

Childcare Matters

February 2007

Issue 8



The professional magazine for all providers of childcare in Lambeth

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Lambeth Family Reading Campaign

On Monday 15 January the National Literacy Trust launched Family Reading Fortnight, a campaign to support reading in the home. The launch at the Oval used Lambeth as a showcase borough. The event coincided with the launch of BBC RAW (Reading and Writing) and brought together a range of organisations who support reading in Lambeth.

Derrick Anderson Lambeth's Chief Executive and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families, Parmjit Dhanda were present and re-enforced the importance of reading in the home. Six Sure Start families were interviewed on stage by Huw Edwards, BBC news presenter, and spoke positively of the benefits of reading with their very young children.



Families enjoying a sing-a-long with 'Maisy the Mouse' at The Oval.



Continued from front page...

Hilary Marrinan (Literacy Development Worker for Kennington Sure Start) made a short film about local families and their reading habits, which was shown throughout the afternoon. The film was both entertaining and touching and demonstrated the positive impact of early literacy work in an inner-London borough.

The children present also benefited from a surprise guest appearance by a gigantic 'Maisy the Mouse', kindly lent to us by Walker Books, who accompanied the children in a song-time and participated in the story "Goodnight Maisy."

BBC London featured the event and highlighted an innovative Café Reading Project. Androulla Charalambous runs the St Stephen's Café Reading Project which consists of regular family literacy sessions in South Lambeth Library with families. The group share a book and do an activity around the text. Parents, carers and children then have the opportunity to enjoy a book of their choice in a nearby café over tea and cake. The project has provided children as well as the adults with opportunities to enjoy and explore books together.

Overall the launch was a great chance to celebrate family reading in Lambeth and to generate ideas for future work.

To find out more about the café you can email Androulla at: androulla69@yahoo.com

New Family Support Programme - Coin Street Family & Children's Centre

Lambeth-based social enterprise Coin Street Community Builders has launched a new holistic Family Support Programme for residents and childcare/welfare professionals in London SE1. The programme's ethos is to encourage parents and professionals to work together as equals.

Starting in March are practical courses and workshops for parents and associated professionals in parenting, anti-harassment & bullying and baby massage. Regular weekly family learning sessions are already up and running.



The Family Support Programme is an integral part of the development of the Coin Street family & Children's Centre [the designated Children's Centre in the area and the only Children's Centre to provide services to residents across two boroughs – Lambeth and Southwark] established in preparation for the opening in September of the new £9.4m neighbourhood centre on Stamford Street, SE1. The workshops are either free or have a nominal fee. For further information/booking details for the courses contact Rahi Jahan on 020 7592 2910 or email r.jahan@coin-street.org.

Tree House Children's Centre at Holmewood Nursery

The Tree House Children's Centre at Holmewood Nursery has been running since May 2006 and we look forward to the official opening, which we will be holding in February.

We have run some very successful and popular courses for parents, including a sewing class. Our parents were able to gain a skill that will help them to design and make clothes not only for themselves but also for their children and many have already started to do this.

The courses continue to run, expand and develop. In the Arts and Crafts class we have had two parents offer to run some sessions while our tutor is on leave in February. It is really rewarding to see how the participants have grown in confidence and self-esteem.

In conjunction with the adult learning course we provide a crèche for the parents' children, and it has been a delight to see our children grow and develop from babies to crawlers to walkers and explorers! Our crèche children had the opportunity last term to participate in a Mural workshop run by Hannah Littlejones, Parent Governor and artist, and they have produced a fantastic tree mural for the Tree House.

Looking to the year ahead we are excited to have CiCi Collins running a 10 week workshop on Communications Skills. We are also running the sewing classes and we are introducing Wriggle 'n Rhyme, which will be run by Joy Roberts and Sarita Chavda. Watch this space!

By Deanne Chamberlain - Acting Family Services Manager.



Children enjoying themselves at The Tree House Children's Centre.

