



Summer 2008

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## The Early Years Foundation Stage

### Are you ready?

Everyone working with young children will be aware that from September 2008 the EYFS will become statutory. The good news is that, as the EYFS brings together three core documents: Birth to Three Matters, the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage and the Day Care Standards, into one pack, for most of us there will be no need for fundamental or huge change to provision and practice. Hopefully, you are meeting most of the requirements and principles laid out in the EYFS already.

One of the opening statements in the new statutory guidance provides a clear rationale for the new framework:

*'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfil their potential. When parents choose to use early years services they want to know that the provision will keep their children safe and help them to thrive. The EYFS is the framework that provides that assurance.'* Surely nothing to argue with there!

So what do we need to be doing in the countdown to September 2008?

Familiarise yourself with the EYFS materials including the CD ROM. Attend training on the EYFS; use the Principles into Practice cards as a basis for staff meetings and discussion, to review and reflect. Use the audit tool included in the EYFS training handouts as a framework for planning what needs to be done. Create a time line and an action plan of what you need to do, when and how. This will make your changes manageable. Decide - **What** exactly are you going to do? **Who** is doing it? **Who** else needs to know and be involved? **How** will you know when it has been done? **When** will it be done?

And remember you are not on your own in this journey - please talk to your Early Years Advisory teacher, Curriculum Advisor or Children's Centre teacher about any help or training needs - be proactive and ask. We are here to offer advice and support.

Stephanie Douglas.



P.S. Look out for our new website which will be up and running in September. [www.birthtofive.org.uk](http://www.birthtofive.org.uk)

## New Training Directory

You should now have received your new directory. Please remember that all staff should access at least four days training per year.

Two-day courses will provide practitioners with practical guidance on the implementation of the EYFS. (page 115 of the directory)

New SENCos need to book on the four day Special Needs course (page 152) and it is good practice for everyone to attend a basic one day SEN awareness course (page 151)

A new course which may be of interest is '*Confident, Capable and Creative - Supporting Boys Achievements*' (page 150)

All the courses in the directory have been adapted to incorporate the new EYFS framework. On each course outline, it is defined how the EYFS will be included and expected outcomes for delegates

You will be informed of any changes to any of the courses in the directory via quarterly newsletters.

## Childcare Registers from September 2008

**A new leaflet explaining changes taking place to the childcare registers is now available. There will be two registers.**

One register will be for those providing care for children within the EYFS. The EYFS sets out the standards for care and learning and development for children from birth to just beyond their fifth birthday. This will be known as the **Early Years Register**.

A second register, which has a compulsory part and a voluntary part, will be for those caring for other children. This will be known as the **Childcare Register**. Those of you who are already registered with Ofsted will be transferred to new registers and Ofsted are currently writing to you to explain what this means.

### Early Years Register

Childcare providers who care for children in the EYFS group will be transferred to this register

### Childcare Register

If people are already registered to provide care for children from birth to eight years, the intention is to put them on both the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register

The register will also have a voluntary part so that those not required to register, such as nannies, may join if they wish.

## Graduate Leader Fund

Can your setting afford to miss the opportunity to apply for up to £8000?

If you are currently employing, considering employing for the first time or growing your own graduate leader, this should be of interest to you.

The £305 million Graduate Leader Fund is the Government's main investment in improving the quality of the early years workforce. It is central to raising standards and will help embed the culture of continuous quality improvement that is necessary to meet the Childcare Act duty to improve outcomes for all young children and reduce inequalities between them.

The GLF represents an unprecedented long term commitment from the Government to provide public funding to introduce more graduate leadership in early years settings in the private, voluntary and independent sectors.

You should receive your guidance document shortly. This will detail the eligibility in full and will include your expression of interest leaflet and a request slip for an application form.

## Early Years Professional Status

An Early Years Professional is someone at graduate level who takes a leading role in the delivery of high quality early years provision within a setting. The Government aim is that EYPs will be key to raising the quality of early years provision and will be change agents to improve early years practice. EYPs will lead practice across the EYFS and will support and mentor other practitioners in their setting.

There are several routes to gaining EYP status, and how long it takes to achieve will depend on the individual's experience working with under 5's and the degree they hold. Practitioners who are close to meeting the standards of an EYP could gain validation within a few months. Others are likely to need additional training which could take up to two years. Funding is available for the training - contact Sue Otter on 01522 587576 for further advice.

