday 6 November 2008

Time: 9.30am-3.30pm (1 day)

Venue: International House

Course Aim: To enable participant to manage their business effectively.

Course content:

- Basic accounting
- Maintaining financial records
- Updating documents
- Marketing

Course Administrator:

Tel. 020 7926 9552/9961
eytraining@lambeth.gov.uk

Course Tutor:

Resources Team (CYPS)

Target Audience: Early Years, Childminders, Play

Cost: Free to Lambeth settings (£35 to out of borough settings)

Refreshments: Lunch provided

Please look out for
the 'new look'
Childcare Matters -
February 2009

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

Portuguese

Se desejar esta informação noutra 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 toforo
mu a tre

Yoruba

Ti e ba fe imoràn yií, ní eṣé Òmiràn, eṣé
e kàn wà l'ágogó

Tel: 0845 601 5317