

Early Years News

Issue March 2011

03

EARLY YEARS BUSINESS SUPPORT TEAM



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The Early Years Business Support Team at Routeways would like to welcome you to our third newsletter with information about your achievements, your celebrations and to share information with other childcare providers.

How 'dads' inclusive is your setting?

Are you due a visit from Ofsted? Are you meeting all of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements? When looking at your setting how father inclusive are you? Do you make a conscious decision to ensure dads are involved in their child's childcare experience? What do you know about the dad's of the children who come to your setting?

As part of the Early Years Foundation Stage there is a clear emphasis on working with parents as partners across diverse families it is vital to treat each person equally and whether intentionally or not fathers can get overlooked when recruiting new staff, sharing information, carrying out consultation, encouraging involvement, invitations onto the committee, planning the childcare environment and the service provided. This is highlighted in the quote from the EYFS:

The majority of early years practitioners are female. This, coupled with stereotypical views of childcare as 'women's work', often has the effect of making the setting feel like a 'no-go area' for fathers. However, it is the responsibility of settings to challenge this and make fathers and other significant males in children's lives feel valued.

(The Early Years Foundation Stage, Effective practice: Parents as Partners)

To find out more about being 'dads' inclusive and how this will help to improve outcomes for the children, their families and your setting please come along to our new early years training session this month.

Training: What a difference a dad makes.
Date: 27th April 2011
Time: 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Cost: £5.00 per person

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

For a booking form please either

Telephone: {01752} 856726 or

e-mail: businesssupport@routeways.org.uk

For our first interview in the 'dads' included series please see page 2.





Stories

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Following on from our theme of 'dads' included we will be running a series of stories around men and their links to early years childcare.

Our first interview is with David Bailey who works in Compton Pre-School.

I have been in childcare since 1996. I worked as a baker for 20 years and felt I needed to have a change. Through a friend who works in a Trinity Teddies Pre-School and having been a baker I used to carry out regular cooking sessions with the children in the setting which I enjoyed. She then suggested I made it a regular thing and this is where my childcare journey began. I started off as an assistant and started my NVQ2 this was then followed by my NVQ3 and I became the assistant manager.

In 1998 I registered with an agency as a nanny and over the next 12 years looked after 20 children including many children of teachers until the agency closed in 2010. I also began to work in Compton Pre-School as an assistant and I have now been here for 10 years.

I work within various after-school and holiday clubs across the city and since 1999 I have been involved in both cubs and beavers in the Elburton area. Once a week on a Monday I go into one school to support with drama productions and on a Thursday afternoon I support children in another school. I also help out with school shows and productions.

The only barrier I feel that I have faced has been the salary and the training times which have made attending training difficult due to my commitments with the pre-schools, schools, cubs and beavers. I have not had any problems with the adults and their reactions have always been positive however occasionally some children have been wary of having me around but it does not take long before they are joining me in activities.

I would definitely recommend a job in childcare to other men. I have previously worked with other men in Trinity Teddies Pre-School and also a holiday club.

I am also very busy out of work as in my spare time I run both a theatre group and a children's theatre group and work as a show director. We are currently working on a production about the history of Plymouth as it is the 70th anniversary of the blitz.

I would love to continue in my current roles but also I would like to go back to being a nanny again as well. Maybe in the future I might look at becoming a teaching assistant within a school.



If you have a story to tell on the 'men in childcare' theme please get in touch we would love to hear from you.



Your news

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Nursery Owner retires after 23 years



Lesley Doidge of Kenleys Nursery is retiring after 23 years delivering childcare for parents in Plymouth.

When Lesley sadly lost her husband, she decided to look into a career in nursing, unfortunately as she did not have the relevant qualifications she was unable to pursue this idea.

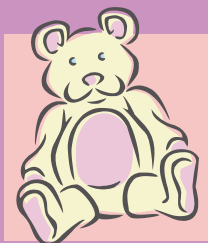
Lesley met with Lillian Willcox from Plymouth Social Service (OFSTED were not around then) who recommended a career in childcare and pointed Lesley in the direction of training and qualifications to enable her to do this.

After completing an NNEB at college Lesley then went on to open her own Nursery at Mutley Plain in Plymouth, this was followed 5 years later with a second 'Kenleys' Nursery in Plymstock. Due to staffing issues Lesley had to close the Mutley Plain site in 2006 which enabled her to concentrate all her efforts on the Plymstock Nursery which boasts its own swimming pool. Quite a unique selling point!

Lesley has enjoyed working with children and feels that the 'children must always come first' in childcare settings. Her main aim has been to see the children arrive at Nursery happy and enjoy the time that they spend there. The caring, quality service they received ensured parents felt confident and reassured that their children were well looked after.

Lesley has two sons and four grandchildren; she is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren, renovating her bungalow and possibly travelling. When Lesley was 60 she completed a trek in Peru (the Inca trail) to raise money for Leukaemia research, so she is contemplating taking up walking again.

The Business Support Team would all like to wish Lesley a fantastic well deserved retirement.



Your news

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Celebrations!

We have 'Outstanding' Childcare in Plymouth!

