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Birth to Five Service

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Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the Birth to Five Service Newsletter. I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and managed to find some sunshine!

I am delighted to announce that once again the Birth to Five Service has been short listed for the Nursery World Award for Local Authority Early Years Team of the Year. I am also delighted by the number of Lincolnshire settings that have been short listed throughout the other Nursery World Award categories. It is a huge accolade that Lincolnshire is so strongly represented and clear evidence of the commitment and passion for Early Years that exists throughout the county.

I am also delighted to be able to congratulate you all once again on this year's Foundation Stage Results. Outcomes for children across all areas of learning continue to rise and the gap between the lowest and highest achieving children has narrowed significantly. This shows that improvement in young children's achievement in Lincolnshire has been made across the board for all children. We should all be very proud of this and once again this illustrates the county's continued commitment to Early Years.

As we begin September there continues to be many changes within Early Years. Government policy updates during July show a continued commitment to Early Years and we will continue to update you with changes and information through the website, Managers' Briefings and our termly newsletter. You can find information on the latest policy announcements and Early Years Foundation Stage Review consultation within this edition of the newsletter.

Managers' Briefings will be taking place this term and I look forward to seeing you all in October.

Best wishes

Stephanie Douglas.

The Graduate Support Programme:

The Workforce Development Team are thrilled to be able to continue to offer support to graduates, Early Years Professionals (EYP) and those working towards their higher level qualifications. All funding now comes under the heading of the Graduate Support Programme (GSP) which offers financial support to all those who meet the criteria.

Graduate Sponsorship - Up to £1000 per financial year:

Paid to support the cost of a Foundation Degree (Level 5) or BA (Level 6), providing the qualification is recognised by EYP status providers.

Future Graduate Allowance - £2000:

Paid to those who have a leader who is currently working towards a Foundation Degree that will be accepted onto an EYP pathway. This allowance has two strands and will support both a salary enhancement for the named leader and ensure they receive adequate time to complete their studies.

Graduate Leader Subsidy - £2500:

Paid to those who have a leader who has achieved the Foundation Degree and are working towards a BA or EYP status. The full amount is paid as a salary enhancement to the named graduate to ensure they are retained in the setting.



Full details of the Graduate Support Programme, including criteria for applying, can be found on the Birth to Five Service website (www.birthtofive.org.uk) in the Workforce Development section or by calling Denise Robinson, Graduate Support Programme Coordinator, on 01522 552760.

The Stepped Approach to Outdoors



Congratulations to our fifteen Private, Voluntary and Independent settings who have recently taken part in the 'Stepped Approach to Outdoors' Project. The project, which lasted a year, was delivered in partnership with the Early Excellence Team from Huddersfield. The project explores effective practice outdoors and guides settings to gain a deeper understanding of outdoor learning. In March 2010 the settings began their journey with a blank canvas, limited storage and few quality resources. A year on, and all settings have a well-resourced outdoor area which can be fully accessed at all times.

The settings have received different collections over the year including water play, building and construction, representational play, role play and books. Practitioners in these settings have embraced their roles as attentive and engaged adults who inspire and motivate children's play and support children to be imaginative, creative and investigative. Practitioners' evaluations show that outdoor learning is now having a positive impact on their children's sense of well-being and is supporting all aspects of their learning and development. There has also been a noticeable improvement in children's behaviour and sense of risk taking and solving problems together. The culmination of the project was celebrated with all fifteen settings giving a presentation of their learning journey. The settings would like to share their journey with other Early Years colleagues. Please see the list of participating settings you may wish to contact.

Quotes from participating settings

"The open-endedness of the resources has promoted our vision in developing children's individual learning. They really allow the children to explore and experiment and overall be more creative"

H Hurton, Lincolnshire Montessori

"The project inspired the team to realise the potential of outdoors, develop their understanding and improve their practice"

K Johnson, Mon-Ami Day Nursery

"The staff team has moved from outdoor participation to pro-active involvement. They now recognise the importance of the outdoor environment and not just free-flow play"

S Clarke, Happitots Community Pre-school

Participants in The Stepped Approach to Outdoors Project

The Ark Nursery Stamford
South Kesteven

Gainsborough Adventure
Playground Ltd (GAPA)
West Lindsey

Happi Tots Play Group
East Lindsey

Jacdor Community Preschool
East Lindsey

Lincolnshire Montessori
West Lindsey

Little Treasures Nurseries
South Holland

Mon Ami Day Nursery
East Lindsey

The Old Station Nursery Ltd
North Kesteven

Puddleducks Nursery and
Preschool Grantham
South Kesteven

Pilgrim Hospital Day Nursery
Boston

Prelude Nursery
North Kesteven

Rosebery Avenue Community
Playgroup
Boston

Start Right Day Nursery
Grantham
South Kesteven

Timtin Playgroup
North Kesteven

White House Farm Day
Nursery
South Kesteven





Birth to Five Service Conference 2011

‘Celebrating Together: Talking, Listening and Taking Part’

