

Action in childcare and early years

Hillingdon Council's Childcare and Early Years Service newsletter for childcare providers

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If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions for future issues, please telephone Hillingdon Council's Families' Information Service

 0800 0734800

 fis@hillington.gov.uk

ECAT is outstanding

Over the last 18 months the Childcare and Early Years Service has been implementing a national programme in schools, early years settings and with childminders in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

The ECAT (Every Child A Talker) programme has been designed to support improved speech, language and communication skills for children below the age of four years so that all children are enabled to access learning across the curriculum. This development will also support the eradication of poverty as children will be better placed to achieve well in school.

The National Primary Strategy constantly monitors how effectively each local authority has implemented the programme and the impact it has had for children. The latest report from the strategy has recognised Hillingdon as

outstanding in this area stating that:

All criteria for good service are met and the LA:

- Plans strategically and coherently to implement ECAT alongside other quality improvement programmes
- Has strong and successful partnerships with setting practitioners, health and other agencies which result in maximum impact and rapid improvements to the quality of language provision
- Effectively deploys the Early Language Consultants to targeted settings resulting in rapid improvements to practice and significant and demonstrable gains in children's progress

Many thanks to all those setting practitioners who have worked so hard to provide quality experiences for children that have, in turn, provided greater opportunities for communication development. It is only through your implementation of the programme that we have achieved this outcome.



ECAT - Would you like to know more?

Thirty settings in the borough have taken part in the ECAT programme and have developed aspects of their settings' provision, covering

- Adult/Child Interaction
- Communication Friendly Spaces
- Ages and Stages of early Development
- Assessment and monitoring of children
- Supporting parents and developing partnerships

If you are interested to know more and would like to visit a setting or school that has successfully developed these aspects, to offer new ideas and strategies for your own setting, then please contact Tirzah Bagnulo or Sue Rogers in the Early Years Inclusion Team and they will be happy to support you in developing a Link ECAT Setting. Email: tbagnulo@hillington.gov.uk or srogers3@hillington.gov.uk

Date for your diary

An exhibition event open to all childcare practitioners celebrating 'Listening to Young Children's Voices' and 'Every Child a Talker'

Date: Friday 18 February 2011, 09:30 - 15:30

Venue: Hillingdon Learning and Development Centre (HLDC), Queens Walk.

Please come along to learn more about these initiatives. You are welcome to bring colleagues or parents you are working closely with. Please book your places via HLDC.

WRAP has moved

The Watford Recycling Arts Project (WRAP) has opened in new premises: **Units 1 & 5 Faraday House, Faraday Close, Watford, WD18 8SA.**

The project collects a variety of materials and objects which are then widely available for "creative reuse". A great resource for arts and crafts ideas and supplies, materials from WRAP are available to all childcare practitioners in the London Borough of Hillingdon

'Top Tips' from the Lead Practitioners

'Food for thought'

Debbie Kearne-Smith at Rosedale College Nursery has developed an interesting interpretation of the, 'Look, Listen and Note' section within the EYFS and has developed this within the setting. Closely linked to the 'Listening to Young Children's Voices' Project and tuning into children these are her thoughts:

'Look at me, listen to me and notice me' and only then... when you really get to know me as a 'Unique Child' can you begin to understand me and what my needs are...

These thoughts are displayed within the setting to encourage reflective practice; maybe you can develop your own reflective thoughts using the EYFS.

For further information about the project please email Debbie on dsmith118@hillingtongrid.org

through the membership held by the Childcare and Early Years Service (CEYS).

Visit the scrapstore, using the CEYS membership number, to collect some free materials to help you with your arts and crafts ideas.

For further information on WRAP please phone 01923 231395, email watfordscrap@btconnect.com or check out the website at <http://watfordrecyclingartsproject.wikispaces.com>

Closing of setting...

As of 26 November 2010 Rascals Playgroup will be closing. The playgroup, situated in Royal Lane, Hillingdon, has had to close due to financial difficulties. This is much to the disappointment of manager Chris Witcher, who has put in 13 years hard work in to running the setting.

...opening of setting

December 2010 will see the opening of Pre School Academy on Dawlish Drive in Ruislip Manor. Headed by Manager Mundeep Lotay, the purpose built nursery is currently being given its final touches. As well as providing full time childcare to children aged 3 months to 5 years old, the nursery are also looking to provide events and classes including a Dads Group, Baby Massage/Yoga, Signalong sessions and more.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is high on everyone's agenda - especially Ofsted's.

The Safeguarding judgement is a 'limiting' inspection judgement. This means that if an inspector judges safeguarding in your setting to be only satisfactory, the overall judgement can not be better than satisfactory.

