



Birth to Five Service Newsletter

Spring 2009
Schools

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It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you in this Spring newsletter. I have been involved with the Birth to Five Service since 2006 and have been delighted with the way the team has grown and developed over this period. Prior to this, the Early Years Support Service had been through a difficult period. The Foundation Stage Profile results were an immediate concern as a comparison of Lincolnshire's results with that of other authorities placed our results in the top quartile band, a position which did not correspond to our position at Key Stages 1 and 2.

There were a number of issues which needed to be tackled. Lincolnshire teachers had used PIPs which meant that they were accustomed to making judgements about children through a testing process rather than through child initiated activities. Moderation had not been as rigorous and headteachers did not always engage with FSP data.

Steps were taken by the Birth to Five team beginning with the appointment of a new Head of Service Stephanie Douglas. The impact of the work which has been undertaken under her leadership has meant considerable changes and notably there has been a clear drive and focus to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the FSP data. Together with her team they are committed to making sure that:

- children's development is assessed through observation and that the majority of observations are soundly based in child initiated activities,
- teachers have a much better understanding of the scales and how to interpret the points
- there are consistent standards of assessment across schools and settings which are quality assured through a robust process,
- moderation has been a high quality, thorough and rigorous process
- headteachers, senior managers, team leaders and SIPs engage with this data

As a result there has been a drop in our FSP outcomes over the last two years and these are now broadly in line with that of statistical neighbours. We now firmly believe our teachers and headteachers are ready to confidently drive up the performance, based on valid and accurate judgements and we look forward to seeing Lincolnshire's performance improve this year as the EYFS becomes embedded in schools and settings.

Mumel George



SEAD/SEAL

Twenty half-day meetings are planned for all schools, nurseries and preschools across the county. This is the first time that all EYFS lead practitioners can access a networked meeting embracing aims for joint knowledge and understanding of PSED. Every attending setting will receive a 'Moving On' Sack containing a persona puppet and further resources to support shared practice for PSED.



Don't Forget to bring with you.....

SEAD Guidance for Practitioners
ref no. 00707-2008BKT-EN

Excellence & Enjoyment: social and emotional aspects of learning
ref no. 00840-2008FLR-EN
(these are updated EYFS red SEAL booklets)

We look forward to seeing you!



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The Birth to Five Service Website

www.birthtofive.org.uk

The Lincolnshire Birth to Five Service Team is pleased to announce the launch of a new website. This was developed in order to support Lincolnshire Practitioners with the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage, to offer guidance, highlight training opportunities and to share effective practice across Lincolnshire. This site is regularly updated so please ensure that you bookmark the page and add it to your favourites. The 'What's New Section' comprises recent additions to the site so ensure that you visit this on a regular basis to keep up-to-date. Over time, additional sections will be added to this website. If you have any ideas for future development, please contact the Birth to Five Service Team at birthtofive@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Features include.....

- All about the Birth to Five Service
- EYFS information and support materials
- Training
- News updates
- Inclusion
- Gallery of effective practice
- Current research and projects
- Recommended reading and websites
- School Improvement Service

We would welcome your feedback.



Early Years Foundation Stage Professional Development

Information regarding the 2009/2010 professional development opportunities for schools will soon be available. This will include core courses;

- Introduction to the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Training
- Leadership and Management of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Inclusion in the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Designing an Effective Outdoor Learning Environment for the EYFS
- Developing Effective Teaching and Learning Outdoors

We are also pleased to have the opportunity to be developing training for Year One practitioners in the summer term entitled 'Continuing the Learning Journey'. 'Continuing the Learning Journey' aims to provide guidance on understanding EYFSP Outcomes and using them effectively to build on children's progress in Year One. Information relating to this training will be sent to schools before the Easter break.

The information for training and other opportunities can be accessed through the Birth to Five Service website www.birthtofive.org.uk



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EYFS Profile National Assessment Agency

All schools have now received the new EYFS Profile handbook with new improved materials. More exemplification materials including useful video clips, transcripts and updates are available on the National Assessment Agency website www.naa.org.uk. Look for the *Assessment Section* of the site.

We also have a Moderation section of our website www.birthtofive.org.uk. Look in the *EYFS section* for more details, newsletters and support



Mark Making Matters

This booklet explores making marks within an encouraging emotional environment. This supports practitioners to enable young children to become confident and competent communicators, both orally and on paper, in all six areas of learning and development.



Order from DCFS Publications
Ref: 00767-2008BKT-EN
or call 0845 60 222 60



National Literacy Trust

National Literacy Trust has announced a new initiative, Early Reading Connects, backed by the DCSF funding and targeting all early years practitioners.

Resources include a website and a family involvement toolkit. Early Reading Connects brings together resources and ideas from a wide range of early years organisations and settings to help practitioners:

- encourage a love of language, stories and reading among babies, toddlers and young people
- engage and involve the children's families in this process
- share good practice and resources and build confidence in supporting the children and their families.

For more details visit www.earlyreadingconnects.org.uk



Schoolspace: Your Contributions!

This space is reserved for you.....

If you are having a special event in school or have an example of successful practice which you would like to share, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Your work could be published in the newsletter on the website and would provide invaluable support for all as well as celebrate your enjoyment and achievement.

If you send in photos, the usual permission procedure will apply.

Please e-mail your contributions as they happen to either:

janice.kenney@lincolnshire.gov.uk or
sarah.barratt@lincolnshire.gov.uk



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Early Years Conference 2009

'Celebrating Together - Early Years in Lincolnshire'

Bishop Grosseteste College

Friday 19th June and Saturday 20th 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



Welcome to New Team Members

The Birth to Five Service warmly welcomes several new members to the team:

- Helen Rutherford, Curriculum Adviser, joins the Central Team.
- Janice Kenney, Curriculum Adviser, joins the North Team.
- Kate Powell, Curriculum Adviser, joins the South Team.
- Zoe Menday joins the admin team as PA/Project Manager.
- Welcome back to Amy Stancer who returned last term from maternity leave.



Contacts

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Principal School Improvement Adviser	Muriel George
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Lead Adviser (South) South Holland & South Kesteven	Zoe Cox
Early Years Workforce Development Manager	Sue Otter
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Managed Service on behalf of



Birth to Five Service, The Old School, Lamb Gardens, St Giles, Lincoln. LN2 4EG 01522 587570
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