The Birth to Five's third annual conference took place on the 17th and 18th June. This year's theme was 'Celebrating Together -Talking, Listening and Taking Part', and after two very successful years, we once again were determined to make this year's event bigger and better than before. There were five workshops for delegates to choose from, along with our Keynote Speaker, Julian Grenier and then a closing speech from Sue Gascoyne.

Head of Service, Stephanie Douglas, warmly welcomed delegates to the third annual conference at Bishop Grosseteste College. She hoped everyone would have 'the most amazing day'. Stephanie underlined the opportunity once again this year to be 'up and active' as this was the 'Year of Communication'.

Andy Breckon, Assistant Director of Lincolnshire's Children's Services, also addressed delegates about the importance of this year's theme. He felt communication to be at the heart of young people's self-confidence. 'We have a critical role to play' he said. He thanked all delegates for their past and future contributions to the support of very young children.

As well as the keynote speech and workshops, the conference afforded delegates an opportunity to network with each other and to see displays promoting a variety of Early Years projects and products. Trade stands were set up and manned throughout the day for people to visit. These ranged from 'the journey of workforce development'; to the diversity of outdoor resources from Newby Leisure.

A number of delegates purchased a variety of useful resources and items, which they claimed were for their setting. We almost believed them!

Raffles were held over the two days, in aid of St Barnabas Lincoln Hospice. We were very fortunate to have extremely generous companies; especially from the trade stands, who donated some marvellous prizes for this raffle.

The Birth to Five Service would like to thank Julian Grenier, Rhubarb Theatre, Totem Training, our ECaT settings, Sue Gascoyne, all the Trade Stands, Bishop Grosseteste College and all our delegates for attending and supporting this highly successful event.

Workshop: 'Splashing about Outside'

'Moving Water' was the theme for this year's Early Years Conference Workshop. This active session effectively engaged delegates in outdoor waterplay and demonstrated the potential for language development; which outdoors is increased fivefold. Independence and enjoyment were closely emphasised and tips were given on how to support this during the workshop.

Clad in raincoats and hoodies, wellies and walking boots, delegates laughed, chatted and negotiated their way through the engaging tasks.

How can you?
It works!
I wonder if we...
Will that work?

Can I...?
Why don't you?
How about...?
Try it!



Welfare Advice and Guidance Updates

Bottle Feeding Guidance

Guidance from the Department of Health and the Food Standards Agency on preparing, storing and transporting infant formula milk can be requested by contacting DH Publications Order line, tel. **0871 555 455** (quote: 278959/Bottle feeding) or by email: **dh@prolog.uk.com** and is also available on the website: **www.dh.gov.uk/publications**.

Food Preparation in Childcare Settings

Following a recent inquest into the death of a child in a nursery, we would like to draw your attention to the preparation of food in settings.

The young child in question choked on a small piece of sausage and, despite the best efforts of the setting and medical staff to dislodge it, the child sadly died. The sausage created a 'perfect plug' in the child's throat. The risk of this occurring, although slight, can be further reduced by ensuring that food such as sausage is cut lengthways rather than in a manner which creates a small round food particle.

Please ensure all staff in your setting who prepare food, or assist at meal times, are made aware of this.

Giving Medication to Children in Registered Childcare

On the website **www.birthtofive.org.uk/thewelfarerequirements/safeguarding.aspx** is an Ofsted factsheet explaining the legal requirements for giving medication to children in registered childcare, which settings may find helpful.

Mobile Phones

Ofsted guidance on mobile phones used in settings states that the use of a mobile phone must not detract from the quality of supervision and care of children.



Mobile phones have a place in settings, especially those without a landline, and when on outings. They are often the only means of contact available in settings and can be helpful in ensuring children are kept safe.

The Early Years Foundation Stage states that, "providers should take contact telephone numbers and a mobile phone on outings". The provider, as part of the risk assessment, will decide how to keep personal numbers safe that may be stored on the phone.

The safety of children in childcare provision is paramount. Casual or inappropriate use of mobile phones by staff may pose a risk if staff are distracted from caring for children.

