



Birth to Five Service

Birth to Five Service Newsletter

Spring 2009

Welcome to the Spring term edition of the BFS newsletter.

It has been a busy start to the year, despite the snow! Every settings in the county has received its ICT package and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to everyone who has sent cards, letters and photographs. It is wonderful to see the children using the equipment. Phase 2 of the ICT project is currently being delivered through network meetings.

Settings & Schools have been attending the SEAD transition network meetings across the county. 'Louis' has proved very popular and we hope he will prove useful in promoting improved outcomes in PSED. We look forward to hearing about his adventures over the next few months.

The team has successfully supported many providers with their Ofsted inspections this term. We hope that you will find the advice in this newsletter useful. It is based on our recent experiences of inspection.

In the summer term we are once again inviting all managers and owners to a briefing session. These summer term briefings will include information relating to training opportunities and requirements, and the setting self evaluation and improvement cycle. It is a requirement of your funding for the Early Years Educational Entitlement that you attend a briefing. We look forward to seeing you there.

We are looking forward to rounding off the first year of implementing the EYFS with our conference **'Celebrating Together - Early Years in Lincolnshire'**. More information can be found in this newsletter and on the website. Bookings for places on the conference will begin after Easter.

We wish everyone a Happy Easter and an enjoyable break.

Stephaine Douglas.

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This Edition:

Page 1:

**First Notes
Resource Pack**

Page 2:

**Children Centre
Piracy;
Development
Officers;
SEAD;**

Page 3:

**Ofsted News;
Training News;
Website News**

Page 4:

**Early Years
Conference;
ICT;
Contacts.**



First Notes Resource Pack

The Transformation Fund has enabled the Birth to Five Service to commission the updating of the Soundlincs First Notes pack, 'Bringing Music to Life' - this incorporates the Early Years Foundation Stage and suggests ways of adapting activities to ensure every child has the opportunity to participate.

Sufficient packs have been purchased so that one is available for each setting.

To supplement this pack a set of high quality musical instruments to enable you to really 'Bring Music to Life' in your settings will be distributed in April. These will be hand delivered by your Early Years Advisory Teacher.





Managers' Briefings

The next set of Managers' Briefings will be held:

29th & 30th April;

5th & 6th May;

19th & 20th May.

Watch out for venue details coming soon.



Piracy at Horncastle Children's Centre

Parents and children set sail on a pirate adventure with Children's Centre teacher Esther Wareham. Esther cleverly used literacy resources, backed up with some excellent graphics and posters to take the children and their parents on a high seas adventure with treasure hunts, hat making and storytelling on a pirate theme.



Staff entered into the 'spirit'..... (Though the rum ration was not broken out) with hats, costumes and a lot of Pirate speak..... Aaaaagggghhhhh Jim lad!

Esther maintained full characterisation with her interactive story 'Night Pirates' and soon had all the children joining in. A lovely lunch was enjoyed by all and children went home proudly with pirate hats made with the help of their Parents/Carers.



SEAD Summer Term

The Birth to Five team have been delighted with the positive response from preschools and schools who met during the recent SEAD cluster meetings. Existing and new school cluster groups embraced joint planning and enjoyed playing with Louis puppets, as part of the preparation for delivering SEAD back in their settings.

We now look forward to seeing SEAD in action in preschools and schools and hope you all enjoy sharing your half day SEAD focus in schools.

The next SEAD meetings will take place in the Summer term, providing us all with opportunity for sharing developments and for further strengthening your school/preschool links. Thank you all for your work supporting the focus on children's personal, social and emotional skills.

Contact Janice Reid for further Information.



EYFS Welfare Audit

The Service has now finished collating the information from the Welfare audit. Funding requirements identified by the audit, have been prioritised and the Early Years Capital Grant has been allocated to settings.

When settings receive notification of their funding, we ask that you contact your Early Years Advisory Teacher or Development Officer regarding appropriate spend. Please be aware that funding will need to be spent by the end of the summer term and you are required to retain receipts for monitoring purposes.

The team are now visiting settings that require support and advice. However, if any provider needs help or information on the Welfare requirements, please contact the Birth to Five office, who will ensure that you are contacted as soon as possible.

It is anticipated that welfare tools and information will go live on the Birth to Five Website during March. Providers will be able to access information on topics such as: health and safety, committee roles and responsibilities, recruitment and staff appraisals.

Contact Jill Brewster for further information.



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Newsletter



The Birth to Five Website

The response to our website has been overwhelmingly positive. We've had huge numbers of visits, some fantastic feedback and more people are visiting every week.

