

**Poppyland
Launch**

**Early Years
+ Childcare
Forums -
What Next?**

**Cut Out &
Keep Section**
Sharing Stories
at Home

Autumn 2004

partnership **news**





Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Partnership News. Our last issue was very well received and many of you commented how great it was to have so much information in one place. I hope that this issue will be just as informative and be as well received.

Many of you will have been working throughout the summer break and we hope that the holiday schemes and summer clubs you were involved with were successful. The Childcare Information Service report a strong take-up of the orange holiday schemes booklet which was distributed all over Norfolk at the end of last term. Others may have spent some of their summer at the Reggio exhibition in Cambridge and we hope that you will be sharing that information with your groups over the coming months.

As we enter the new term we refocus on the issues in hand and embrace the new challenges. We have all worked extremely hard to ensure that the Neighbourhood Nurseries are all on track for opening on time and supporting the ones who have opened already.

We remain committed to the development of new childcare places and the support of these places as sustainable groups of the future. We have some limited sustainability funding available and guidance and criteria have been issued. The Childcare Development workers are currently working with the groups that have expressed an interest.

Training and recruitment plans are on track to help deliver a childcare workforce to ensure that groups have as wide range of job seekers as possible ready to fill new vacancies.

Our Vacancy Matching Service is up and running and being well received by providers and job seekers. Jobs are also being shared with Jobcentre plus and Connexions to ensure as wide ranging audience as possible.

Also included in this edition, for the first time, is a page of our provider classified appointments, as a way of further promoting childcare vacancies to as wide an audience as possible.

From April 2005 the training plan moves to a yearly programme with the new booklet being delivered in the New Year. For the first time it will list all the courses, including the Foundation Stage. Planning processes are underway and we are looking for a high return of the audit questionnaires in order to assist us in this.

We are including with this issue a questionnaire of the Early Years and Childcare Forums, and I would encourage as many of you as possible to fill them in and return them to us. We have also included some background information on Page 11.

Also included in this issue for the second time is an update on the work of the early years education practitioners and this time they look to share ideas about stories, including cut out and keep ideas on how to share stories at home.

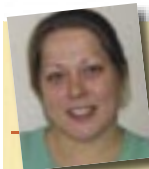
So much work has been completed and there is much work to do. We are as ever committed to the implementation of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda and more information about how this will directly affect us as a team will be available over the coming months.

Best Wishes

Marcelle Curtis
Head of Early Years and Childcare Strategy

joiners, leavers and movers

Welcome to



Hayley Coleman

Recruitment and Marketing Administrator

Yvonne Deradour

Development Worker, Central and North area team



Jackie Gahegan

Development Worker, South and East area team

Goodbye to

Sarah Harris - Development Worker, South and East area team

Temporarily to:

Rebecca Southerland - Admin Assistant Western area team

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The Real Story Update

On 12 August 2004, the BBC broadcast an episode of 'The Real Story'. This programme showed evidence of some staff mistreating children in nurseries.

Ofsted has worked closely with the police and social services departments before conducting their own investigations into the three nurseries mentioned in the programme. These investigations are still on-going. In the meantime the nurseries have all taken action to ensure that only suitable, vetted individuals are now able to look after children. This is being monitored by Ofsted.

Ofsted comment "Although the cases shown in the programme are concerning, we should put them into perspective. Such incidents are rare and relate to only a very small number of child carers. The vast majority of nurseries provide a level of care that meets the statutory requirements". Between April 2003 and March 2004 Ofsted investigated 2,500 concerns about childminders and 3,700 concerns about day-care providers. This is from a total of 72,700 childminders and 34,800 day-care providers.

From this autumn, Ofsted will also publish a brief summary of complaints in childcare providers' inspection reports. Parents will be able to read about complaints made against a provider since their last inspection.

If you come across colleagues or parents who are concerned about the level of care being provided by a day-care provider or childminder, they should be advised to call Ofsted's complaints line on 0845 601 4772.

Health Screening Process - Who Completes a Health Declaration Form?

There seems to have been some confusion about who is required to complete a health declaration form. Ofsted have released information in their latest newsletter concerning this.

Ofsted require a Health Declaration Booklet to be completed by:

- All childminder applicants.
- All persons in charge of a day-care provision, including managers who are responsible for the care of children and staff.

The registered person (individuals or organisations) providing day care is not required to complete a booklet, unless they also work directly with children.

More detailed information is available by contacting the Childcare Information Service on 01603 62 22 92 or contact Ofsted via its helpline number 0845 601 4771.

Foundation Stage Forum - Check It Out Online!

This site is an important online community dedicated to Early Years professionals who can discuss, share and contribute to the issues facing all those involved in the care and education of three to five year olds. Check out the site on www.foundation-stage.info

Norfolk Winner!

Nursery World ran a competition entitled "What do children say they like best about childcare?" Well done to Natasha Stapley from Woodside After school club who came second in the 5-7 age group.

Health and Safety Booklet

There is a new Health and Safety Booklet that is being distributed to pre-schools. A copy is also available on our website. For more details visit www.norfolkchildcare.info and look under the publications and information section.

Government Policy - 2004 Spending Review

Following the Government Policy - 2004 Spending Review the main implications for Sure Start are:

- An increase of £100 million by 2007-08 to a total of £769 million
- Target is to develop 2,500 children's centres by 2008 (original target was 1,700)
- Around 120,000 new childcare places will be needed to meet the Public Service Agreement target of a 10% growth by 2008
- Pilot to extend free, part-time early education 12000 two year olds in disadvantaged areas
- Extension of the Bookstart programme to include children 6-9 months, 18-24 months and 2-3 years

Important Document Now Available

A new "Working Together" document is now available online from the Sure Start website. The link to order the publication: http://www.surestart.gov.uk/_doc/index.cfm?Document=758 and this is the document http://www.surestart.gov.uk/_doc/0-8A16A0.pdf

Education Five Year Plan

On 8 July 2004 The Government announced its Five Year Strategy for children and learners. The plan sets out how the Government will use new reforms to build on substantial improvements in every stage of education and children's services since 1997 - from the early years of a child's life to lifelong learning and adult skills. The following is an extract from the Executive Summary:

- All parents able to get local one-stop support through Children's Centres that will provide childcare, education, health, employment and parenting support
- From birth to two, more opportunities and support for parents to stay at home with their children if they want to
- A flexible system of 'educare', that joins up education and childcare and provides 12.5 hours of free support per week for three and four year olds before they go to school, with more choice for parents about when they use it
- The development of dawn-to-dusk schools, with breakfast childcare and after school clubs to help parents juggle their busy lives
- Children's Trusts bringing together all those who provide services for children and families in each local area, and making sure children at risk get proper care, education and protection

Sharing Successes

Little Tinkers in Downham Market set up a camping role play which really inspired the children. Many of them brought in pop up tents, sleeping bags and duvets to add to the fun with songs round the camp fire and a barbecue!

St Helens in Costessey have been focussing and using the book Handra's Surprise with some great results. The children were read the story and we had all the fruits for the children to feel etc. The next day the story was read again and the children had to find fruit as the story was being read. Then they acted the story (made hats with the animals on) and finally used the fruit at snack time.

Hillbillies Playgroup

Hillbillies Playhouse Daycare Nursery and Pre-school, Taverham, Norwich celebrated it's 3rd birthday on Saturday 4 September 2004!

A great day was had by all in the glorious sunshine. Proceeds from the day are to be shared between the Big C Appeal and the Nursery. Further equipment to support children with additional needs has been purchased for the nursery.

Barclays Bank kindly agreed to match our funds raised for Big C and a cheque for £150.00 was presented to Big C at Hillbillies Playhouse on Wednesday 15 September 2004.

Children Being Collected Late

Several groups have commented on the problem of dealing with late collections, obviously from time to time people have emergencies such as the car breaking down or a traffic jam, these are one off's and unavoidable.

Regular lateness, when the parent/carer does not appear to be worried that they are late or the impact on the children they are collecting or the staff who have had to wait for them are frustrating.

Groups should check their policies and procedures; there should be a policy in place to cover this situation. Parent/carers when registering their children at the provision have agreed to the policies and procedures of the group. (A full copy of the policies and procedures should be available at all times).

Groups may also need to look into whether their Ofsted registration and insurance policy covers them to still have children in their care beyond the time that the session runs from an employment point of view as well as childcare.

If a group feels they have a persistent problem that the current policies do not cover they may need to review them and possibly consider a penalty. In groups where a penalty system is enforced feedback tells us regular lateness is much less of a problem.

eLearning Credits - Funding Still Available.

There is still funding available of £9.85 per nursery funded 4 year old to enable settings to buy educational software for the children. There are a series of criteria for the grant and more details are available by contacting Ruth Lynds on 01603 222547 who can also provide a claim form.

There is a limit to the funding, and claims will be granted on a first come, first served basis.

Snow Closures

You will probably recall that earlier this year there was some severe weather and heavy snowfall in parts of the County which meant that some pre-schools and nurseries had to close.

Jonathon Towns runs the emergency school closure plan for the County and was asked for advice by a number of groups.

Because many pre-schools and nurseries tend to take children from their local area, the best way to provide information seems to be a local network. His suggestion is something used by a number of the smaller schools in the County, which is a phone tree system. A document has been devised and is available on the website - www.norfolkchildcare.info It lists phone numbers of local radio stations, a place to record the names of staff, a place to record the names of people who will contact parents and the names of parents and their telephone numbers. It also includes space for the local builder/service agent if the problem relates to the building itself i.e. a boiler failure. For more help or specific advice please contact Jonathon Towns direct on 01603 222314.

