

## LEADING LEARNING IN THE EARLY YEARS

### Improving quality in the Foundation Stage

This is a new and exciting programme for headteachers and deputies of Norfolk schools with a Foundation Stage. This programme is part of the much wider training programme for the early years and childcare workforce. In particular, the programme will be particularly helpful in supporting headteachers and deputies who may have limited experience in leading and managing the Foundation Stage.

The programme is designed to broaden the perspectives of headteachers and deputies in the leadership and management of the Foundation Stage by:

- visiting Foundation Stage settings in other LEAs;
- engaging with colleagues across the County in debate about common issues, including the development of extended schools and the provision of integrated services;
- listening and debating issues with visiting speakers;
- evaluating the quality of the Foundation Stage in their own school and engaging in problem solving activities to raise expectations further.

#### **Aims**

This programme will enable headteachers to:

- Consider views of leadership which take learning as the focal point for school improvement;
- Visit a range of Foundation Stage settings in other LEAs and reflect on improvement issues with colleagues in those settings;
- Attend a residential conference to share experiences with colleagues, evaluate the strengths and areas for improvement in their own Foundation Stage, and establish an improvement project in their own school.

The programme will take place during the summer term and autumn term 2004, and spring term 2005.

#### **Outline of the Programme**

26 <sup>th</sup> April 2004, Norwich Professional Development Centre	Introduction and preparation for the programme
May and June 04	Visits to Foundation Stages in other LEAs
1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2004 The Links Country Park Hotel, West Runton	Residential Conference to share experiences, listen to key note speakers and plan for the future
Autumn term 04 onwards	Improvement project within my own Foundation Stage, supported by colleagues
24 February 2005 Norwich Professional Development Centre	Share progress to date

Funding for supply cover will be provided for colleagues in small schools who have a heavy teaching commitment.

The Residential Conference will be funded centrally, through EDP funding.

Course members will be expected to fund their own travel arrangements to other LEAs, although costs can be shared between colleagues.

#### **Programme leaders:**

**Ray Leeke, Principal Adviser (Advisory Services)**

**Anne Dobson, Education Officer (Education Officer, Early Years)**

Further details of the programme will be supplied upon application. Please find attached the booking form.

We will be limiting the group to around 25 headteachers and deputies. If the programme is successful we hope to arrange a similar programme on an annual basis. Priority will be given to applicants:

- Who may have limited experience in leading and managing the Foundation Stage
- As collaborative working is a key part of the programme, we will also need course members who have successful experience in leading and managing the Foundation Stage
- So that full use of cluster arrangements can be made to share good practice, we will be seeking to ensure that there is a broad balance of course participants across the four areas of Norfolk.