When developing safeguarding policies and procedures, registered providers should set out clearly how mobile phones and other potential distractions should be handled in their settings.

Further information can be found on the Ofsted website: **www.ofsted.gov.uk**

A Guide to Poisonous Plants

On the website, **www.birthtofive.org.uk/thewelfarerequirements/safeguarding.aspx** is a list of England's most commonly grown plants which are very poisonous. The list is not comprehensive, but is meant as a guide for your setting. As with all hazards, it is your responsibility to ensure that risk associated with such hazards are reduced or removed.

It is therefore advisable that any plants featured on this list are not accessible to children within the setting. If you do have plants that are featured on this list which grow wildly, or you have them, but they are out of the reach of children, then it is advisable that they should feature on the setting's risk assessments. For further help and advice in completing risk assessments, please contact the Birth to Five Service office on **01522 552752**.

Birth to Five Service Website Update

www.birthtofive.org.uk



The Birth to Five Service website team has continued to develop the structure and content of the website. This includes:

- Two new forums; a 'Welfare Forum' and 'Early Years Entitlements Forum'. These are a useful means for Early Years Professionals to share practice and offer guidance. Please visit our website to register and view these.
 - Further policy guidance which is available in the Early Years Foundation Stage Welfare Section. This section of the website also marks when a policy has last been updated. The Welfare Team now have a 'Twitter Feed' which helps to inform Lincolnshire practitioners of the latest welfare news and updates.
 - A Leadership and Management Section which includes a Case Study.
- Input from Lincolnshire practitioners. During the Birth to Five Service Conference, practitioners were asked to contribute towards our 'Recommended EYFS Resource or Idea Section'. Some ideas will be added to this part of the website.
 - An on-line Workforce Development Training Directory. This can be accessed by both settings and schools. Please visit this part of the website and follow the links. The Workforce Development Team have added a "Twitter Feed" which helps to inform Lincolnshire practitioners of the latest training news and updates.

If you have any ideas on how the Birth to Five Service website can be improved, or would like to share which elements you are finding particularly useful, please contact the Website Manager, Sarah Howe: sarah.howe@lincolnshire.gov.uk



Early Years Foundation Stage Review

The revision of the Early Years Foundation Stage is now available for consultation. The revision largely follows the recommendations made in the Tickell review. Four guiding themes shape the requirements of the revision:

- Every child is a unique child, who begins learning at birth and can become resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships with parents and carers and with others, including their key person at their early years setting.
- A positive environment - in which children's experiences are planned to reflect their needs, and help build their confidence, and in which there is a strong partnership between early years practitioners, parents and other professionals - is crucial if children are to fulfill their potential and learn and develop well.
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. All areas of learning and development are important and are inter-connected.

The key points included in the revision are;

- Early Learning Goals reduced from 69 to 17
- Early Learning Goals more aligned to Key Stage 1
- Three prime areas of learning and four specific areas of learning
- Development check for every two-year-old in an early years setting
- EYFS profile to be simplified

The consultation runs until the 30th September 2011 and can be found at <http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1747&external=no&menu=1>

The Birth to Five Service recommends that as many of you as possible read and respond to the consultation as this document determines the direction and delivery of early years provision for the future.

Supporting Families in the Foundation Years

The Government has set out its vision for the services that should be on offer for parents, children and families in the foundation years. *Supporting Families in the Foundation Years* describes the system needed to make the Government's vision a reality and explains the role of commissioners, leaders and practitioners across the range of services for families in these years.

The document summarises the Government's vision for the foundation years and explains why it is important to focus on child development and how parents and families should be placed at the heart of services. It also sets out the importance of intervening early and the role of different services, working together to ensure that children, their mothers and fathers and other key areas receive early help where needed. It explains how we will ensure there are skilled professionals and strong leadership across the sector and describes how the Government is establishing a new relationship with the sector which frees professionals to do what they believe is best.

Supporting Families in the Foundation Years also provides the Government's response to the following reviews:

- *The Foundation Years: Preventing poor children becoming poor adults*. The report of the independent review on poverty and life chances by the Rt Hon Frank Field MP;
- *Early intervention: The next steps* - an independent report to Her Majesty's Government and *Early Intervention: Smart Investment, Massive Savings* - the second independent report to Her Majesty's Government by Graham Allen MP; and
- *The Early Years: Foundations for Life, Health and Learning* - an independent report on the Early Years Foundation Stage to Her Majesty's Government by Dame Clare Tickell.

Supporting families in the foundation years can be found at; <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/early/a00192398/supporting-families-in-the-foundation-years>