When placing any job vacancy it is vital that providers include a line saying...

"this job involves working with children."

If this is in an advert and anyone who is inappropriate applies they can be prosecuted. If it is not in the advert then no subsequent prosecution can take place.





Sharing Good Practice

In this section we hear from two practitioners about story time with their children. They have included a number of good ideas that worked well with the children. Amongst them were acting out the stories, using games, and encouraging children to bring in their favourite book from home.

I recently did a 4 week theme relating to stories which included 'We're going on a bear hunt,' 'Whatever next' and 'Little chameleon,' the final week was their own story creations.

'We're going on a bear hunt' was a great success and truly enjoyed by all. My class enjoyed going outside to act out the various scenes with resources, exploring with the different textures and experimenting with the descriptive words.

'Whatever next' another great story which we studied. The class were enthusiastic to act out the story in the role play area using book resources, we also photocopied and laminated the pictures from the book and the children enjoyed sequencing the events. We played a moon game using ten large numbered circles and the class took it in turns to roll the die to make their way to the moon, great for counting and number recognition. We are currently looking at different countries and invited a guest speaker to come in a read the story of 'The hungry caterpillar' in German which was very successful and the class learnt a few key words.

Karrie, Orchard Nursery, Ketteringham

Right through from the baby room to our foundation stage children. We enjoy access to books everyday, with a story/book time available every morning and afternoon.

Recently we followed a theme of "Our favourite book" which went down very well especially with the encouragement to bring in a book from home to share with friends at nursery.

The foundation stage children looked at three books in particular all by the same author and illustrator - Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler:- "Monkey Puzzle", "The Gruffalo" and "Room on a Broom". The later being enhanced by the accompanying CD. The children loved to listen to the storyteller and learn the song too.

In addition a huge hit was making, cooking and eating a Gruffalo Crumble! (any crumble recipe is fine, and adjust the fruit to suit your children)

We thoroughly enjoy books and are members of the local library.

This provides us with a regular and renewable resource - we also call upon the library service to provide nursery/project packs/ books - to support our theme work.

Elaine, Blofield Nursery

Top Tips When Sharing Stories

Setting the scene is very important, so switch off the television or radio and eliminate background noise. This will help the child focus on your voice. Find somewhere comfy to read and snuggle up!

Talking about the story as well as reading it is very important. Encourage your child to predict what might happen next. Use phrases such as "can you remember?" Talk about the pictures.

Choose a variety of books, both fiction and non fiction. Try poems, comics, and nursery rhyme books as well. Nursery rhymes are important in developing an awareness of rhyme and sounds within words.

Involve your child in the reading process by encouraging them to turn the pages. Encourage them to act out the parts and or make the sounds. Use repetitive pieces to get them to join-in, eg. "he huffed and he puffed."

Try listening to story tapes, or asking another family member to record the story and listen to it whilst looking at the book. Make the story exciting by adding expression and try using different voices for the different characters.

Tell made-up stories and support children in making up stories about their own lives. Make up your own books, by using photos or their own pictures. The children will remember the experience and recognise themselves in the story.

Books to Try!

A few recommended books:

- Peepo – Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- Each Peach Pear Plum – Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- Where's My Teddy – Jjez Alborough
- Handa's Surprise – Eileen Browne
- Mr Gumpy's Outing
- Hairy Maclary – Lynley Dodd
- Spot – Eric Hill
- Six Dinner Sid – Inga Moore
- Where The Wild Things Are – Maurice Sendak
- We're Going On A Bear Hunt – Michael Rosen
- Pass The Jam Jim – Kaye Umansky
- Can't You Sleep Little Bear – Martin Waddell

Top Tip!

Link Teachers are an extra resource!



Useful Numbers & Dates

Norfolk Childcare Information Service 01603 62 22 92

For information on available childcare, training and recruitment and developing your services.

Area Offices:

King's Lynn 01553 66 76 20

Yarmouth 01493 33 57 40

Norwich 01603 59 84 84

Childminding Matters 01603 61 56 67

Norfolk County Childminding Association. Offering a support service for childminders in the county.

NEYSN 01603 21 93 00

Norfolk Early Years Support Network. Offering help and support for providers of early years education/childcare.

PLA 01603 76 75 25

Pre-school Learning Alliance. The local branch of this national charity offers support for early education and the development of children.

NATLL 020 7387 9592

National Association of Toy and Leisure Libraries.

4 Children 0207 512 2100

4 Children. Offering help and support for 'out of school' childcare providers across the UK.

Ofsted

General enquiries 0845 601 4771

Complaints 0845 601 4772

Job Centre Plus

Childcare Partnership Manager –
Louise Gedge 01603 636030

Forum Dates

East Norfolk Forum:

Tuesday 14th September at 6pm at St Nicholas Children's Centre, Great Yarmouth

Speaker: to be confirmed.

South Norfolk Forum:

Tuesday 5th October at 7.30pm at South Norfolk District Council Offices, Long Stratton

Speaker: Louise Gedge - Jobcentre Plus

West Norfolk Forum:

Tuesday 19 October, 7.00pm at West Team Early Years and Childcare Office, Bergen Way, King's Lynn. PE30 2JG.

Breckland Forum has not yet been set but will be in the Autumn Term.

Norwich Forum:

15th September, 2004 6.30pm
Treehouse Nursery, Norwich

10th November, 2004 4pm
Hamlet Centre, Norwich

North Norfolk Forum:

Tuesday 14th September 2004
Monday 22nd November 2004
Monday 7th February 2005

All above meetings will be held at the Fakenham Children's Centre, 7:30pm start.

Childminder Information Sessions

**Seagulls Sure Start Centre,
Magdalen Way, Gorleston**

Tuesday 12 October 7.30-9.30pm

**Edith Cavell Room, The Annexe, County Hall,
Martineau Lane, Norwich**

Thursday 14 October, 2004 7.30-9.30pm

**Alderman Jackson School, Marsh Lane,
Gaywood, King's Lynn**

Monday 1 November, 2004 7.30-9.30pm

Cromer Junior School, Norwich Road, Cromer

Tuesday 9 November, 2004 7.30-9.30pm

**Dereham Neatherd Community High School,
Norwich Road, Dereham**

Monday 15 November, 2004 7.30-9.30pm

**Wells Childrens Centre, Polka Road,
Wells-Next-The-Sea**

Thursday 25 November, 2004 7.30-9.30pm

**Cloverhill Village Hall, Humbleyard,
Bowthorpe, Norwich**

Wednesday 1 December, 2004 7.30-9.30pm

**Alderman Jackson School, Marsh Lane,
Gaywood, Kings Lynn**

Tuesday 7 December, 2004 7.30-9.30pm

**St Nicholas Childrens Centre, St Nicholas Road,
Great Yarmouth**

Thursday 9 December, 2004 7.30-9.30pm

**Anna Sewell Room, The Annexe,
County Hall, Norwich**

Monday 10 January, 2005 7.30-9.30pm

**Holt Community Primary School,
Norwich Road, Holt**

Thursday 20 January, 2005 7.30-9.30pm

**Queensway Community Junior School,
Hilary Road, Thetford**

Monday 24 January, 2005 7.30-9.30pm

Diss High School, Walcot Road, Diss

Monday 31 January, 2005 7.30-9.30pm

**Seagulls Sure Start Centre, Magdalen Way,
Gorleston**

Thursday 3 February, 2005 7.30-9.30pm

The Norman Centre, Bignold Road, Norwich

Wednesday 9 February, 2005 7.30-9.30pm

**Alderman Jackson School, Marsh Lane,
Gaywood, Kings Lynn**

Tuesday 22 February, 2005 7.30-9.30pm

**Wymondham High School, Folly Road,
Wymondham**

Tuesday 1 March, 2005 7.30-9.30pm

**Edith Cavell Room, The Annexe, County Hall,
Martineau Lane, Norwich**

Monday 14 March, 2005 7.30-9.30pm

The Priory, Priory Plain, Great Yarmouth

Monday 21 March, 2005 7.30-9.30pm





Poppyland Launch

A week of events and activities marked the launch of the Poppyland SureStart Outreach and Family Support service in July. Poppyland SureStart covers a coastal area some sixteen miles from one end to the other so launch events were held in Cromer and four other villages in order to publicise the new service across the widest possible area.

The Poppyland SureStart Outreach team are highly experienced in all aspects of family support so, alongside a full programme of open access sessions including messy play, swimming, music and yoga taking place throughout the area the team are working with direct referrals received from health visitors and midwives as well as self-referred families.

Programme Manager Ian Duckmanton commented on the launch; "This is a really exciting new phase of the Poppyland SureStart programme. We are now delivering services to families in new and creative ways to meet the needs of our dispersed rural coastal area. We have succeeded in creating a team that is equipped to respond in a flexible way to the challenges that parents face in this community."

From September, the team will be sharing an office with colleagues in the health visiting team, midwives, speech and language support and health co-ordinators. This means we have created a flexible service that will meet the needs of all children aged 0-4 and their families living within the Poppyland SureStart area.





Childcare Information Service

Welcome to the autumn update from the Childcare information Service. We have had a busy summer with particular focus on our outreach programme. We have been out and about at the Norfolk Show, Adventures in Learning at the Forum and the Eco-tech Centre and hosting our regular sessions at the Jobcentres in Norwich, Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn.

Unfortunately we were unable to recruit a new CIS Manager over the summer but have high hopes for a successful outcome in the autumn. Meantime Olwyn Venn (as was Peers) is standing in and the team is continuing with their work to ensure a fully functioning database of accurate and up-to-date information for parents and providers.

