



Early Years Foundation Stage & Year 1 Newsletter

April 2009

Early Years

FREE Speaking and Listening Resource

The Communication Cookbook supports EYFS practitioners, parents and families to give 4 - 6 year olds a solid foundation in speaking and listening. The Cookbook contains an activity book, online games and activities, a DVD, and advice & information. All activities are based on the five essential ingredients for successful communication: Attention and listening, vocabulary, building sentences, telling stories, and conversations. Visit www.communicationcookbook.org.uk to play the online games, download activities or order your **FREE** copy of The Communication Cookbook.



2009-2010 Training Programme

Now available online at:

www.childrenscentres.org.uk/training_index.asp

Soon to be published (April 2009) EYFS Sample Planning Templates

The EYFS team are currently revising the existing Ealing sample-planning templates. There will be examples of individual child records, evaluation of progress records and a variety of short term planning sheets which include space for recording planned adult led and adult initiated experiences. We recommend that you review the headings and ensure similar headings are included in whatever planning you choose to use within your setting. You will be able to download the planning examples from http://www.childrenscentres.org.uk/ey_planning.asp

Speech and Language Development Poster

A guide for EYFS practitioners to monitor childrens progress from 3 months to 5 years. The information will support your assessments of children's progress in Speaking & Listening and Letters & Sounds, Phase1

2nd set of Ealing's Good Practice Guidelines (GPGS) to be published April 2009

You will receive 6 new cards to add to your existing set of 8 cards. Titles will include: Guided Reading; KUW – Exploration & Investigation; Observation, Assessment & Planning; SEN; Transitions; Partnership with Parents/Carers; and Outdoor Learning.

REMINDER Paediatric First Aid Certificate

At least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate must be on the premises at all times when children are present. There must be at least one person on outings who has a current paediatric first aid certificate. Check the EYFS training programme for approved courses

Centres of Excellence

Please see the attached list of Early Years settings that have specific areas of expertise and can demonstrate good practice. You are very welcome to make contact with the settings and arrange to observe specific practice. If you know you have good practice and would be willing to receive visitors please contact Lisa Griffin on t: 020 8825 7249 or e: lgriffin@ealing.gov.uk

Developing your Outdoor Space

Recommended resource; **'PlayOut'** just published by Learning through Landscapes. Includes guidance on planning improvements to the outdoor environment, CD-ROM, DVD, 10 case study cards, poster. Cost: £60. For more details visit www.ltl.org.uk

Attachments:

Poster – Stages of Speech and language development
Handout – Playnotes outdoors in all seasons
Centres of Excellence

Children's Centres • Early Years • EYDCP • Training • Family Information Service • Play Service

Every Child A Talker (ECaT)

Every child a talker (ECaT) is up and running in Ealing. So what is ECAT? ECAT is a national strategy aimed at improving the communication skills of all children in early years, particularly those children most at risk of falling behind.



In order to achieve this, ECaT aims to develop practitioners' knowledge, understanding and importantly their practical skills in supporting children's speech, language and communication development. ECaT also has a key focus on practitioners and parents working together to increase parents' involvement in their children's language development, which is associated with positive emotional and social outcomes for children.

Every child a talker has arisen from the Bercow Review of Services for Children and Young People (0-19) with Speech Language and Communication Needs. This report highlighted a number of concerning issues in early years provision nationwide, not least the fact that in a sizeable number of settings, children were spending almost 60% of their time not interacting with either adults or other children. Linked to that was the finding that many early years settings were not providing a rich language-learning environment. Critically, increasing numbers of children were entering early education without the necessary language and communication skills for effective learning and developing.

Government policy has now very firmly put the spotlight on early years settings becoming language-rich learning environments which provide strong foundations upon which children may develop their communication skills.

Within each local authority, including Ealing, twenty settings are involved in the project, and each of these settings will in turn support a linked setting in the next phase, to create a 'ripple effect' of good practice. Each setting has a nominated Lead Practitioner, who leads the setting in its achievement of the ECaT goals. The local authority also has two Early Language Consultants, who work intensively with the lead practitioners to support them through the process.

The whole philosophy of ECaT in Ealing is to identify with settings which aspects of their practice provide strong communication and language-learning opportunities which can in turn be shared with other settings who need to develop specific aspects of their practice. This is the most exciting aspect of ECAT – spreading the good practice around communication as far as possible to create truly dynamic early learning environments.



For further information on ECaT in Ealing, contact Anita McKiernan Early Language Consultant on 07940 798147 or email – a.mckiernan@nhs.net