



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Partnership News

Early Years & Childcare Services

November 2009

In this issue Capital Grants Funding, A Safe Place to Be, MUNDI Project and more...

Short Breaks proving a big hit with Children and Young People



Yes We Can! Is the message from Disabled Children and Young people across Nottinghamshire, who attended the Family Fun Day at Holme Pierrepont on Monday 17 August. The event, organised by the Play for Disabled Children's team saw children enjoy an abundance of activities including Horse Riding, Open Boating, Archery, Pollybat, and many more, all free of charge, as part of the Short Breaks Pathfinder Project.

Vickie Leech, from Play for Disabled Children, co-ordinated the event and worked in partnership with Pete Edwards from the Widening Access Team. She said: "Events like these are a fantastic opportunity for Disabled Children and Young People to participate in new activities and aspire to those experiences that non-Disabled children and young people do. If a child or young person at the event enjoys a particular activity and is keen to continue, then we try to point them in the direction of a local club or organisation that will support them to succeed."

A big thank you has to go to everyone involved for all their hard work and dedication in putting on a fantastic day. For more information about future events please contact Nottinghamshire Short Breaks Pathfinder on: 0115 8783 597 or email ahdcpathfinder@nottsc.gov.uk.

Or for further information on the services provided by the Play for Disabled Children Team, contact Sarah Blackhurst on: 07771 344 491.



Sure Start Week Celebrations 14-18 Sept



West Bassetlaw Sure Start Children Centre was just one of many centres in the County to celebrate National Sure Start Week with an open-day event. Caterpillar music was the main attraction on the day. Funded through the Youth Music bid, Alison Noble from Caterpillar Music is regularly invited to the Children's Centre to teach the kids the message of 'sing it loud, write it proud'.



The Bridge Children's Centre also held celebrations during Sure Start Week, as the dates coincided with their first year of officially opening. The event was a huge success with over 100 adults and 96 children joining in with the activities that included singing with sign language, dancing, party games and a buffet.



Contact details

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Integrated Care and Education Places for Two-Year-Old Children

Nottinghamshire has been invited to take part in the extension of the Two Year Old Pilot from September 2009 and has been allocated funding to support 219 children in the most disadvantaged circumstances, to access free childcare. The aims of the project include:

- Ensuring that a child has access to early learning opportunities through the delivery of ten hours per week of free childcare, for 38 weeks of the year.
- Ensuring there is a seamless transition from the Two Year Old Pilot to the three and four year old Nursery Education Funding.
- Supporting parents/carers wanting to train or go back to work.
- Building evidence on raising outcomes and closing early achievement gaps between young children from different backgrounds.

Families will need to meet set criteria to demonstrate eligibility.

The two year old places will be managed by Sure Start Children's Centres and each district has been offered an initial number of places to allocate. Eligible children will be identified through existing assessment processes or through outreach work.

Settings wishing to participate in the Pilot must meet a number of requirements including:

- An Ofsted rating of Good or Outstanding.
- Be on the Nottinghamshire Preferred Provider List.
- Must have a graduate EYP leading practice, or be committed to employing one.
- Childminders must be linked to a recognised network and take up support from the Early Years Specialist Teacher team.
- Other requirements are outlined in the service delivery specification available on request.

For more information contact your local Senior/Children's Centre Coordinator, or the Project Lead, on 01623 404 318



Capital Grants Funding



Over 50 early years settings across Nottinghamshire have recently received early years capital grant funding to help update their equipment and improve the quality of the learning environment for children. The early years capital grant funding comes from the Department of Children, Schools and Families and aims to improve the quality of the learning environment in early years' settings around the County.

Pat Trotter, manager of West Street Pre-School was one of the first settings to be allocated funding. Pat received £10,000 to increase the size and quality of the pre-school's outside play area, build a fence and pave the whole area leaving a part with soil for the children to dig and plant in. Pat says "the funding has really

enabled us to transform our outdoor play area and has enhanced the learning opportunities for our children."

The Early Years Capital Grant is available to Ofsted registered early years and childcare providers that appear on the Nottinghamshire County Council's Preferred Providers List.

