

Early Years Foundation Stage

As you are probably aware the Early Years Foundation Stage was officially launched at the end of March this year. The EYFS will be statutory from September 2008. It brings together Principles and Effective Practice from *Birth to Three Matters* and the *Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage* together with elements of the *National Standards*. From September 2008 it will be mandatory for all schools and providers in Ofsted registered settings attended by young children – that is children from birth to end of the academic year in which a child has his or her fifth birthday. The term “early years provider” includes maintained schools, non-maintained schools, independent schools, and childcare registered by Ofsted e.g. childminders, playgroups, full daycare nurseries etc., all of which will be required to meet the EYFS requirements from September 2008.

The distribution of the EYFS packs is the responsibility of the local authority. We have ordered sufficient packs to ensure every setting has at least one copy. In order that you are able to collect your pack as soon as possible we have arranged a series of ‘open sessions’ across the county where staff from the Early Years, Childcare and Extended School Services Team, including Workforce Development and Area Teams, the Primary Team and other support organisations will be available during the day to discuss any queries and note down issues for clarification.

Date	Venue
Wednesday 9 th May 2007	Priory Centre, Great Yarmouth
Wednesday 16 th May 2007	Comfort Inn Thetford, Northwold
Thursday 17 th May 2007	Wensum Valley Hotel, Taverham
Tuesday 22 nd May 2007	Knight's Hill Hotel, King's Lynn
Thursday 24 th May 2007	Links Hotel, West Runton

Please call in to any of the sessions at any time between 11am and 8pm. There is no need to book but please be aware that there is the possibility that the sessions may be busy at certain times during the day.

Please note that the representative from the Primary Team will be available between 3 and 5 pm on each day, to discuss any issues particularly relating to delivery of the EYFS in the maintained sector. However, you are at liberty to call in at any time over the day to collect the pack.

Further copies of the EYFS are downloadable from www.teachernet.gov.uk or www.standards.dfes.gov.uk. Hard copies can be ordered through the DfES Publications Centre; e-mail dfes@prolog.uk.com or phone 0845 6022260.

Local Authorities will also play a key role in ensuring that, before and after September 2008, all providers and practitioners access appropriate training and professional development opportunities to enable them to understand the Principles and requirements of the EYFS and to provide good quality care and education for children from birth to five. It will also continue to be the responsibility of the Local Authority to offer advice and guidance around the registration and inspection process encompassed within the EYFS.

We are currently in the process of arranging briefing sessions for managers and headteachers for later in the summer term and a more extensive training and development programme from September 2007 onwards. Further details will be sent to all settings as soon as they are available. Also, please look out for details in Training News, which will be sent out to all settings during June.

The EYFS does not become statutory until September 2008. It is likely that you are already meeting many of the requirements of the EYFS but there is a long lead in time before implementation so that all settings have the opportunity to become familiar with the EYFS and consider any implications. The Local Authority will support you through training and information provided through your Area Teams and/or Primary Advisor.

Marcelle Curtis

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