During the next term the CIS are involved in some new research funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and working in partnership with Bedfordshire and Cambridge. This research will look at the economic impact of childcare issues on women in the Eastern region. Our part is the collection of data of some 90 questionnaires asking Norfolk women about the issues they faced when returning to work or looking for new work. We hope for some interesting and supportive data when the project is complete in the summer of 2005.

news from the teams

Development Teams

First Local Conference for Children's Centres

Great Yarmouth MP Tony Wright went back to his old school at the Priory in to open a conference about local proposals for the new Government Initiative - Children's Centres. The Great Yarmouth & Gorleston Sure Start Local Programmes and the Local Authority hosted the event on 2nd July and Tim Byles, Chief Executive of Norfolk County Council explained how the Authority is going to respond to new legislation for children.

The conference gave staff and parents an opportunity to learn more about Children's Centres and how it will affect them. It also enabled the audience a chance to see the restoration work being carried out to the Grade II listed building by the Great Yarmouth Community Trust, who are the successor body for the Great Yarmouth Sure Start Programme.

The Priory Centre and Seagulls in Gorleston, hope to achieve Children's Centre Status in 2005. The Chancellor Gordon Brown hopes that they will become "as much a focus of community life as the local school, the local place of worship and the local park".

Neighbourhood Nurseries

The Development Teams continue to work against the clock to open all the 12 Neighbourhood Nurseries. The 10 already open include:

Mr Bees, St. Michael's Playgroup and Gaywood South (currently in temporary accommodation) in King's Lynn, Play & Learn in Great Yarmouth, Seagulls in Gorleston (currently in temporary accommodation), one at Emneth, and Earlham Early Excellence Centre, Starting Out - Thorpe Hamlet, Woodside One Nursery, Bowthorpe & West Earlham (Temporary accommodation) all in Norwich.

Thetford Neighbourhood Nursery and the Norman Centre in Norwich are now both open.

Increasing Childcare Capacity

All three Development teams are still busy working alongside Childminding Matters increasing the number of childcare places available for children in Norfolk, where needed. Currently 12 out of every hundred children in Norfolk can access a childcare place. The Government has set us a target of 17 children in every hundred, so we will continue to work strategically with communities and in a practical and supportive role to develop more provision.

Out of School Update (OOSCH)

Active Training

Taking regular physical activity has been proven not only to assist in the general well being of children but also their ability to concentrate and learn at school. Despite this, if current trends in obesity and lack of physical activity continue, more children than ever before could be facing a future at risk of heart disease.

Out of school clubs provide the perfect setting for enabling children to get active in a fun and relaxed environment. The challenge for the British Heart Foundation in its fight against heart disease is to introduce healthy heart messages early and to encourage children to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Kids' Club Network (Now 4Children) and the British Heart Foundation worked together to produce the Active Training Guide from which the above extract is taken.

After taking part in the training with the BHF a number of development workers set up training sessions throughout the county to cascade the training to as many providers as possible and enable them to receive the Active Club Resource Pack.

In the Central and North Area 4 training sessions were organised, 94 staff attended from 56 Out of School Clubs and or pre-school playgroups. The feedback from these events has been very positive and all who attended have been pleased to examine the pack and try out many of the activities contained within. The training sessions also provided an opportunity for groups to meet and exchange ideas and work on variations to the suggested activities within the pack to ensure inclusion.

In the West 4 sessions were held at which 45 play workers attended. The feedback both at the sessions and at Out of School Cluster Meetings has been very positive with many of the groups using the pack at least once a week. The Active Club Training pack has proved to be a very useful resource for clubs and best of all the training and the pack were free to those groups who attended.

Have You Teamed Up With Another Club To Hold Special Events?

It would be great to publicise this.

We hope to hear from you.

Cluster Group Meeting

Cluster group meetings have been held throughout the County during the last academic year with very positive responses received.

Central and Northern teams latest Cluster Meeting was held at Thorpe Hamlet First & Nursery School on 7th July. It poured with rain but we kept a summer theme with buffet tea, which included Super Pam's fruit smoothies. A wonderful healthy way to enjoy many fruits and vegetables including those some children normally would not touch. Pam and Yvonne our new development worker for the Central & North team used liquidisers or food processors and smoothies were quickly produced.

The meeting offered the opportunity for people to share ideas and discuss problems and successes. One success in particular being a winner at "Woodside One" in the "Children Draw What They Like Best About Childcare" competition advertised in Nursery World and circulated to providers earlier this year.

We revisited Risk Assessment, which provided an opportunity for groups to share their methods of how they carry this out when arranging outings and visits. Coloured Tea Shirts to help identify groups of children on outings was a success for a number of groups.

We touched on "Including Everybody" another useful training course, which some people had attended and Pam passed on information regarding the use of minibuses as reported in Nursery World.

Sarah Abercrombie gave a talk about Community Music East and the "Come & Play Projects."

Books were available for borrowing and people were able to help themselves to supplies of the "5 A Day" healthy eating leaflets.

Using the feedback sheets returned at all the Pilot Cluster Group Meetings held over the past year we will be planning meetings for the next academic year and expect to be in a position to let you have these dates at the early part of September.

If you have burning issues you would like us to cover at one of our meetings please contact your development worker. Hoping all the summer schemes have gone well.



Are You Using Your Pack?

Let us know how the Resource Pack has impacted on your provision for our next Partnership News. Send us your stories and pictures of any events you have held.

Training Update

Training Recruitment and Marketing Clinics (TRM)

There is still have some availability on the clinics planned for the autumn term. If you have any training, recruitment or marketing issues, please book in on a session near you. Contact the CIS on 01603 62 22 92 for venues and times.

Thursday 14th October - Norwich

Thursday 16th November - King's Lynn



Training Audit

Training News (September 04 - March 05) was delivered just before the summer break. Included in this was the Training Audit for Early years and Childcare workers and Childminders. Many of you have completed and returned the audit to us and we are currently processing and evaluating your responses. However some groups and childminders have yet to return their completed audit forms. If you are one of these people please do so ASAP so that we can ensure that your information is included in our future planning.

If you have mislaid your audit a replacement copy can be sent to you by contacting the training team on 01603 62 22 92.

Last Minute Course Availability

There are a few courses that are due to start shortly that still have places available. We have listed them below. If you are interested in booking a place on any of these or want details of other courses available, please contact the Training Team on 01603 62 22 92.

Introduction to Autistic Spectrum Disorder

This session will cover the diagnostic features of autistic spectrum disorders and a brief introduction to the theoretical underpinnings. Participants will have opportunities to learn useful strategies for working with young children with ASD and consider how to include such children in early education settings.

Course code	Venue	Date	Time
2049	Diss High School	12th Jan 05	6.30-9.00pm
2048	Nth Walsham High	8th Feb 05	6.30-9.00pm

Personal Development for Childcare Staff

This workshop is aimed at all childcare workers who wish to improve their own personal and work development. It will enable participants to set their own personal goals, develop self confidence and help in planning career development.

Topics covered include:

- Interview techniques
- Writing and developing a C.V.
- Career development

Course code	Venue	Date	Time
0859	Queensway Junior School, Thetford	30th Nov 04	7.00-9.00pm

Basic Food Hygiene

This course aims to enable all childcare workers providing snacks, food and drink within their childcare setting to meet recognised health and safety regulations. After you have successfully completed a 30 question multiple choice assessment applicants will receive the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Basic Food Hygiene Certificate.

Course code	Venue	Date	Time
0831	Nth Walsham Community Centre	17th Nov 04	9.30-5.00pm

