

Dear Colleagues,

New online resource

Hopefully by now you have all noticed that *Topic* has been re-launched as *practical research for education*. To support the new printed publication we have also developed a new online resource which can be visited at www.pre-online.co.uk. This was launched in July and we are really pleased with the new design and format. New features include an alphabetical search tool, various free articles and an online discussion forum.

If you have not yet visited the new site please do so at www.pre-online.co.uk. If you have any suggestions please let me know.

Topic Conference Report, July 2006

Thanks to all who attended – we are happy to report that the day was a great success. The main objective for the day was for delegates to learn about research and enquiry and how to put this into practice in their institutions. Delegates filled in an evaluation form after the event and so far 80% of the respondents rated the day as good value for money. Thank you to all of you who took the time to fill in these forms, they have been very useful and will help us plan for the 2007 conference.

Other useful comments received from delegates include –

Excellent conference – it has increased my confidence, been extremely informative and enabled me to network and build links with others.

Thank you for a very enjoyable day. Everything was very well organised and carefully planned. All of the lectures and workshops linked well.

I've really enjoyed the whole day and would look forward to another in the future.

If you were unable to attend but would like to read through the various presentations please visit http://www.pre-online.co.uk/pre_events.asp

Date for your diaries!

***Practical research for education (PRE) 2007 conference,
11 July 2007, London, UK***

We are now busy planning the 2007 PRE conference and have provisionally booked 11 July 2007. Please make a note of this and put it in your diaries.

We are currently inviting papers for the conference and would particularly like to hear from education lecturers, teachers studying for a higher degree and headteachers who have used research in their schools. The theme will be '*research is important because...*' and will provide case study examples of the different ways in which research can impact on teaching practice. Priority will also be given to those that discuss at least one of following points:

1. Why do educational research?

2. How to plan and manage successful research projects in your school/as part of your study
3. Understanding new research tools and their application
4. Interpreting data and presenting the findings
5. Overcoming the barriers to your research project (internal and external)
6. The different ways that research findings can impact on teaching practice
7. Using research to improve best practice

If you would like to present a workshop at the 2007 PRE conference please send a brief synopsis of your presentation to a.lawson@nfer.ac.uk. If successful we will then ask for a full abstract, of no more than 3000 characters, which will be reviewed by the editorial board of PRE.

New publications from NFER

For all those of you interested in assessment and reading theory, we have launched a new publication entitled **Assessing reading**. This was launched at the UK Literacy Association conference and has received excellent feedback. It is priced at £40 and we are currently allowing individuals to read the contents page and introduction for free. For more information please visit www.nfer.ac.uk/Bookshop/

The new **Annual survey of trends for 2006** was launched at the ADSS conference in October. Headteachers from over 400 primary and over 1100 secondary schools took part in this year's survey, covering a range of important current issues in education. The findings are reported in a series of papers including:

- How is the **Every Child Matters** agenda affecting schools?
- How are schools supporting **looked-after children**?
- What is happening on **extended schools**?

You can purchase copies for £15 from www.nfer.ac.uk/Bookshop/

The **Analysis of Children and Young People's Plans 2006** was also launched at the ADSS Conference. The NFER's study of 75 CYPPs builds a national picture of the content of the plans and how they contribute to the five outcomes of Every Child Matters (ECM). It is intended to inform future approaches to planning and highlight areas of support which will be useful to LAs. The analysis covers 11 themes and includes examples from the plans. You can download a free copy from the following link or email me to request a hard copy.

<http://nfer.steel-hosting.co.uk/research-areas/pims-data/summaries/analysis-of-cypp-2006.cfm>

Please do contact me should you require any further information on the matters above.

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