Sewing Group at Ethelred Nursery

We run a sewing group on Tuesday afternoons from 1.00-3.00pm. The group was set up in response to community need and run in conjunction with the Kennington Sure Start programme. It is open to all and it provides a great opportunity for parents and carers to meet together in a relaxed and friendly setting. A crèche is provided for children so that parents and carers can focus on fulfilling their own needs, be it learning a new skill or enjoying one already acquired. The class is facilitated by an expert tailor called Forever and the range and quality of garments made is amazing. Fashion parades have become a feature and this also involves the children. We may have some stars in the making! Tea and biscuits add to the homely ambience. Why not join us and be creative.

Call 020 7582 9711 for more information

Lambeth Children's Centres

Under One Roof - Loughborough Children's Centre Launch

Culture Secretary, The Right Honorable Tessa Jowell, MP for Dulwich and West Norwood, cut the red ribbon to mark the opening of a £1 million Children's Centre, at Loughborough Primary School on 17 November 2006.

The opening was attended by parents, children, staff, representatives from Lambeth Early Years and Sure Start Service and other statutory agencies.

The new Children's Centre is a milestone in providing activities for parents and children, which started several years ago.

By Nigel French, Family Services Manager



Tessa Jowell receives flowers.



Tessa Jowell with parents and children.

The Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board annual training brochure

The Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board annual training brochure is now available for practitioners who work regularly with children and families and/or adults who are parents/carers and who are responsible for safeguarding children's welfare.

The training brochure and booking form will be available soon to download from the following website: www.lambethscb.org.uk.

For more details please contact Charlotte Wilson-Addo on 020 7926 4759.

Stockwell and Larkhall Sure Start Parents Conference.



Parents and children at the conference.

On 29 November we held the Stockwell and Larkhall Sure Start Parents Conference. The event was held to support parents to make the transition from the Sure Start Local Programme to Children's Centres.

To facilitate this we arranged for parents to do short presentations with the support of practitioners about the support they had received from the programme - around issues such as healthy eating and breastfeeding.

Around 110 parents attended and each of the presenting parents stood up and gave a testimonial which was a variation on this theme:

'I was in a desparate situation (financial / child's health / my health / my mental health / my child's education etc) and I met a Sure Start practitioner. They helped me with my problem and then introduced me to another Sure Start practitioner who helped me with something else and now things are so much better because I know I'm not alone".

One parent stood up and spoke in portuguese with Natalia, a Sure Start worker, translating. Halfway through her presentation she began speaking in English, as she acquired the confidence. A number of parents also thanked Sure Start for the training that had led them to employment or starting in business. A number of parents said that Sure Start was their family. All of the parents referred to a range of services and not just one person.

A similar event will be held on 7 March and we will be working closely with local Children's Centres to plan the event.

There will be more of a focus on the opportunities offered through Children's Centres for local parents.

Clare Douglas
Stockwell Sure Start Programme
Director
Tel: 020 7737 2197
Fax: 020 7737 3199



A parent talking about her experience of Sure Start.

Free Resource:

The following website has a link to a really good interactive way of involving children in reading and writing.

It is an interactive website where you can write a book with your own characters based on preset options. You can name the book and write your name as the author. You can also submit it to the gallery so that your book can be shared by others.

You can then print the book when you are finished. What a sense of achievement for the child. There is also an opportunity to raise home / road / play safety in a young and approachable way.

If you have access to the internet, it can make a useful resource tool and it's free!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/raw/>

Lambeth Play Association presents The Play Forum

Forums for people working with or providing activities for children

Future dates for your diary

Tuesday 13th March 07 - Venue to be confirmed
Play Types

Wednesday 9th May 07 - Venue to be confirmed
Workshop to be confirmed

Wednesday 4th July 07 - Venue to be confirmed
Workshop to be confirmed

For more information please contact
Mary Lawrence

Out of School Development Officer
Lambeth Play Association

66 Railton Road
SE24 0LF

Tel.0207 733 5718 Fax.0207 733 7895

mary@lambethplay.co.uk or admin@lambethplay.co.uk



The Lambeth Childcare Support Scheme

Lambeth's Early Years and Sure Start Service are taking part in a pilot scheme that will provide financial support for parents and carers who live in Lambeth. The Childcare Support Scheme is funded by the London Development Agency and will help parents with the cost of childcare while they are actively seeking employment or taking up a short-term vocational training course.