Four steps to a good safeguarding judgement

1. Revisit your Safeguarding Policy. Does it follow the most recent Safeguarding guidance? If in doubt discuss the policy with a CDT Advisor at a CDT Surgery (or at a childminder drop-in). Ensure that everyone connected with your setting is familiar with the policy.
2. When did you last attend Safeguarding training? Book Safeguarding through Learning and Development (HLDC) by calling 01895 250680. Online training is also available - request a log-in from HLDC.
3. Consult the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) website through the Hillingdon Council Website for useful documents and information.
4. Have 'Safeguarding' as a regular agenda item on team meeting agendas.

Improved outcomes for young children in Hillingdon

Over recent years the children's attainment outcomes at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) have improved year on year. The outcomes for all children in 2010 are above those nationally in all aspects of the EYFS curriculum and ranked third against our statistical neighbours. This picture is also reflected in the outcomes for children from deprived backgrounds; Hillingdon is ranked second for good achievement and has closed the attainment gap by over 2%.

These results have been achieved through practitioner commitment and hard work over recent years, ensuring the best start for young children in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Childcare Development Team

top tip

Following the conviction of Vanessa George and the Serious Case Review in Plymouth, recommendations have been made regarding the use of mobile phones in settings.

The review recommends a **ban** on carrying mobile phones in childcare settings.

Please ensure that your Safeguarding Policy clearly sets out

- who may use a mobile phone in your setting
- circumstances in which it is acceptable to use a mobile phone
- whether it is acceptable to use personal mobiles or if the setting provides one; for example, for emergency use on outings
- storage of staff mobiles during working hours

Ensure that all staff and visitors to your setting are aware of your policy on mobile phones.

Set a review date for your policy to ensure that it remains consistent with good practice guidelines.

Would you like to share your early years expertise with others?

Would you welcome a chance for some continuing professional development?

The Childcare and Early Years Service is looking to recruit more Leading Foundation Stage Practitioners and Leading Foundation Stage Teachers.

If you are interested in finding out more about the above initiatives, please contact Clair Summersell

 01895 250516

 csummersell@hillingdon.gov.uk

The Attention Hillingdon Project

Attention Hillingdon is an exciting and innovative project currently running in eleven nurseries and playgroups across the borough. It focuses on supporting children in developing attention and listening skills which are vital for learning.

Setting staff attend an initial evening training session and are then supported in running the group within their setting at least three times per week. They are supported by weekly visits from Early Years Inclusion Team staff modelling the group activities for eight weeks. All resources needed are provided. There is a second training session for staff at the end of the eight weeks, that supports settings in keeping the project going and developing new ideas.

The groups are short, fun and highly motivating, they focus on engaging children through a range of interesting activities to develop their joint attention, engagement in adult initiated activities

and turn taking. Information sessions are held for parents at the beginning and the end of the project.

"Children have responded really well... better attention skills and listening skills. Staff have absolutely enjoyed it, you can see the change in the children week by week... fun activities, the children really enjoyed them" (Mary Cord - Lysander Playgroup)

"M has made good progress. He can now sit still for longer and focus more on an activity. His speech has also come on really well too. He now listens more" (Parent)

Settings who have a child with a diagnosis of autism are prioritised for the project but it has been shown to be beneficial for children with a range of abilities - from children with significant needs to children who would just benefit from some support to develop their attention and listening skills.

If your setting is interested in being part of the project next term please speak to your linked Inclusion Facilitator or Jaci Smith on 01895 250516.

E Safety, Internet bullying

Training date for your diary

This one day training course is aimed at staff who work with children, young people and their families, and is free to all childcare practitioners in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Intended to give an understanding of how various forms of technologies can be used to exploit and abuse children and young people, the key objectives of the course will be for trainees to:

- understand key legislation relating to child abuse and the internet
- understand how abusers are using the internet
- explore and understand technologies used by children and young people
- explore how young people can be groomed by the use of the internet
- consider your individual and agency roles in safeguarding children and young people who use the internet
- how young people can be bullied by via the internet and mobile phone

Aimed at staff who work with children, young people and their families, the course is free to all childcare practitioners in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Date: Wednesday 1 December 2010, 09:30 - 16:00

Venue: Hillingdon Learning and Development Centre

To book a place, please call HLDC on 01895 250680.

Childcare and Early Years Service contacts

Families' Information Service

 **Free phone: 0800 073 4800**

 **fis@hillington.gov.uk**

 **www.hillingdon.gov.uk/fis**

Childcare Development Team, Early Years Advisory Teacher Team or Early Years Inclusion Team

 **01895 250516**

 **www.hillingdon.gov.uk/childcare**

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