For a full list of training providers go to [www.cwdcouncil.org.uk](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk). Our local provider is EM Direct in Grantham [www.emdirect.co.uk](http://www.emdirect.co.uk). Contact Sue Oates on 01476 512799

For those who are already EYPs, we have funding set up to support networks across the county. Look out for further details in September.

## Revisions to the EYFS (May 08)

A second print run of the EYFS pack was launched on 19 May. The DCSF have addressed some of the queries they had received from local authorities and providers. Some sections have been updated but the statutory requirements themselves have not changed.

Significant changes relate to ratio requirements in schools and guidance on ratios in mixed age groups. Also there are changes in relation to advice relating to medicines and updates in the Practice Guidance to clarify the advice it offers.

Revised versions are now available to download from: [www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/eyfs/](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/eyfs/)

Hard copies can be ordered by calling 0845 60 222 60 and quoting ref number 00012-2007PCK-EN or by going to [www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications)

## Assessment and Record Keeping (ARK) Working Party

The Assessment and Record Keeping (ARK) documentation has been developed by a working party consisting of practitioners from a range of settings and schools across Lincolnshire.

Underpinning the documentation is the clear understanding of the process of observation and assessment and how it informs planning the next steps for children. The Early Years Foundation Stage principles are integral to this process which starts with the child.



Cluster meetings are being held this term to support the implementation of the documentation. If you have not received information about the cluster meetings please contact the Birth to Five Service.



Ofsted's Early Years inspectors have now received training on the new EYFS framework and will be inspecting against the new requirements from September.

As part of our monitoring role, we look carefully at the Ofsted outcomes each term. Analyses of the Ofsted outcomes for the PVI sector have identified factors, which may affect whether or not you have a good outcome. Good practice is recognised where settings have well organised paperwork, which record good staff deployment and have updated policies.

***It is crucial that you tell Ofsted and the Birth to Five Service about changes in premises, changes in committees and changes to the person in charge.***

Ofsted are also clearly looking for practitioners to have a good knowledge and understanding of child development, a commitment to updating their training and settings that are providing environments, which allow children to develop and learn through challenging and stimulating activities. Their focus is directed at looking at quality of provision for children and they acknowledge where planning has been based on observation of children's needs.

## Advisory Teacher Visits

This term, the Early Years Advisory Teachers will continue to make focused visits to provide advice and support to all settings. They will spend a session in settings working alongside staff, observing practice and then offering feedback on the session. We hope to complete these focused visits by the end of the summer term. We hope you are finding them helpful.

## Just a reminder...

If you are applying for inclusion funding this term, please remember to return any outstanding evaluations on the green form. This can be obtained from your Early Years Advisory Teacher

## Letters and Sounds

The pack is now available as Phase One only. Copies are available from your Early Years Advisory teacher (Ref no. 00113-2998 PCK-EN) or call DCSF publications 0845 602 2260 to request further copies.

## Update on Projects across the County - Transition and PEEP

### Transition in Boston

This is an exciting time in Boston as we are given the opportunity to focus on the transition of our children from Pre-school to Primary School.

The project is funded for a year, but hopefully will be sustainable long term once the initial resources and joint plans are in place. It has brought together groups of neighbouring pre-schools and schools to share good practice and look at common practices and routines to support transition.

There are four groups in the Boston Area each supported by the Birth to Five Service. The groups have each agreed an initial Action Plan which includes visiting each others settings and the purchasing of resources across all of the settings including Child Friendly Digital Cameras and Puppets.

Through the funding allocated to each group, time has been given for discussion and sharing of ideas, such as the possibility of developing common symbols for Visual Timetables and the producing of All About Me Books, which children take with them into school in September, to share with the new adults looking after them.

Successful transition is the key to continuing children's future progress and learning.

### PEEP PLUS

There are currently over 30 PEEP PLUS (Parent Early Education Programme) groups in the county.

Every group is individual but shares a common ethos - that parents are the child's first and most important educators. The support that parents give their children can enormously influence children's achievements.

PEEP encourages parents to play alongside their children - sharing books, singing songs, getting messy and most of all having fun. Talk Time is a chance for to share ideas and sometimes concerns

PEEP is based on four main ideas:

Opportunities for learning

Recognising and valuing children's efforts

Interactive everyday activities and experiences

Modelling or setting an example.

**Welcome** to our six new Children's Centre teachers - Sarah Louth, Esther Wareham, Carla Johnstone, Ros Mills, Alison Wilson and Lesley Evans

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