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 that needs childcare.
- The parent or carer will have to fit at least three or more of the following criteria:
 - Lone parent
 - Teenage parent
 - Unemployed
 - Asylum Seeker receiving NASS support.
 - Refugee
 - Speak English as an additional language.
 - 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.
- Teenage parents living at home do not need to fit three criteria

The parent or carer has to be:

- Actively seeking work and need childcare support to carry out their job searching.
- On or intending to take up a short term vocational training course with a recognised training provider up to NVQ Level 2.

We are unable to support childcare for parents or carers who are on Access courses or on courses that will lead to a qualification over NVQ Level 2.

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

Ofsted Inspections - information for the public

In April 2005 Ofsted introduced a new inspection framework and grading system for childminders and daycare providers. The grades are Outstanding, Good, Satisfactory or Inadequate.

There are two categories of inadequate. Inadequate Category 2 is more serious and Ofsted can take enforcement measures including issuing compliance notices, prosecuting a provider and cancelling a registration.

The Early Years and Sure Start Service have made the decision to remove all settings issued with an inadequate category 2 from any lists that we provide for the public.

Reminder to return Census forms

To Lambeth Early Years Providers

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS (DfES) EARLY YEARS CENSUS 2007

In January the Early Years and Sure Start Service sent out the following forms:

- a request to count the number of 3 and 4 year olds in your setting for the Nursery Education Fund (NEF).
- a questionnaire from the DfES asking for general information about your setting.
- a questionnaire from Lambeth Early Years and Sure Start Service asking for more detailed information about your setting.

All of the forms were to be completed and returned in the freepost envelope provided by the 18 January 2007. We have only received completed forms from around half of our providers.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those providers who have returned their completed forms.

For those providers who have not yet returned the forms, please send the completed forms back to us as soon as possible. It is important we receive the forms back so that we have up-to-date information about each setting to provide to parents and carers.

Please contact Nikki Neta on 020 7926 8606 if you have any questions about the Census.

Business Development

Fines for minimum wage non-payers

Employers who refuse to pay the minimum wage could face a £200 penalty notice for every worker they underpay. They have to pay back arrears they owe to the worker and those who refuse to pay will be penalised. Employers who fail to pay the minimum wage can also face prosecution, risking a criminal record and a £5000 fine.

Last year more than 1.2 million workers benefited from the increases in the national minimum wage. Since 1 October 2006 the main national minimum wage rate for workers aged 22 and over is £5.35 per hour. There are also two development rates, one for 18-21 year olds is £4.45 per hour and another 16-17 year olds is £3.30 per hour.

To check on how the National Minimum Wage applies to you (or your staff), telephone the National Minimum Wage Helpline on 0845 6000 678. This is also the number to ring if you think you are being underpaid and wish to make a complaint. All complaints about underpayment of the National Minimum Wage are treated in the strictest confidence and callers may remain anonymous.

Baby news!

Congratulations to Jillian Jones , Business Support Officer who gave birth to a beautiful, bouncing baby boy on 25 November 06.

Jillian and baby Zakiya visited the Early Years and Sure Start offices recently and everyone got to have a little cuddle with the baby and a catch up with Jillian - who was looking wonderful!

Congratulations from all at EYSSS!



Childcare Development & Early Years Foundation Stage

New Out of Hours Childcare Project

The London Development Agency has committed to investing over £4 million to help deliver the Mayor's London Childcare Strategy. It is designed to increase the availability of quality childcare provision in London and to make it more affordable for parents. It also seeks to promote family friendly childcare practices to enable parents to balance work and family life.