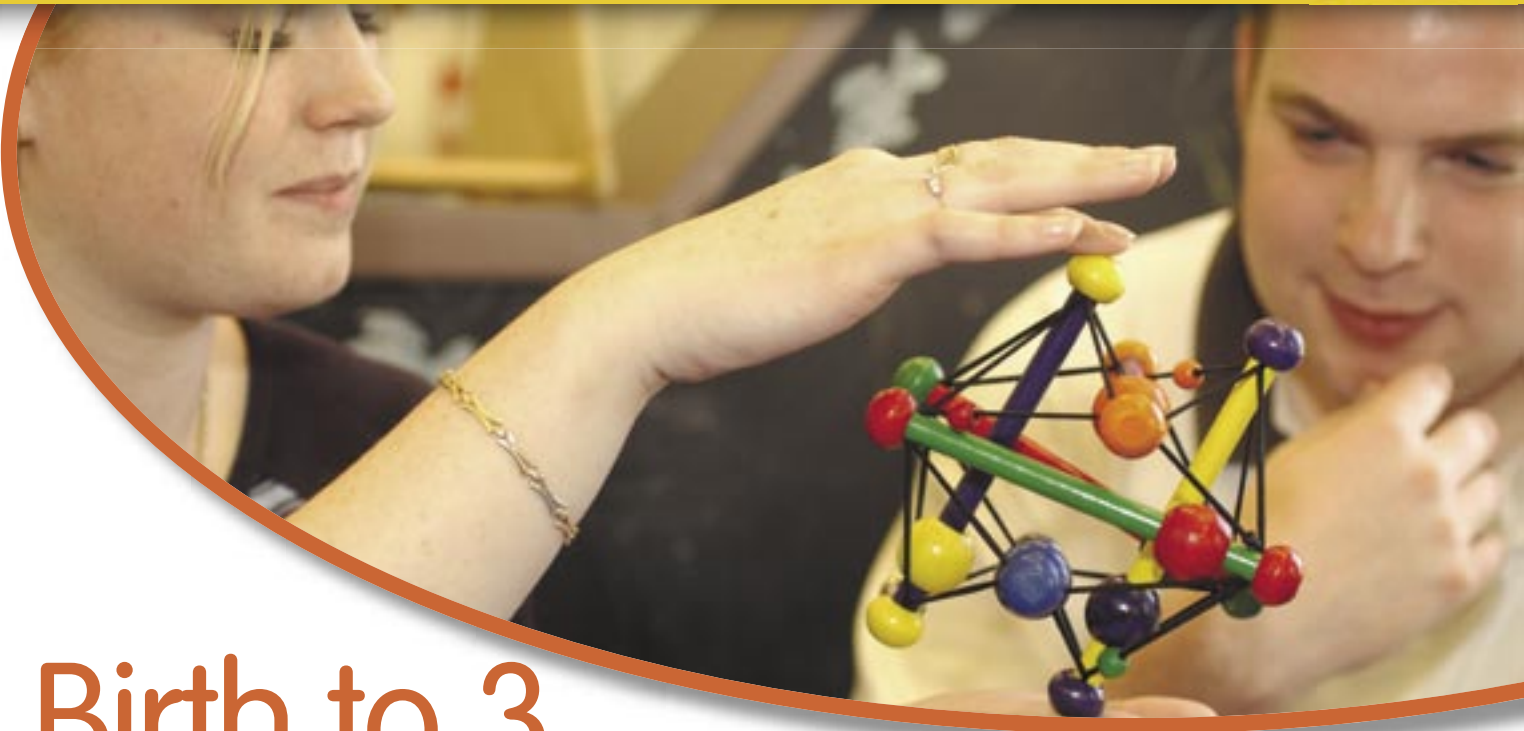
Child Protection

The aim of the course is to raise awareness of child protection and the need for S.A.F.E. practice when working with children. It will enable all childcare workers to become familiar with the policies of the Norfolk Area Child Protection Committee and of their role within these, and their own organisation's policies and procedures.

Course code	Venue	Date	Time
0788	Cromer Junior School	8th Feb 05	7:00 - 9.30pm
0777	Caister High School	8th Feb 05	6.30 - 9.00pm

Visit to Reggio Emilia, Italy

Following this year's successful Reggio Emilia event in Cambridge an opportunity has arisen for a week's study at Reggio next year. The cost will be approx £1,500, including flights and accommodation. If you are interested please contact Constance Tyce at Norwich PDC (01603 433276) by early January.



Birth to 3 Matters Update

During the summer term the training team have been working hard developing a County Strategy for taking forward the Birth to 3 Matters Agenda.

As part of the process of supporting settings who use the Birth to 3 Framework we thought it would be helpful to list some of the action points that have come out of the work we have been doing with childcare and early education practitioners. These points form just part of the feedback we have received.

- Consider having a nominated person to co-ordinate Birth to 3 in your setting.
- Use Birth to 3 as part of your induction training for staff.
- When attending Birth to 3 training days be aware that you have a responsibility to feedback to their setting.

The Early Years and Childcare Team will support by:

- Ensuring that Birth to 3 is referenced in all publications and training we deliver.
- Identifying and training some nominated trainers for Birth to 3.
- Providing a regular feature within Partnership News 'Birth to 3 Matters information exchange'.
- An Introduction to the Framework Birth to 3 Matters.

There are three Birth to 3 Matters courses planned for October. The course is designed to introduce the Birth to 3 Matters framework pack and will look at the purpose of the framework and will focus on principles and practice linked to children 0-3 years. It is aimed at all practitioners working with this age group and will provide opportunities for delegates to become familiar with the framework, its materials and to explore and share ideas and opportunities about the framework.

Course code	Venue	Date	Time
0846	Imperial Hotel, Great Yarmouth.	25th Oct	9.30-3.30pm
0847	Earlham Early Years Centre, Norwich.	26th Oct	9.30-3.30pm
0848	Knights Hill Hotel, Kings Lynn.	27th Oct	9.30-3.30pm

There is an expectation that those attending these days will be responsible for cascading the information gained at these sessions with other members of staff in their setting.

Birth to 3 Information Sharing!

To enhance the work on Birth to 3 Matters and to offer an opportunity for those taking a lead on this work we are developing an information sharing page to feature in future editions of Partnership News. This will give practitioners the chance to share good practice, ask questions and discuss problems they have regarding the Framework.

Look out for this next time! To include your comments on this page please email the training team on eytraining@norfolk.gov.uk

Little Baby Books

Little Baby Books are a new series of books which give practical help on implementing the DfES 'Birth to 3 Matters' guidance.

Little Baby Books can be purchased from www.featherstone.uk.com

Contact Information

For further information on the Framework contact Kirsty Woods on 01603 62 22 92 or email the team on eytraining@norfolk.gov.uk

If you have not received a copy of the Framework you can order one by contacting the distribution centre on 0845 6022260, quoting reference "Birth".



Partner Focus



Childminding Matters supports registered childminders and parents all over Norfolk through their telephone advice line, conferences and seminars and a free termly newsletter to registered childminders.

They are also setting up approved childminding networks to give childminders an opportunity to enjoy extra support, national approval under the "Children Come First" kitemark and to become accredited to provide early education for 3 and 4 year olds. Most of Childminding Matters' staff are ex-childminders, so they understand childminding and have the experience to help with childminding issues.

New Base for North Norfolk Childminding Network's Toy Library

Thanks to Norfolk County Council we have been able to buy Ladybird Pre-School Nursery's old mobile to provide a base for the North Norfolk Childminding Network's toy library. The mobile is in the children's playground in Sheringham next to Ladybird Pre-School Nursery. Several Childminding Matters staff and family members got together to redecorate the mobile and make it ship-shape for local childminders to decide how to furnish it and set it up for use as a meeting room, training venue, home for the toy library and centre for childminding network support meetings.

We are very grateful to Ladybird Pre-School Nursery for donating several of their toys to us for the toy library and to Jarrold store, who have offered to sponsor the toy library.

North Norfolk Childminding Network will be planning a grand opening in the near future!

New Look ICP!

The Introducing Childminding Practice (ICP) course was reviewed in May this year. Over 100 previous students were invited to give us their views of the course and six childminders joined the tutors in a review meeting. As a result, the ICP will run over seven sessions instead of five from September 04 and some changes have been made to session content. We will continue to evaluate the courses to see if there are any further changes needed in the future.

Support for Young Parents in Great Yarmouth & Thetford

Young parents in Great Yarmouth and surrounding villages are offered up to 16 hours per week free childminding care and 2 hours per week mentoring support by childminders in the Great Yarmouth Childminding Network.

The scheme offers teenage parents and their children support through quality, community based childcare to help teenage parents to have opportunities for study, work and fun with their friends. Childminders will also help out with tips on e.g. cooking on a budget and

parenting skills. Teenage parents can join the scheme by contacting the Network Co-ordinator. Referrals are also accepted from families and local agencies.

Working with the Youth and Community Service, Childminding Matters plans to extend this scheme in September to young parents attending a support group in Thetford, by providing childcare for their children while they enjoy attending the group.

Goodbye!

Sue Farrow, Network Co-ordinator for North Norfolk and Poppyland will be leaving us soon to take up a post with Poppyland Sure Start. We all wish her well and look forward to seeing her frequently in her new role.

Network Opportunities for Childminders

Childminding Matters is running childminding networks in several areas of the county. If childminders are interested in joining and benefiting from the extra support, vacancy matching, toy and equipment libraries and training please call 01603 615667 for more details.

Grants for Childminders

If you are starting out as a childminder ring Childminding Matters' County Liaison Officers for advice on Start-Up Grants. Contact 01603 615667 for more details.

WEETU, Working with Childminding Matters to Support Childminders

For more information you can contact Tricia Davies on 01508 491776, or by email at: tricia.davies@childmindingmatters.org.uk

New Office Opening Hours

Childminding Matters' office will be open between 9.30am and 3pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 1.30pm on Fridays from 23rd August onwards. Please contact the office on 01603 615667 to book your ICP courses or with any queries that relate to childminding.

Our Administrator, Judy Freeman, left us on 19th August to take up training in floristry - a whole new career for her! Charlotte Annon will be taking her place and will be pleased to help you with any queries and ICP bookings. If you prefer to e mail the office, you can do so on: info@childmindingmatters.org.uk

Contact Us On-line

Don't forget to look at our website! It contains loads of information about childminding in Norfolk and details of all our training courses and events as well as the latest job vacancies in Childminding Matters. The address is www.childmindingmatters.org.uk



Almost 500 toddlers, preschoolers, parents, carers, grandparents, volunteers, staff, students and practitioners from all over Norfolk

helped us celebrate National Sure Start month and Pre-school Learning Alliance 'Fun Week' at the Dinosaur Adventure Park. We are still waiting evaluation feedback from the groups but those we spoke to on the day all said what a fun time they had had and that they really enjoyed themselves.

Although good weather was ordered we did encounter a few showers, never the less this did not dampen our spirits.

Many children took the opportunity to join in the craft activities provided by the Alliance, making and decorating their junk dinosaurs, colouring dinosaur pictures adding their creative touches to the large dinosaur collage. There were lots of scary little face painted dinosaurs around park! Carers and children joined in parachute play (in between showers) and learned about the benefits of 'play' to their child's development. Some of the teddy bears braved the picnic outside while other 'not so brave' teddy bears chose to eat indoors! Tiny Talk UK North Norfolk (Tel:01263 735390 www.tinytalkuk.com) took the opportunity to share with parents about babies' communication linking with the Sure Start Birth to Three matters framework.