A range of projects have been presented by Day Nurseries and Pre-Schools. Childminders are able to apply for a package of resources and need to contact the local NCMA team to find out how. The Capital Grant Assessment Panel will consider the next round of large applications on the 12 and 13 of January 2010. For more information, please contact Tracie Dodd on 01623 520 873.

Childminding Celebrations



These achievements were celebrated at two events, the John Fretwell in Mansfield and the Crowne Plaza in Nottingham. The evenings were enjoyed by all, and several childminders were presented with an award to acknowledge their commitment and achievements. Councillors Philip Owen and Allen Clarke attended and presented the awards at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

NCMA are very proud that the Nottinghamshire childminders have risen to the challenge of the Early Years Foundation Stage over the past year. The childminders commitment to attend evening network meetings, training and buddying opportunities reflects their professionalism and enthusiasm to raise the quality of their provision.

Date for Diaries

The annual Early Years and Childcare Conference will be held on Saturday 12 June at the East Midlands Conference Centre, University Park, Nottingham. Look out for booking forms available early next year, and put the date in your diary!

Childcare Training Project

There are some important changes to the Childcare Training Project.

The Childcare Training Project offers those who would not usually be eligible for apprenticeship funding (learners over the age of 25) with free training and assessment within a full daycare setting. This leads to an NVQ Level Three in Children's Care, Learning and Development.

The courses have now been extended from the nine training hours to twelve to meet with the training agencies and college requirements of training. The termly £100 training grants that were previously received as part of the project are no longer available.

Children's and Young Peoples Services and the NDNA will still continue to fund all the NVQ training and assessment fees.

The learners will work within your childcare setting on a training placement, for a minimum of twelve hours over the week whilst they work towards their qualification. All training is

in-house, provided by a local training assessor.

We currently have students who are finishing the end of their eight week taster course 'Thinking of Working with Children' who will now be requiring work placements in order to complete their NVQ training. If you are a full day care setting and would like to take part in the Childcare Training Project, please contact Charlotte Hurst, Childcare Workforce Development Officer on 0115 8787 502 or e-mail charlotte.hurst@nottsc.gov.uk.



Safe Place to Be Project



Lesley Easton, the Senior Play Development officer for Nottinghamshire County Council tells Partnership News about the training and development of the Safe Place to Be Project (SP2B) that has been taking place in partnership with Tuxford School and the extended services co-ordinator over the last 12 months.

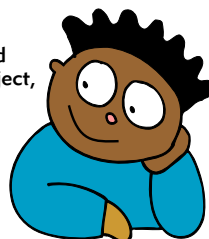
"The Hub which runs before and after school five days per week during term time came about through consultation with pupils at Tuxford School. Young people said they wanted open access sessions which were not run like formal childcare so we took that on board and trained sixth form pupils to work or volunteer in The Hub.

The focus has been to deliver a safe and relaxed environment where pupils can

socialise with friends, do homework, eat breakfast / tea, play games or just chill out before or after a day at school. The workforce have been trained in school in non contact time and have achieved a playwork qualification as well as completing skills training in first aid, food hygiene and safeguarding children. The benefits of this project are significant; providing a safe and stimulating environment for young people whilst parents work, positive local leisure activities for young people out of school hours, as well as the opportunity to promote a positive attitude to school."

Having worked on this pilot scheme the Childcare Development Team are now well prepared to work in partnership with other secondary schools across the County to extend facilities before and after school in response to a recognised need. They recognise that all projects will be uniquely different and would need to reflect the needs of the local community as well as the ethos of the school.

If you think that you would like to discuss a SP2B project, contact Lesley Easton on: 01636 593 932 or lesley.easton@nottsc.gov.uk



Marketing Toolkit



The Early Years & Childcare Services Marketing Toolkit has now been updated and team based settings should receive a CD copy with this newsletter. Childminders can request a copy of the childminder toolkit by contacting the Marketing & Communication Team on 07956 438 068 or by emailing victoria.windsor-beck@nottsc.gov.uk

'Thinking of Working with Children?' course

Across the county, childcare taster courses are being run by Nottinghamshire Childcare Recruitment Campaign to give adults, male and female an insight into a career working with children.