In response to the childcare strategy Southwark, Lambeth and Wandsworth have received LDA funding to pilot a new service to support families. Lambeth Early Years and Sure Start Service will be launching the Out of Hours Childcare Service which is a new initiative to provide quality childcare within the child's home (where possible). There has been a need for the childcare market to apply a flexible approach to service delivery. The working patterns of families have changed gradually in recent years, with some parents working unsociable hours.

The Childcare Development team has recently appointed an Out of Hours Childcare Co-ordinator, Grace Malcolm. She will be responsible for the development and delivery of the Out of Hours Childcare Project. This will provide 24 hour, 7 day a week flexible home based care for children whose families work unsociable hours or shifts or who need care to access training or education, or for families needing respite or support care within the home for children with special needs.

For more information about the project and future briefing sessions please call Jo Baker or Grace Malcolm on 020 7926 9954.



Grace Malcolm our new Out of Hours Childcare Project Co-ordinator

AUTISM - ADVICE AND SUPPORT**MAYTREE NURSERY SCHOOL**

Clarence Crescent
London SW4 8LN
Tel: 020 -8671-3298
Fax: 020 -8674 0791
Headteacher Mrs Jenny Bruce
Deputy Ms Amanda DePeza

What is Autism and how can we help these children in the
Foundation stage?

April 18th 2007 at 9.30 - 3.30

Part 2

Strategies to help staff extend children on the
autistic spectrum

April 19th 2007 at 9.30 - 3.30

at Maytree Nursery School

£20 per person for the 2 days
for materials and refreshments

Maytree Nursery School also provides an outreach
service of advice to the staff from other settings who work with
children under 5 on the autistic spectrum.

Maytree staff will present the above workshop
Apply immediately by phoning Clare at
Maytree on 020 8671 3298
or email cfrancis@maytree-nursery.lambeth.sch.uk

CONGRATULATIONS...

Two Lambeth nurseries receive outstanding Ofsted reports.

Nelly's Nursery in All Saints Church, Rosendale Rd

"A well qualified and highly motivated staff team provide a creative and stimulating environment, in which children can comfortably progress to their full potential."

Ofsted 2006 Led by..."A Manager fully committed to ensuring children receive high quality care and education." Ofsted 2006

Four and a half years ago Sarah Hill was unable to find quality care and provision for her son, and so Nelly's was born. Sarah felt that Ofsted has recognised her guiding principles, first and foremost a focus on children with an equal emphasis on developing her staff to achieve and support these principles. On a visit you will see very happy children and very happy staff ! It is obvious to see..."Children flourish within the setting. They benefit from close bonds with consistent members of staff who are extremely committed to their job." Ofsted 2006. Sarah Hill is happy to share her reflections on the Ofsted experience.

Abacus Day Nursery, Streatham is a local nursery that has been established for 16 years. Ofsted noted "A particular strength of teaching is in relation to the opportunities that children have to be imaginative and creative."

When talking to Paris Petgrave, a drama graduate working in the nursery, she expanded on the range of drama, movement and music activities that are planned. The nursery also benefits from a member of staff, Aisha Khan who is able to sign using British Sign Language. This offers opportunities for the children to experience another way of communicating. The nursery would be willing to share these skills with others.

Lambeth Early Years and Sure Start Service extend congratulations and thanks to both Nelly's and Abacus. The Early Years Foundation Stage team will be working closely with them and all settings in the future.....watch this space !

Highlights from a week in the life of an Early Years Teaching and Learning Consultant.

Monday

Visit to a setting

Met with the manager to give ongoing support with planning and record keeping in the foundation stage. Then back to the office to write up visit logs.

Tuesday

Staff Meeting

I ran a staff meeting at a nursery on observation and planning in the foundation stage. The session raised lots of questions and discussion.

Wednesday

Workforce Development Forum

Participated in the dialogue with practitioners around current opportunities to support the workforce in improving outcomes for children.



Continued from previous page..