It was an exhausting but fun day, thank you to all who gave up their time effort and energy to make the day the success it was.

Thank you to the Dinosaur Park for their cooperation and support in hosting the event at their venue.

Remember to keep next year free Fun Day - Friday 17th June 2005 - Venue to be arranged

Sure Start Gaywood South King's Lynn Celebrating Pre-school Learning Alliance Fun Week

Mucky Pups and Chatterbox participated with a teddy bears picnic on Wednesday 16th June. We enjoyed good weather and 22 families joined in.

Parents brought along teddy bear cakes and fruit salad (some things are a little healthier than others!)

Everyone ate well and parents and children enjoyed chasing balloons playing football and frisbee throwing.

A good time was enjoyed by everyone.

Thank you for the free play pack it was great - we are waiting to develop our photos.

Good News !!

We have successfully recruited new part time staff for the three year Community Fund Project in West and North Norfolk The project involves giving support advice and training to Parent and Toddler groups within these areas. The staff are:

Project Manager : Sadie Ditton, 01603 767525

Admin Assistant: Sue Richards, 01603 767525

North Norfolk Parent and Toddler Development Officer: Kerri Wilkinson - 01362 699074

West Norfolk Parent and Toddler Development Officer: Jody Parnell - 01553 829765


West Norfolk Parent and Toddler Development Officer: Colette Wilkinson - 01760 441443


The Officers started in July and are already contacting groups in their areas. Please contact them if you know of any new Toddler groups wanting advice



New Vacancy Matching Service

September 2004 saw the launch of the new Vacancy Matching Service. The Service was launched by a high profile radio and press campaign. Feedback to date has been excellent with respondents praising the new look. A career in childcare has never looked this good!



 **Norfolk** County Council




*Little Miss Muffet get off your tuffet
And put down your curds and whey.
Ignore the big spider and call the
provider of childcare careers today.*


It can be a bit scary finding work with children
when you don't know where to start.
Not anymore. We have lots of childcare
vacancies from providers all over Norfolk. So
whatever your experience or skills, we can match
you to the most appropriate. And if our system
doesn't find you the ideal role straight away, we'll
keep searching 'till we do.

To register your details, call us now on 01603
622292, or go to www.norfolkchildcare.info

 **Norfolk** County Council


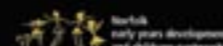
*Little Bo Peep is tired of sheep and wants to
start working with tots.
She asked us to find her a job that will suit her,
and she's thrilled we can offer her lots.*




Want to work with children? We'll find you a flock
to look after. Childcare providers across Norfolk list
vacancies with us, and we match people like you to
the most appropriate.


All you have to do is register a few details - even if you've
no qualifications or experience. If we don't find you a
match straight away, our system keeps searching until the
right job comes along.

To register your details, call us now on 01603 622292,
or go to www.norfolkchildcare.info



 **Norfolk** County Council

*Old Mother Hubbard has lately discovered
There's more to her skills than she knew.
Since we've got her working
With children, she's smirking,
And we can make
you smile next, too.*



When it comes to vacancies for working with
children, you won't find our cupboard bare.
Childcare providers across the county list a range of
openings with us, and we match people like you to the
most appropriate.
Qualifications and experience aren't essential, as our
system searches until the best roles for your background
are found, which might include on-the-job training at first
as a volunteer.

To register your details, call us now on 01603 622292,
or go to www.norfolkchildcare.info

 **Norfolk** County Council

*Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle
are seriously over the moon,
That we've found them jobs working with children,
And amazed we did it so soon.*



If you'd be over the moon at a chance to work with
children, we can match you to a suitable childcare
career - wherever you are in the county.

All you have to do is register a few details with us. Even
if you've no qualifications or experience, our system
searches until the right role for you is found. That might
be a full or part-time qualified position, or voluntary work
that lets you learn on the job.

To register your details, call us now on 01603 622292,
or go to www.norfolkchildcare.info



Recruitment Update

Recruitment - The Ongoing Challenge

The Government is committed to delivering additional childcare places benefiting 2 million children by 2006. To achieve this expansion Sure Start estimate that some 175 -180,000 new childcare workers will need to be recruited (and where necessary trained or re-trained) up to 2006. So what are we doing in Norfolk to achieve this?

Recognising the challenge ahead, we now have a dedicated Recruitment Team in place. Vicki Hall joined us in May as Recruitment & Marketing Co-ordinator and in July recruited Hayley Coleman as the Recruitment & Marketing Administrator. Our aim is to become more proactive instead of reactive, when faced with recruitment challenges.

The initial priority for the Recruitment Team was to cleanse the current database, ensuring all candidates were current and the information held was correct. Once this was achieved protocols were put in place to ensure that all future candidate information was collected to the highest standard.

The Launch of the Vacancy Matching Service

The Vacancy Matching Service was launched in September. As part of our support to providers in their recruitment process we are offering this service free of charge. If you are looking to recruit to a vacant post, firstly, you need to complete a Vacancy Authorisation Form, which can be found on our website www.norfolkchildcare.info (a separate form for is required for each vacancy).

As part of this free service, we will:

- Cross check our database with your vacancy to see if we already have any suitable candidates for the position and continue to check each new candidate as they arrive.
- Publicise your advert on the Early Years website www.norfolkchildcare.info, in the new format Jobs Bulletin which now includes job categories, making it easier for candidates to find suitable vacancies. We have also put a link to our childcare vacancies on the main Norfolk County Council jobs website (which receives over a million hits per month).
- Advertise the Vacancy Matching Service in the local press, directing potential candidates to our website and therefore, directing them to your vacancy.



- Share the information with our partners at Jobcentre Plus, Connexions Norfolk and Remploy to ensure your vacancy is seen by as wide an audience as possible.

It is essential that all the full job details are included to enable the database to exactly match the vacancy to the right candidates. We also ask that providers provide feedback via a Vacancy Evaluation Form, which is also found on our website, so that we can monitor this service for its effectiveness.

For further information or advice and guidance on any specific recruitment issues, please contact the Recruitment Team on 01603 622292.

CHILDMINDERS

A Career in Your Own Home!

Childminders

Norfolk needs more childminders. By law, if you provide for reward more than two hours care a day for a child under 8 who is not related to you, you must register as a childminder. Free information sessions will be taking place in your area. We can help you gain the relevant qualifications.

For more information, please contact the

Childcare Information Service on 01603 62 22 92.

Please quote ref no. EY08/01

Posts are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau and OFSTED check

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

SUPPLY/BANK STAFF

Avenue Out of School Club,

Avenue First and Middle School,

Avenue Road, Norwich, NR2 3HP. Tel: 01603 219102

Supply Work (Bank Staff)

£Negotiable. 15 hours per week

Due to expansion, we require Play Workers (Bank Staff) to work Monday – Friday from 3pm – 6.15pm. An NNEB or NVQ Level 2 in Play Work, or other relevant childcare qualification is desirable.

Apply in writing to the above address or telephone Gill

Pope. Please quote ref no. EY08/02

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Cleverclogs Nursery, Cringleford, Norwich, NR4 6XF.
Tel: 01603 457327

Bank Childcare Staff

Salary dependant on experience. Various hours

Required to work between 8am – 6pm. NVQ Level 3 is desirable but not essential.

To apply, please telephone Catherine Earnshaw.

Please quote ref no. EY08/03

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Fledglings Day Nursery,
Norwich Community Hospital, Norwich,
NR2 3TU. Tel: 01603 776679

Bank Childcare Staff

£Negotiable. Various hours

Regular work is available between 7am – 7pm. NVQ Level 3 is preferable but not essential, as unqualified applicants, with experience, will be considered. Due to the extensive opening hours of the nursery, you will need to be flexible in your approach to work.

To apply, please telephone Amie Daynes.

Please quote ref no. EY08/04

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Great Yarmouth Young Women's Project Nursery, Great Yarmouth Norfolk, NR30 2RG. Tel: 01493 852254

Bank Staff

Salary on application. Various hours

You need to be qualified to Nursery Nurse level with an NNEB or NVQ Level 3. You must be flexible in your approach to work as various hours will be required.

To apply, please phone Audrey Cooke. Please quote ref no. EY08/05

This post is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau and OFSTED check

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Leeway Women's Aid, Norwich

Relief Child Workers

£7.15 per hour. Various hours

Required to cover in staff absences. You will need to be able to work various hours to cover the Playgroup between 9.30am-1pm and the After School Club. Your responsibilities will include, ensuring that the needs of the children and young people are being met whilst living in the refuge, by providing activities. A relevant Childcare Qualification is essential. You must have experience of working with children.

Please send your CV and covering letter to: Employer, PO Box Leeway, City Hall, Norwich, NR2 1NH. Please quote ref no. EY08/06

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Treehouse Children's Centre, 30 Chatham Street, Norwich, NR3 3DN. Tel: 01603 665740

Supply Staff

£4.50 per hour. Various hours

Required to work varying days of the week and various hours, as required, in the Nursery and After School's Club. An NVQ Level 2 or 3 in Early Years is desirable.

To apply, please write or telephone, Sally Avery. Please quote ref no. EY08/09

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ.

Tel: 01603 592884

Bank Child Care Staff

£5.86 per hour (unqualified) £6.37 per hour (qualified)

Various hours

Required to cover staff sickness and holidays. Qualifications are not essential but you must be willing to undertake training. You should be committed to a child-centred approach, be enthusiastic about gaining new knowledge and have a knowledge of equal opportunities. You should also be able to work as part of a team.