The Business Support Team are delighted to congratulate some of the Plymouth Childcare settings on receiving an 'Outstanding' grade from their recent Ofsted inspection:

Playbox Pre-school, Peverell received their Outstanding grade in January 2011.

Nomony Children's Centre, Cattedown received their 'Outstanding' grade in March 2011.

Toad Hall Pre-School, Hyde Park received their 'Outstanding' grade in March 2011.

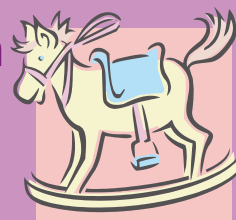
Jayne Rees (registered childminder) has received an 'Outstanding' grade in March 2011 which is her second 'Outstanding' from Ofsted in a row!

We would also like to congratulate the following individuals for their fantastic achievements:

Debbie Boughton (Whitleigh Wise Owls Nursery) has achieved Early Years Professional Status taking the total within the Nursery holding the EYPS to two.

Natalie Harrison (Rees Pre-School) has achieved BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Studies

The Business Support Team would like to congratulate everyone on their hard work and dedication to Plymouth childcare and to their individual continual professional development.



If you have a 'celebration' story to tell please get in touch we would love to hear from you.

Information and Events

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Inclusion training opportunities

Aiming High to include all

This exciting and **free inclusive training** is offered to two members of your staff.

Dates: 13th May, 27th May and 24th June 2011

Time: 9.30am to 4.00pm

Venue: Plymouth City Council, Windsor House, Tavistock Road, Plymouth PL6 5UF

An insight into promoting the positives

Dates:

30th March or 6th July 2011

Time: 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Venue: Plymouth City Council, Windsor House, Tavistock Road, Plymouth PL6 5UF

An insight into ASD.

Dates:

18th March or 4th July 2011

Time: 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Venue: Plymouth City Council, Windsor House, Tavistock Road, Plymouth PL6 5UF

If you would like further details on either of the training opportunities please contact **Jude Odell**, Inclusion Works Officer on {01752} 307559

Training



As part of the support and advice that the Early Years Business Support team provide there are also business training workshops provided which are funded through Plymouth City Council.

Writing a Business plan training

This workshop will take you through the essential parts of writing a business plan. It will help you know what it should include, how much information is required, who needs to be involved and what the reader will be looking for. It will show you how to monitor and adapt your plan as circumstances change.

Writing a funding bid training

This workshop will take you through the essential parts of writing a funding bid. Gathering information, developing a fundable project, writing a fundraising strategy and locating and contacting funders – can you afford to miss it?

National Family Week (30th May — 5th June)

Now in its third year, National Family Week is the biggest annual celebration of families and family life in the UK.

National Family Week is backed by all major political parties and over 180 national and thousands of not-for-profit organisations showcasing their work and support of families in their community, throughout the country and around the world.

The week creates a wealth of opportunity for families to spend time together and works with brand partners and a network of not-for-profit organisations to provide fun activities and useful resources that actively combat the biggest barriers to positive family life.

For further details please go to www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk

For ideas for Early Years groups go to www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk/media/files/partner_zone/ideas/Ideas%20for%20Early%20Years%20Groups.pdf

Training dates

Writing a Business Plan Training

Friday 17th June 2011

9:30am—12:30pm

Writing a Funding Bid Training

Friday 8th July 2011

9.30am-12.30pm

To book your place or for further details please contact the early years training team on {01752} 307442

www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/education/earlyyearsandchild-care/earlyyear-scourses.htm

Business Support Service

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Job vacancies

Routeways offers a job vacancy section on our website advertising childcare vacancies.

If you are looking to advertise a job please either e-mail the details to:

vhoward@routeways.org.uk

or telephone

Val Howard on:
{01752} 856726.

If you are looking for a job please visit us at:
www.routeways.org.uk/index.php?page=fis-jobs

Business Toolkit

The Business Support Team are currently developing a business toolkit that will be available on a CD.

It will contain a wide range of useful templates for use in your childcare business including policies, procedures, business plan and cashflow templates and much, much more!

Please contact us for further details.

Early Years Business Support Service

The Routeways Business Support Team offers a wide range of services to Early Years Providers across Plymouth as follows:

Business Health Checks

- An overview of the provision, which highlights areas for development

Support & advice on

- Funding applications
- Writing a business plan
- Market research
- Developing a marketing strategy
- Developing funding / fundraising plans

Sustainability

- Cashflow
- Budgets
- Sustainability

Training

- Writing a Business Plan
- Writing a Funding Bid

Who can use the service?

All Plymouth early years childcare providers based in non-domestic premises can use our services.

How much does it cost to use the service?

Routeways holds a contract funded by Plymouth City Council to provide the service free of charge to Plymouth childcare providers.

Funding opportunities

Funding for children's summer play schemes

<http://www.lankellychase.org.uk/how-to-apply/15>

The closing date for applications is the **13th May 2011**.

<http://www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk/>

Applications are accepted from voluntary agencies with an income of less than £120,000.

The closing date for Summer Play Scheme applications is the **6th May 2011**.

Funding offered for numeracy and literacy projects

<http://www.britannia.co.uk/site/corporate/in-the-community/foundation.html>

Funding for educational projects for the young and disadvantaged

Follow the guidelines on www.equitablecharitabletrust.org.uk/