There are currently seven free eight week courses that have been running across the county since September. Learners have been finding out about early years and pre-school work, working within an after school club and finding out about the new Early Years Professional Status. They are also given advice and guidance for writing a C.V, interview techniques and how to complete an application form.

Bookings are currently being taken for the January 2010 'Thinking of Working with Children?' course, for further details please contact the Nottinghamshire Childcare Recruitment Campaign on 08449 808 080, Monday to Friday 08:00am to 08:00pm and Saturdays 08:00am till 12noon.



Notts Fatherhood DVD

A Notts Fatherhood DVD is available to dads across Nottinghamshire. The DVD has been developed by a group of fathers from across Nottinghamshire and is the result of a fatherhood project that has been taking place over the last two years.

The film presents positive images of fathers, including how they engage in their child's learning, the impact they have on their child and raises questions about how recent expectations of fathers can be met. It also challenges services to consider fathers more fully. If you would like a copy of the Notts Fatherhood DVD please contact Barbara Pritchard, Children's Centres Team, Mansfield Business Centre, Ashfield Avenue, Mansfield, Notts NG18 2AE enclosing a stamped addressed envelope - 47p (2nd class) or 61p (1st class) or email barbara.pritchard@nottssc.gov.uk

Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH)

The 'Childcare Pathfinder', known as DCATCH, aims to support parents who are in employment, returning to work or attending a vocational training course, and seeking childcare for their disabled children. The two priority groups of children for the project are:

- Children who, due to their severe and complex disabilities, encounter difficulties accessing mainstream group childcare and
- Older disabled children and young people for whom group childcare may not be appropriate due to their age.

Our joint newsletter with the Short Breaks pathfinder is now available online at <http://www.pps-speakup.org.uk/> We can be contacted by e-mail ahdcpathfinder@nottssc.gov.uk. Or for more information phone: 01623 520 071

Early Years & Childcare Services E-Newsletter

Nottinghamshire Early Years and Childcare Services have re-launched the monthly e-newsletter. The e-newsletter has information on events and conferences, a Families Information Service update and stories from around the country relevant to you and your setting. To receive the e-newsletter email philip.golding@nottssc.gov.uk with the word SUBSCRIBE in the text.



Race for Life – July 2009



Prompted by a member of the team undergoing treatment, the fellow workers of the Early Years Specialist Staff and their families embarked on the 'race' at the Embankment on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. The younger and fitter members amongst the team showed great energy to complete the course in very respectable times, whilst the more mature folk walked the course in an hour!

In total the team, friends and family raised £1,525 for Cancer Research and enjoyed the experience of being part of a national event acknowledging that the illness touches so many lives. Well done to everyone who took part and a big thank you to all those who contributed financially.

Sue Mosley, Early Years Manager

Global Awareness for Bright Sparks



Earlier in the year Bright Sparks Day Nursery, Mansfield held a spectacular mini-festival where children, parents and nursery workers dressed in national costume from communities all over the world. The event was a joint celebration of Bright Sparks 15th year anniversary and the conclusion of the work they had been doing with the MUNDI project – a project aimed at helping children in Early Years settings explore aspects of inclusion and diversity by finding out:

- What it is like to be me, to live with my family and friends, to be part of a community and the big, wide world.
- How am I the same and how am I different to other children.

As part of the MUNDI project the children at Bright Sparks had visitors from the local community, including a Police Officer, a Fire-Fighter and the children from Robin Hood Nursery School. They also had a visit from African Ark – to learn about different cultures around the world.

This was concluded on 21 August as parents were invited to join the fun and see the display boards where their children's work was showcased. Heather Nash, Bright Sparks Day Nursery Manger said "a real partnership with parents has developed during the project. The visit to and from Robin Hood Nursery was a very valuable experience for all concerned and we plan to continue the theme over 2009/2010."

To find out more about the MUNDI project, please visit: www.mundi.org.uk

If you wish to submit an article for the next issue of Partnership News, please contact Vicky Windsor-Beck on 07956 438 068 or email victoria.windsor-beck@nottssc.gov.uk All information correct at time of printing in November 2009.