To apply, please telephone Heather Munn.

Please quote ref no. EY08/10

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Sunshine Family Centre, 441 Dereham Road, Costessey, Norwich NR5 0SG. Tel no: 01603 748798

Bank Supply Staff

£4.85 per hour. Various hours

We require Bank Supply Staff to work alongside qualified staff and carry out duties to enhance the smooth running of the nursery. Qualifications, experience of working with children and a CRB check are desirable, however, good childcare skills are essential. Working hours will be variable between 7.30am and 6.30pm.

To apply, please send a letter and a copy of your CV to Dawn Lemmon at the address above. Please quote ref no. EY09/19

Closing date: 1st November 2004

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

CRECHE STAFF

Catton Grove, Fiddlewood & Mile Cross Neighbourhood Nursery & Creche, Norman Centre, Bignold Road, Mile Cross, Norwich NR3 2QZ
Tel: 01603 413393 or 307680

We have an exciting opportunity to join a new 50 place Neighbourhood Nursery and 16 place Creche which will be opening shortly as an integral part of the local SureStart programme.

Creche Assistant (2 posts)

£6.77 - £7.10 per hour. 9 hours per week Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings

You will need a relevant qualification e.g. Level 2 or equivalent to assist the day to day operation of the creche. There will be opportunities for joint working and training/development with the daycare team.

For an informal discussion please call Liz Chapman on the number above. To apply online please go to www.norfolkccjobs.com

Closing date: 5th November 04

Please quote ref no. EPS04/252

THESE POSTS INVOLVE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Sunshine Family Centre, 441 Dereham Road, Costessey, Norwich NR5 0SG. Tel no: 01603 748798

Bank Supply Staff

£4.85 per hour. Various hours

We require Bank Supply Staff to work alongside qualified staff and carry out duties to enhance the smooth running of the nursery. Qualifications, experience of working with children and a CRB check are desirable, however, good childcare skills are essential. Working hours will be variable between 7.30am and 6.30pm.

To apply, please send a letter and a copy of your CV to Dawn Lemmon at the address above. Please quote ref no. EY09/19

Closing date: 1st November 2004

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

MANAGERS

Sunshine Family Centre, 441 Dereham Road, New Costessey, Norwich NR5 0SG. Tel: 01603 748798

Nursery Manager (Birth to 3)

£ Negotiable. 30 – 40 hours per week

We require a Nursery Manager to oversee and be involved with the day to day running and planning of the 0 – 3 sector. You will work alongside the Pre-school Manager and deputise in her absence. An NNEB or Level 3 qualification is essential, as is First Aid and Food Hygiene certificates. A minimum of 2 years experience in a senior childcare role is also required.

To apply, please send a letter and a copy of your CV to Nicola Payne at the address above. Please quote ref no. EY09/24.

Closing date: 30th November 2004

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Weeting 21 After School Club, The Old School House, Main Road, Weeting, Norfolk IP27 0QQ
Tel: 01842 815928

Voluntary Youth Activities Workers

Various hours

We require volunteers to assist with youth activities and the day to day running of the various programmes. You must have a positive and fun attitude to work. Experience of working with children is desirable but not essential. Various hours to cover breakfast, 7.30am – 9am and after school, 3pm – 5.15pm, Monday – Friday and the youth club 7pm – 9pm Monday's and Friday's.

To apply, please send a letter and a copy of your CV to Sirena Grass at the address above or call the number above for further details.

Closing date: 30th November 04. Please quote ref no. EY09/07

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Weeting 21 After School Club, The Old School House, Main Road, Weeting, Norfolk IP27 0QQ
Tel: 01842 815928

Deputy Playworker

£6.25 per hour. 11.15 hours per week

We are seeking a Deputy Playworker to assist the Senior Playworker in planning the day to day running of the club. Desirably, you will be qualified to NVQ Level 2 in childcare and experience of working with children is essential. Hours of work will be 3pm – 5.15 pm, Monday – Friday.

Playworker

£5.50 per hour. 11.15 hours per week

We require a Playworker to supervise activities and assist in the day to day running of the club. A childcare qualification is desirable, however, training can be provided. Experience of working with children is essential. Hours of work will be 3pm – 5.15 pm, Monday – Friday.

To apply for either position, please send a letter and a copy of your CV to Sirena Grass at the address above or call the number above for further details. Please quote ref no. EY09/05 (Deputy) & EY09/06 (Playworker)

Closing date: 30th November 04

THESE POSTS INVOLVE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Catton Grove, Fiddlewood & Mile Cross Neighbourhood Nursery & Creche, Norman Centre, Bignold Road, Mile Cross, Norwich NR3 2QZ

Tel: 01603 413393 or 307680

We have an exciting opportunity to join a new 50 place Neighbourhood Nursery and 16 place Creche which will be opening shortly as an integral part of the local SureStart programme.

Creche Assistant (2 posts)

£6.77 - £7.10 per hour. 9 hours per week

Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings
You will need a relevant qualification e.g. Level 2 or equivalent to assist the day to day operation of the creche. There will be opportunities for joint working and training/development with the daycare team.

For an informal discussion please call Liz Chapman on the number above. To apply online please go to www.norfolkccjobs.com

Closing date: 5th November 04

Please quote ref no. EPS04/252

THESE POSTS INVOLVE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Sunshine Family Centre, 441 Dereham Road, Costessey, Norwich NR5 0SG. Tel no: 01603 748798

Bank Supply Staff

£4.85 per hour. Various hours

We require Bank Supply Staff to work alongside qualified staff and carry out duties to enhance the smooth running of the nursery. Qualifications, experience of working with children and a CRB check are desirable, however, good childcare skills are essential. Working hours will be variable between 7.30am and 6.30pm.

To apply, please send a letter and a copy of your CV to Dawn Lemmon at the address above. Please quote ref no. EY09/19

Closing date: 1st November 2004

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

PLAYWORKERS

Children's After School Zone, Salhouse Primary School, Salhouse, Norwich, NR13 6RJ. Tel no: 01603 426136

Qualified Playworker

£7 per hour. 15 hours per week

The purpose of this post is to look after children of school age, in the after school club. An NVQ Level 3 in Child Care is required.

To apply please send a letter and copy of your CV to: Clare White, 9 Spixworth Road, Old Catton, Norwich, NR6 7NE.

Please quote ref no. EY08/28

Closing date: 1st December 2004.

This post is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Check.

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Sunshine Family Centre, 441 Dereham Road, New Costessey, Norwich NR5 0SG. Tel: 01603 748798

Nursery Manager (Birth to Three)

£ Negotiable. 30 – 40 hours per week

We require a Nursery Manager to oversee and be involved with the day to day running and planning of the 0 – 3 sector. You will work alongside the Pre-school Manager and deputise in her absence. An NNEB or Level 3 qualification is essential, as is First Aid and Food Hygiene certificates. A minimum of 2 years experience in a senior childcare role is also required.

To apply, please send a letter and a copy of your CV to Nicola Payne at the address above. Please quote ref no. EY09/24.

Closing date: 30th November 2004

THIS POST INVOLVES WORKING WITH CHILDREN



Early Years Development and Childcare Forum

Each edition of Partnership News lists the Forum meeting dates and venues. Since the Forums were first set up much has changed and the issues they address have evolved significantly. In this issue we are asking for your feedback on what you perceive as the role of the Forum now and in the future.

1. Where did the Early Years Development and Childcare Forums start?

The Forums were set up as local partnership groups in the early 1990's following the Children Act 1989 recommendation to bring together professionals from statutory and voluntary agencies & organisations, parents and community groups to advise on the provision of services for the under eights. At that time there wasn't a specific agency in Norfolk with a strategic brief for this age group although Social Services had responsibility for Registration & Inspection and also had a team of Under Eights Officers helping support children in need attending childcare provision.

The introduction of the Nursery Vouchers in 1996 and the Childcare Strategy in 1998 brought with it the introduction of firstly the Early Years Development Partnership (EYDP) followed by the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships (EYDCPs). They have a key role in advising on the strategic direction for the development of early years and childcare services for Norfolk. Since that time members of the Forums have been able to feed in issues to the Norfolk EYDCP.

2. Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership where are we now?

The 2002 Spending Review combined the former Sure Start and Early Years and Childcare Units into a single interdepartmental unit called the Sure Start Unit. From April 2004 the National Childcare Strategy is a key component of the overall Sure Start agenda. The Sure Start agenda brings together universal free early education, more and better childcare, with healthcare and family support where it is most needed. Local Authorities are the main delivery partners for improving early years and childcare services.

In Norfolk in 2004 the EYDCP has evolved into a smaller advisory group, which meets twice a term. The group doesn't have forum representation.

Before 2000 there were very few people employed by the Local Authority with a responsibility for early years and childcare. Since that time a delivery team has been set up and well over 75 people are employed to deliver the Sure Start agenda. The staff teams provide a number of contact points where members of the public and representatives from partner agencies can contribute to the debate regarding existing and new services. Forums also facilitate the opportunity to work closely with local partners including parents.

3. What are Forums?

Forums are one way in which interested individuals and people working in childcare and early education can contribute information and views to the Local Authority and the EYDCP

4. How many Forums are there?

There are six, which spread across Norfolk and meet in different locations. Full details of all the forthcoming dates are on Page 4 of this issue.