Thursday

BVPI meeting at International House

Meet to discuss the number of visits that the teaching and learning consultants make to Private, Voluntary and Independent settings which is monitored as part of an audit of the council called (the BVPI - Best Value Performance Indicator). This is to ensure that all settings receive regular support visits.

Friday

All day training - at London Metropolitan University to become an assessor for the new Early Years Professional Status. This will give me a very clear insight into this new qualification and help me with my work supporting practitioners in Lambeth.

My ongoing role, as Early Years Teaching and Learning Consultant will be to continue to support settings and practitioners to improve children's outcomes from birth to the end of the foundation stage.

For more information call Shelagh Vida on 020 7926 8615

IMPORTANT DATE FOR HEADS, MANAGERS AND LEADERS OF CHILDCARE SETTINGS:

The next Early Years Workforce Development Forum will be held on Tuesday 20 March 2007 at the Oval Conference Centre from 9.30am to 1pm with lunch provided.



Mary West will be the main speaker. Mary was head of Randolph Berrisford, one of the first Early Years Centres which opened in 1999 in Hammersmith and Fulham.



Training Providers will be invited to contribute to the Forum which will also include up to date information on funding, Lambeth's Early Years and Sure Start Service 2007/8 Training programme and the Foundation Stage Curriculum.

A booking form will be sent to all settings closer to the date.

Child Trust Fund (CTF)

The CTF is the long term savings and investment plan from the Government, designed to give all children born on or after 1 September 2002 a financial head start when they begin adult life. The Government has introduced the CTF to ensure children have savings at the age of 18, help children to get into the habit and benefits of saving, and understand personal finance.

Some key facts about CTF

- Long term saving and investment account where the child (and no one else) can withdraw the money when he/she turns 18.
- £250 voucher to start the account.
- Children in families receiving Child Tax Credit with low household income will receive extra payment.
- The Government will make a further contribution when the child is seven years old.
- It will not affect any benefits or Tax Credit.
- Children can start to make decisions about how the money is managed when they are 16.

Further information

The CTF website provides useful information such as: top tips for saving, choosing and managing saving accounts, financial education and marketing and publicity materials (including other community languages). www.childtrustfund.org.uk

The voice of a child project

Calling all childcare practitioners and providers with an eye for creativity, a soul for development and a spirit for adventure!

Consulting with young children and their parents/carers is a key strategic aim of the Lambeth Brightstart Strategy and sets out very clearly our commitment to a Lambeth wide consultation with young children and parents/carers.

In 2006 Lambeth Early Years & Sure Start Services (EYSSS) successfully achieved this aim through the delivery of a number of projects involving private, voluntary & independent Early Years Settings, Sure Start local programmes and nursery classes, which you would have read about in previous Childcare Matters.

In 2007, EYSSS wants to build on the success of these projects in consulting with young children, parents/carers and developing a foundation of good practice in the early years. We want to go bigger and wider than we did in 2006 and we need you!

The next project will be looking at the mental health and well being of young children. The project will also explore some of the perceptions and beliefs that are held regarding children's mental health and well-being and focus on the development of good practice within early year's settings delivering services to children and their families.

So do you have any budding Dora the explorers, Bob the builders or tweenies in your midst that would like to express themselves? Would you like to be involved in developing this project and bringing it to your setting? Do you want to find out more?

Please contact Justina Asafu-Adjaye on 020 8678 5412 or 07951 463 272

Date for your diary...

Early Years and Sure Start Service Practitioners Conference

Venue: The Oval, Kennington

Date: 11 May 2007

Theme: 'Practitioners and parents working in partnership.'

CHILDCARE MATTERS SCHEDULE 2007

Issue:	Article deadline:	Distribution date:
JUNE	Fri 18th May	Fri 15th June
SEPTEMBER	Fri 17th August	Fri 14th 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 fẹ ìmoràn yìí, ní èdè Òmíràn, ẹjǫ, ẹ kàn wà l'ágogo

Tel: 0845 601 5317

Notes

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