We've noticed some particular pages have been very popular. The Gallery of Effective Practice, which we use to showcase settings, has received a lot of attention. We also have a lot of visitors to our EYFS section making use of the various resources there. Our Training Section and our recommended websites and reading are both favourites too.

Newsflash! We are constantly updating the site with new information and features, make sure you keep checking back there so you don't miss anything!

www.birthtofive.org.uk

Contact Sarah Howe for further information.



Training News

With this newsletter will be your 2009/10 Training Directory, only one per setting unfortunately, but the directory will be available on the Birth to Five Web Site, so your whole staff team will be able to explore the contents at their leisure. The course calendars are a useful tool to be able to see what is happening on that day "at a glance".

IMPORTANT CHANGES:

First Aid - This year it has been necessary to introduce a candidate contribution for first aid courses, the sum of £10 will be deducted from your application for funding.

Food Hygiene - Those staff preparing / serving food should hold a food hygiene certificate. This course is provided within the Training Directory for 1 member of staff, if more staff need the training, it is down to the setting to pay for the additional places.

Please note - Child Protection training is now known as Safeguarding training – this is the same course but the new title fits with the Every Child Matters agenda.

Contact Sue Otter for further information.

TOP TIPS

Please ensure that your setting has staff with a current and relevant Paediatric First Aid Qualification. A lack of staff with this has been cited as a reason for an inadequate judgement!

Please ensure that you phone the BFS office as soon as an Inspector calls! We will find a member of the BFS team who can attend your feedback session. **Please note:** many inspections are now shorter, with feedback following straight on from the inspection, rather than the Inspector coming back on another day for the feedback. We therefore need to know as soon as possible in order to support you.



Adult:Child ratios

All practitioners must note that the adult:child ratios given in the EYFS statutory guidance are **minimum requirements**. The circumstances in your setting may require a higher number of adults to be present. In settings where children of 3 years or under are in a group with over 3's, you must clearly demonstrate the 1:4 ratio for younger children is met. It is not good practice to apply a general 1:6 ratio for mixed age rooms. When staff are routinely out of the room (e.g. breaks/lunch) appropriate contingency arrangements must be in place to ensure required ratios are met at all times and children are adequately supported and supervised. The only exception to this may be a room where a number of children are asleep.

SEF and Action Plans

All settings should by now have completed the Ofsted Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) and be working to add any identified priorities into an on-going setting improvement plan. Your EYAT will help you with this if you have any queries. All settings will have received a copy of 'Are you ready for your Inspection' from Ofsted, but if you have misplaced this, it is downloadable from the BFS or Ofsted Websites.



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Newsletter

Early Years Conference 2009

'Celebrating Together - Early Years in Lincolnshire'

Bishop Grosseteste College

Friday 19 June and Saturday 20 June

We are delighted to have, **Jan Dubiel**, Principal Officer for the Foundation Stage Profile at the National Assessment Agency, with national responsibility for its implementation and moderation, as the keynote speaker for the conference.

There will be a choice of workshops to attend including:

'Listening to Young Children' with Judy Millar

'Working with Babies' with Mary Barlow

Outdoor Play with Kate Hookham

Soundlincs- music themed workshops

PLUS:

Trade stands for you to browse and buy

Displays and information about early years matters

Keep looking on the Birthtofive.org.uk website for further information



Contacts

Office Switchboard	01522 587570
Principal School Improvement Adviser	Muriel George
Head of Service, Birth to Five	Stephanie Douglas
Lead Adviser (North) East & West Lindsey	Angela Fleming
Lead Adviser (Central) Boston, Lincoln & North Kesteven	Claire Logan
Lead Adviser (South) South Holland & South Kesteven	Zoë Cox
Early Years Workforce Development Manager	Sue Otter
Development Team Coordinator	Jill Brewster



ICT Package

The ICT package has been successfully delivered to all settings, even the most challenging of locations have taken delivery! Thank you for all the positive feedback regarding the equipment.

The second element of the package is currently being rolled out at ICT Cluster meetings across the county throughout March.

This package contains:

- Chatterboxes and Talking Points
- Metal detector
- Beebot
- Video camera
- Remote control car

This is all contained in a plastic storage chest. In addition to providing further ICT resources, the meeting will be an opportunity to see how ICT can be used to enhance learning and teaching in the Foundation Stage.

Contact Amy Stancer for further information.



Managed Service on behalf of



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Telephone Contact Times; Mon-Thurs:8:30am—5pm & Friday 08:30am—4:45pm.

An answer machine is in use for calls outside office hours

www.birthtofive.org.uk