

Choosing a New School Workshop Evaluation

Parent's Workshop

Reasons for the Workshop

After a brief introduction of the staff, parents were given reasons for holding the workshop. These consisted of:

1. Due to the findings of the Transition questionnaire, completed by parents of reception aged children and parents of nursery aged children, which showed how parents/carers chose schools based on very little information, it was decided that parents would find information on how to choose a new school invaluable.
By bringing nursery staff and reception teachers together to give parents the kind of information they would need about local primary schools and a chance to chat to the reception teachers and ask questions in an informal setting, they would feel confident that they had chosen the school that was right for their child.
2. To stress the importance of going to visit as many schools as parents want while making this important decision. Emphasising that they would be made very welcome and would get a 'feel' for the school while there are children in it. Informing them that it is always best to make an appointment so that there is someone available to show them round and answer any questions they might have.
3. To inform or remind parents that the application form, from LCC, to state school preference should be received by 19th December 2006, and to inform parents where they could go to get help in filling in the form if they needed it.

For details of the workshop see 'Choosing a New School Workshop' document.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the 'Lola' activities were explained by Claire Robinson.

The assessment process and the Foundation Stage Profile was explained by Jenny Stapleton.

Special Educational Needs were explained by Kerry Lambert, SENCO.

During the afternoon workshop, Janice Reid spoke about the role of the Early Years Support Service.

Jean Thorpe planned and delivered a numeracy activity.

Laura Catlin showed parents how a storysack could be used.

Rachel Soulby led parachute games outside.

Laura Stewart planned and delivered a creative activity.

Photographs were taken with parent's permission.

Benefits for Parents/Carers Attending the Workshop:

- Parents were informed of the work being done by local nursery and reception teachers in conjunction with the EYSS to aid transition from nursery to school.
- Parents were made aware of the importance of visiting primary schools with their child during the school day, in preparation for choosing a new school.
- Parents were informed or reminded of the deadline for receiving the school application form and were told where they could go for help filling it in.
- Parents were made aware that the curriculum followed in the reception year is a continuation of what children have followed in nursery.
- Parents were given a brief explanation of the 6 areas of the FS curriculum, the stepping stones and early learning goals.
- Parents were told of the importance of inside and outside play.
- Parents were informed of the types of learning they might see when visiting a reception class, i.e. child initiated, adult initiated and teacher led.
- Parents were made aware of how children are assessed in the FS and were introduced to the FS Profile document and how it is used, including how they can add their own thoughts and feelings about their child's development.
- Information about the SEN in schools was relayed to parents, including what it is, the role of the SENCO, what it includes, the process, IEP's, how they can help and professionals involved.
- The parents attending in the afternoon were given information on the role of the EYSS.
- Parents were introduced to 'Lola,' were told how she is used in nurseries and schools as a tool for speaking and listening and, more recently, in the transition process. Parents were given the opportunity to be participate in some of the activities using Lola, that their children might experience.
- Parents were given the opportunity to participate in practical activities that their children may experience in school, from the six areas of learning from the FS curriculum. They were given information on how each activity covered that area of learning and what their children may learn.
- Parents were given the opportunity to talk to reception teachers individually, in an informal setting.
- Parents were given the opportunity to talk to each other, to discuss the 'choosing a new school' process.
- Parents were able to pick up school brochures and information on school open days/evenings, in one location.
- Parents were able to pick up a copy of 'Going to school in Lincolnshire'
- Parents were given the opportunity to express their thoughts about the workshop in a short evaluation.