5. How often are they held?

Each forum works in a slightly different way, but generally the group meets once or twice a term

6. Do these Forums work well?

Currently the attendance at Forums meetings is low and recruiting an independent chair for each forum has been difficult. The Local Authority contributes considerable resources to managing the forums.

7. Where do we go from here?

It is important that these Forums can work in partnership with the Local Authority, who lead on the Sure Start Agenda in Norfolk and that they continue to have a role in shaping the planning of future childcare initiatives. We look to you to provide us with feedback on how you think this is most effectively taken forward. Please spare a moment of your time to complete the questionnaire included in this issue and return.

Early Years Development and Childcare Forums Questionnaire

1. Do you know about your local forums?

Yes ☐

No ☐

2. Do you receive the minutes?

Yes ☐

No ☐

3. Have you ever attended a forum?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If no, is there a specific reason why not?

4. Do you attend regularly?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, which one(s) Please tick

Breckland ☐

East ☐

North ☐

Norwich ☐

South ☐

West ☐

If no, why not?

In what capacity do you attend?

Who do you represent?

5. Do you think forums should:

a) continue as they are?

☐

b) meet less frequently?

☐

c) change to a different format?

☐

d) be discontinued?

☐

Please tick the appropriate box

6. If they continue, what would you want from your forums?

Please number 1 - 5 in order of your priority (1 being highest priority)

a) speakers on early education and childcare issues?

☐

b) opportunity to contribute to the debate on new and existing services?

☐

c) to be kept informed of new developments/initiatives?

☐

d) to share information?

☐

e) networking opportunities?

☐

f) other? Please state

☐

7. Do you have any further comments/suggestions to make about the way forward for the Early Years and Childcare Forums?



Story Sharing

Foundations of Literacy - Storytime

In the past children shared a story by listening to a storyteller - children engaged with the story by ear. Today, however, half the nation's four year olds have a television in their bedrooms. For many, listening to a story is a thing of the past.

Stories on screen are mostly visual and the plot is followed with the eyes - for many there is no 'voice' or narrative thread - just fragmented dialogue, sound effects and background music. Many are unaware that the story has a beginning, middle and end.

These children can have difficulty learning to read as the language of text is unfamiliar, the 'shape' of stories unknown and their ears untrained to narrative. When writing a story they will struggle because stories on screen do not stimulate the imagination. Neither do they model the use of words to tell a tale, describe a setting or bring characters to life.

Before formal literacy begins, we must first immerse children in 'story language' through story telling and reading aloud.

Taken from Foundations of Literacy - Sue Palmer & Ros Bayley ISBN 1-85539-093-0

This book outlines seven strands of practice for the foundation years upon which successful teaching of literacy skills depends. Fun activities are provided for three to six year olds, designed to develop the skills, concepts and knowledge underpinning literacy. Alongside are clear explanations of the research and reasoning on which they are based.

Story Sharing Notes for Practitioners

Sharing stories with your children is great fun, for them and you. Here are some ideas and tips to help you enjoy this special time even more.

- Look through the book on your own before you read to the children.
- Choose stories that you enjoy.
- Choose stories that children join in with - e.g. plenty of repetition.
- Familiar characters/stories - nursery rhyme and traditional tales.
- Stories should have a clear beginning, middle and end and be short and sharp.
- Bring the story to life - you can do this by using props such as puppets/soft toys or by using different voices for each character etc., but remember that none of this should detract from the story.
- Change the tone and pace of your voice as you are reading - e.g. slow/quiet voice leading into a scary noisy section.
- Tell the story in your own words if you feel comfortable with that but remember the special words/phrases associated with some stories, e.g. 'Little Pig, Little Pig Let Me Come In'.
- Use fun stories with flaps and pop-ups that encourage children to interact with the story.
- Make up your own stories using a wordless picture book.
- Stories that have rhythm and rhyme work well.
- If you can sing/play a musical instrument etc., it adds to the story.
- Above all enjoy story sharing and have fun.



Your Library Service

Libraries give a friendly welcome to all families, providing the space and opportunity to share stories together and to try out child-friendly websites on our computers. Sharing stories together is fun for everyone and encourages children to become lifelong readers. In all libraries you will find a range of resources to meet the needs of all young children. These include:

- Board Books
- First Picture Books
- First Facts - simple non-fiction
- Story and song tapes
- Nursery rhyme and poetry books
- Storysacks - at some libraries

Children can join the library at any age and borrow up to 10 books items.

For parents and carers libraries provide a childcare collection which draws together books on issues such as starting nursery or a new baby in the family. You will also find books on child

development, diet and health and early learning opportunities.

If you are a childminder ask at your local library about childminder tickets.

All playgroups are entitled to a special ticket which enables them to borrow up to 25 books from any Norfolk library. On top of this playgroups can also borrow a collection to support them in delivering the early learning goals. Themed boxes on topics such as 'Seasons, Seaside, Christmas, Simple Science, Environment and Me and My Family are available via Dorne Fraser on 01603 222270. We can also provide you with dual language picture books and collections of tactile and pop-up books.

Many libraries hold regular storytimes for Under 5's and also organise special holiday events. Visit our website at www.library.norfolk.gov.uk for further details. Besides events in local libraries you may also like to visit the Millennium library for their regular Under 5's storytimes on Fridays

at 10.30a.m. and Sundays at 2.30p.m. or have a go at songs and rhyme at the very successful Tiny Tots session on Wednesday at 2.30p.m. For further details of early years events at the Millennium Library contact Cath Elliott on 01603 774750.

Forthcoming events include:

St William's Way Library Under 5's stortime every Monday 2.30 - 3p.m.

Diss Library Under 5's Storytime from 10.30 - 11.00a.m. on 21st September, 19th October, 16th November and 14th December.

Watton Library Under 5's storytime every Wednesday from 2.30-3.00p.m.

Mile Cross library launches it's Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time on September 10th at 10.30-11.30am. which will continue every Friday after that. It's a chance to share songs, rhymes and stories with your baby and have a chat with other parents.



What's Available for Early Years' Groups at Norfolk Museums (NMA)

Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMA) has 12 museums county-wide - in Norwich, King's Lynn, Gt Yarmouth, Cromer, Thetford and Gressenhall - so there's bound to be a museum near you. There is also an education team that can offer tailor-made sessions to suit your group's needs. Here are just a few of things of offer to Early Years groups - but there's lots more. Contact the education officers to find out what's available for your groups.

'Castle Building' and 'Looking at Pictures'

Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery has lots of hands-on activities to help young children explore how a castle was built. They can have a go at building an arch, transporting stone to build the castle, building their own castle with lego and lots more. Norwich Castle also has an extensive collection of paintings and ceramics. Paintings can be used to stimulate children's language and creativity. Children can explore the paintings by looking at colours and shapes. They can make up stories around them or listen to story telling based on the painted scenes. They can have a go at doing some art, such as using tissue paper to create their own landscapes or, if they are looking at scenes with people in them, they can think about costume and design their own costume with scraps of fabric. As the collections are large, most themes can be explored. There is also a wonderful teapot gallery, filled with hundreds of teapots. Activities here can include designing a teapot, singing music relating to tea, exploring the history of tea in fun and enjoyable ways and having a tea party.

Treasure Boxes

Roots of Norfolk at Gressenhall is a family friendly museum based in 50 acres of countryside. It has a working farm and rare breed animals. The museum offers a special facility for the under 5s, the Early Years Centre. Fully equipped with toys, books and activities the centre can be booked in advance by pre-school groups and provides an excellent base and focus for visits. It has just developed some treasure boxes, filled with farmyard objects and activities. These provide children with an enjoyable way in which to explore and learn about the farmyard. They can also help support work before and after a museum visit.

More of these treasure boxes are also being developed in some of the other museums. Norwich Castle has one based on castles, and the new Time and Tide museum in Great Yarmouth has one relating to the fishing industry.

Contacts

Each museum has an education officer who will be able to help with planning a museum visit - and admission for under 5s is free.

Roots at Gressenhall - Colly Mudie
(01362 869256)

Norwich - Faye Kalloniatis (01603 493662)

Great Yarmouth - Colin Stott (01493 745526)

Thetford - Ellie Hill (01842 752599)

Cromer - Colin Hynson (01603 495891)

King's Lynn - to be appointed (01553 773450)



Storyboxes



Storyboxes.

Storyboxes are a wonderful resource that can be used to encourage children to make up their own, imaginative stories. These can be made simply from a shoe box. The box can be covered in wrapping paper to fit in with the 'theme' so that the child can identify which box they want to use, for example, 'under the sea'. The list is endless!

The box itself can become a 'small world', by cutting down the corners so that one, two or all of the box sides fold flat. The inside can then be covered in cotton wool for snow, gravel for 'Bob the builder', etc. Everything fits neatly back inside when the lid is put back on.

Storyboxes are easy to stack/store and to transport, so are ideal for groups who have to get everything out of a cupboard each day.

Don't be frightened to make boxes that reflect popular culture like Bob, Barbie, or Disney, these are often loved by the children who feel

confident with something they recognise and they will enjoy making up their own adventures.

The box can contain a few figures or items from the theme. I have found a 'dinosaur' storybox to be very popular with the children. This contains dinosaurs of different sizes (link to maths!) and some foliage. Another box that the children all seem to choose is an under the sea one where the box is decorated inside to look like under the sea and contains sea creatures, sea weed, shells, a transparent blue scarf and a mermaid.

The children might also like to make their own storyboxes!

How about covering a box with some Christmas paper, adding a Father Christmas, a snowman and some presents? The ideas are endless and the children will be ready to suggest their own ideas which might include jungle, arctic, fairies, forest, beach, space, pets, road safety, hospital, other countries, army, dinosaurs, teddy bears picnic, Easter, birthday box, minibests, etc etc etc.!

Storyboxes are fun to make and you will be rewarded for your work by the pleasure the children gain from them.

Great Yarmouth and Gorleston practitioners attended a 'Cluster' meeting last year where they enjoyed making 'mini-beast' or 'under the sea' storyboxes which were beautiful.

More information can be found in the book '50 storyboxes' by Helen Bromley. Your link teacher may be able to lend this to you.

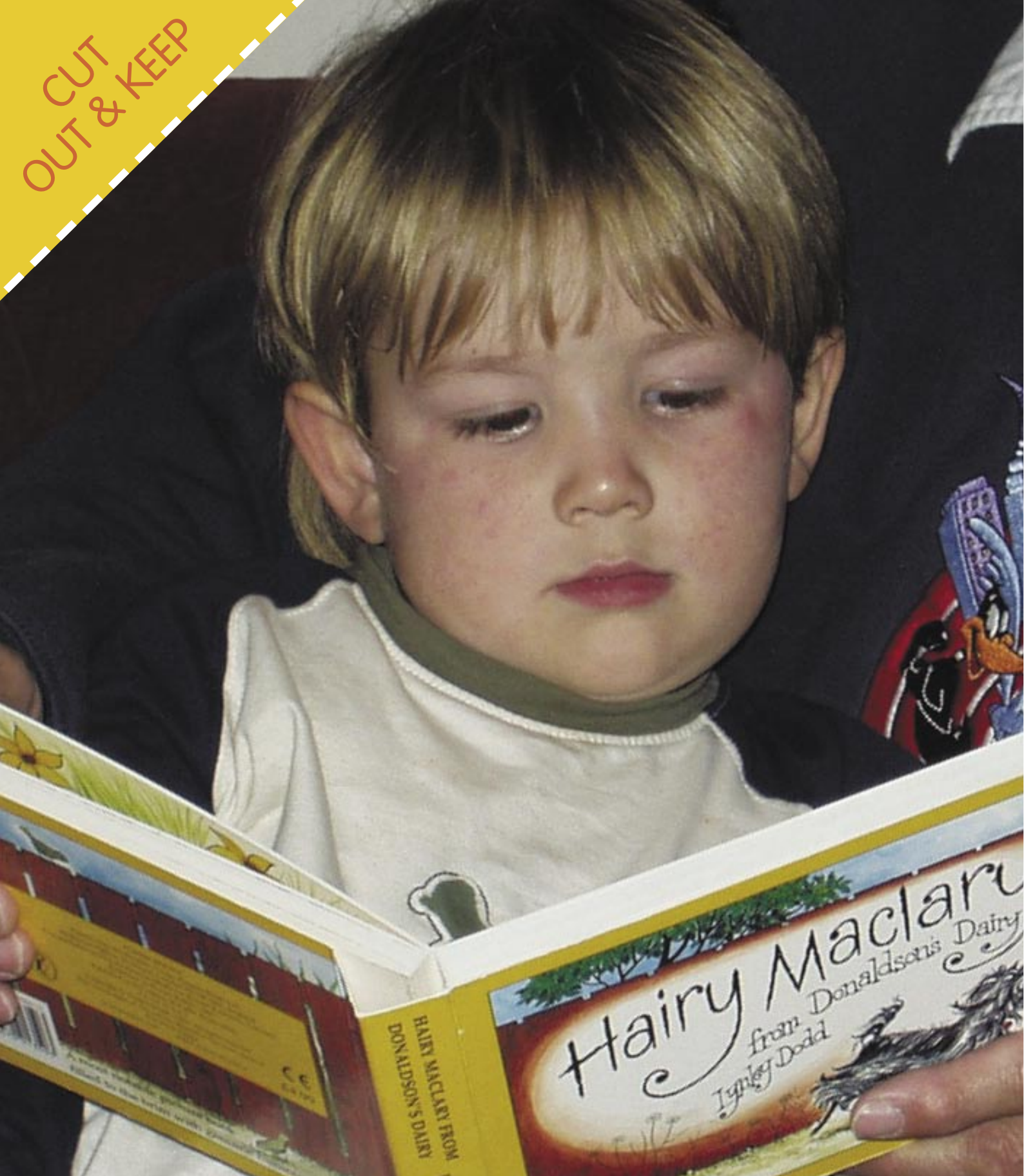
Practicalities Choosing Books

- Know your stories well, don't be surprised by an ending you didn't expect
- Do the stories read aloud well - not too long, not too many words to a page
- Choose a mixed programme - it can be on a theme but think about a longer story, a tactile book, a flap book, verses, finger plays, songs etc.
- Can children see pictures from a distance - some Ahlberg's have very tiny pictures
- Children like humour and scary - so long as there is a safe ending
- Children like repetition - but many need to be told to join in
- Talk about the book before you start - look at the cover and guess what the story might be about
- Choose enough books to be flexible and be confident to close a book if it isn't going very well
- Think about ability levels/disabilities
- Vary your voice - the Little Billy Goat Gruff doesn't talk in the same way as the Big Billy Goat Gruff
- Involve children in choosing the books

Practicalities/Problems

- Can all the children see you and the book
- If you ask questions they'll answer you - make sure that questions relate to the story
- Eye contact/body language - you tell the story with more than just your voice
- If you are using puppets etc., make sure they don't detract from the story
- Talk to the children before you start - it gets a lot of questions out of the way and you find out who has new shoes etc., etc., before you start
- Make sure children are comfortable
- Don't panic when some children don't stay long
- Are there any children with special needs in the group
- Don't sit in front of a window where children have got something else besides you and the books to look at





Sharing Stories with Children at Home

At home storytime can be a special time of day when adults and children can stop and share the experience of story telling together.



Sharing Good Practice

In this section we hear from two practitioners about story time with their children. They have included a number of good ideas that worked well with the children. Amongst them were acting out the stories, using games, and encouraging children to bring in their favourite book from home.

I recently did a 4 week theme relating to stories which included 'We're going on a bear hunt,' 'Whatever next' and 'Little chameleon,' the final week was their own story creations.

'We're going on a bear hunt' was a great success and truly enjoyed by all. My class enjoyed going outside to act out the various scenes with resources, exploring with the different textures and experimenting with the descriptive words.

'Whatever next' another great story which we studied. The class were enthusiastic to act out the story in the role play area using book resources, we also photocopied and laminated the pictures from the book and the children enjoyed sequencing the events. We played a moon game using ten large numbered circles and the class took it in turns to roll the die to make their way to the moon, great for counting and number recognition. We are currently looking at different countries and invited a guest speaker to come in a read the story of 'The hungry caterpillar' in German which was very successful and the class learnt a few key words.

Karrie, Orchard Nursery, Ketteringham

Right through from the baby room to our foundation stage children. We enjoy access to books everyday, with a story/book time available every morning and afternoon.

Recently we followed a theme of "Our favourite book" which went down very well especially with the encouragement to bring in a book from home to share with friends at nursery.

The foundation stage children looked at three books in particular all by the same author and illustrator - Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler:- "Monkey Puzzle", "The Gruffalo" and "Room on a Broom". The later being enhanced by the accompanying CD. The children loved to listen to the storyteller and learn the song too.

In addition a huge hit was making, cooking and eating a Gruffalo Crumble! (any crumble recipe is fine, and adjust the fruit to suit your children)

We thoroughly enjoy books and are members of the local library.

This provides us with a regular and renewable resource - we also call upon the library service to provide nursery/project packs/ books - to support our theme work.

Elaine, Blofield Nursery

Top Tips When Sharing Stories

Setting the scene is very important, so switch off the television or radio and eliminate background noise. This will help the child focus on your voice. Find somewhere comfy to read and snuggle up!

Talking about the story as well as reading it is very important. Encourage your child to predict what might happen next. Use phrases such as "can you remember?" Talk about the pictures.

Choose a variety of books, both fiction and non fiction. Try poems, comics, and nursery rhyme books as well. Nursery rhymes are important in developing an awareness of rhyme and sounds within words.

Involve your child in the reading process by encouraging them to turn the pages. Encourage them to act out the parts and or make the sounds. Use repetitive pieces to get them to join-in, eg. "he huffed and he puffed."

Try listening to story tapes, or asking another family member to record the story and listen to it whilst looking at the book. Make the story exciting by adding expression and try using different voices for the different characters.

Tell made-up stories and support children in making up stories about their own lives. Make up your own books, by using photos or their own pictures. The children will remember the experience and recognise themselves in the story.

Books to Try!

A few recommended books:

- Peepo – Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- Each Peach Pear Plum – Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- Where's My Teddy – J Jez Alborough
- Handa's Surprise – Eileen Browne
- Mr Gumpy's Outing
- Hairy Maclary – Lynley Dodd
- Spot – Eric Hill
- Six Dinner Sid – Inga Moore
- Where The Wild Things Are – Maurice Sendak
- We're Going On A Bear Hunt – Michael Rosen
- Pass The Jam Jim – Kaye Umansky
- Can't You Sleep Little Bear – Martin Waddell

Top Tip!

Link Teachers are an extra resource!



Norfolk Childcare
Information Service

01603 622292

www.norfolkchildcare.info



If you need this agenda/ report/
document in large print, audio, Braille,
alternative format or in a different
language please contact Janet Evans:
Tel: 01603 222377 Fax: 01603 222119
Email: janet.evans@norfolk.gov.uk
and we will do our best to help.