

## Edition 7, July 2011

*Target audience:* All Private, Voluntary and Independent Settings in North Somerset.

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the July Early Years e-newsletter and hopefully the start of a warm, dry and bright summer.

This is obviously a busy time for all providers with many of you engaging in visits, parents meetings and paper work. It is also a critical time for children as they prepare to move on to other providers or schools and important that they experience good continuity of care and learning rather than a 'point of transition'. Thank you for all your hard work this term and for the quality of information you share with each other to support their learning journey.

I would also like to thank you for sharing your self evaluation judgements with us in the 'RAG' questionnaire you recently completed. The feedback has been used to support us in developing our professional development/training offer to you and we will also write to you in the Autumn term to outline how this evaluation translates into support for your setting.

On a very happy note, I would like to share with you the exciting news that Liz Barnett, Childcare Development Adviser, is expecting her second set of twins – twin girls this time to match her twin boys! Congratulations Liz!

With best wishes

*Andrea Sully*

Senior Adviser: Early Years and Transforming Learning

"The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life,  
and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling  
stops or in what far place my touch will be felt"

(Frederick Buechner)

## In this month's edition...

### **General articles:**

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- CPD online
- National Autistic Society – Autism and transition event
- STOP PRESS!!! Funding is now available for... CACHE Level 3 Award, Certificate & Diploma in Playwork

### **Jobs and volunteering opportunities**

General articles:-

### **Ofsted - New address**

Please be aware Ofsted have recently moved and the new contact address is:

**Ofsted National Business Unit  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD**

Phone: **0300 123 1231** lines are open:

Monday-Friday (excluding Bank Holidays) 08.00am-18.45pm

Please up-date all documentation accordingly.

### **'Everybody's Business' and two good practice briefings: New resources from KIDS for practitioners working to include disabled children**

KIDS' latest publication, 'Everybody's Business' offers all play, leisure and childcare providers practical advice, activities, and ideas on how best to include disabled children aged under eight years old in a range of play settings. Included with the book is a free A2 poster entitled 'Including All of Us.'

'Everybody's Business' is the culmination of the Playwork Inclusion Project (PIP). It is intended as a dip-in resource book, drawing on the learnings of the project's past 10 years and providing examples of good practice. Areas covered include planning good inclusive play policies, training, finding funding for projects, consulting with children and young people and reframing challenging behaviour.

Julie Hathaway, Director of KIDS National Development Department, said: "As well as giving practical advice and resources, 'Everybody's Business' aims to remove the 'fear' and stigma associated with the inclusion of disabled children. It will also help promote and develop confidence and a positive attitude

towards implementing and embedding inclusive practice in any setting.“

As well as publishing this new book, KIDS has also uploaded two good practice briefings on the KIDS website.

- The first, [Communicating With Disabled Children and Young People](#) , supports The National Year of Communication 'Hello' campaign, and focuses on communication with disabled children and young people. This briefing outlines some of the barriers to communication that exist and the variety of tools that can be used in order to support communication with all children, as well as highlighting some methods that promote better communication for everyone.
- The second briefing is [Mythbusting – Busting the Myths of Inclusion](#), which looks at myths that act as barriers to the inclusion of disabled children in play settings and services, and summarises some of the underlying principles of inclusion.

<http://www.kids.org.uk>

## Summer fun, games and activities in parks around North Somerset.

North Somerset Play Forum will be hosting their fun in the park events on the following days this summer:-

- Monday 25th July - Clarence Park - 12noon - 4pm
- Saturday 30th July - Castle Batch Park - 12noon - 4pm
- Monday 1st August - Clarence Park - 12noon - 4pm
- Friday 26th August - Ashcombe Park - 12noon - 4pm



## **Family Support Drop in at Ashcombe Children's Centre**

Anyone can signpost on families with at least one child who is under 5 yrs from any area of North Somerset:-

# Family Support Drop in

## Every Tuesday

1.30- 2.30 pm

**Are you expecting a baby or are you a parent of a pre-school child? Do you need advice or support on behaviour issues, toilet training, parenting skills, form filling, signposting for housing/benefits etc?**

**Come along and have an informal chat. Our Family Support Workers, Sarah and Emma, will be available for one hour every week in the Rainbow Room at Ashcombe Children's Centre**

**No need to book, just pop along.**

Tel: 01934 426 380

## **Springboard Opportunity Group**

Springboard Opportunity Group are holding a 25 years Celebration Fun Day at Ashcombe School Field in Weston-s-Mare on 16 July, featuring live music, bouncy castles, BBQ, stalls and many other attractions.

The fun starts at 12pm and anyone with a connection to Springboard is welcome to attend free of charge.

## **New opening times for Weston Library**

Weston Library, The Boulevard is changing its opening hours from Monday 4th July.

Mon	9.30-7.30
Tue	9.30-5.30
Wed *	9.30-5.30
Thu	9.30-7.30
Fri	9.30-5.30
Sat	9.30-4.00



\*Open 11am first Wed of each month.

Telephone: 01934 426010

As you can see, we will be opening earlier at 9.30am each day but only have two late night openings on Mondays and Thursdays.

Our alternate Rhymetime/ Storytime sessions continue on a Thursday morning at 9.30am (except 5th Thursday of the month). We look forward to seeing you soon.

## **Use of mobile phones in settings**

Mobile phones may be used in settings, as long as their use is appropriate. The use of a mobile phone must not detract from the quality of supervision and care of children. For further information please see information on the Ofsted website: [http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Information-topic-childcare-Mobile-phones/\(language\)/eng-GB](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Information-topic-childcare-Mobile-phones/(language)/eng-GB)

## **Summer Fun at Yatton Moor Children's Centre**

Yatton Moor Children's Centre are organising four stay and play events on Tuesdays the 9, 16, 23 and 30 August, open to 0-5s and their primary aged siblings. The events will have an art and crafts or musical theme and will be held at Yatton Moor Children's Centre or in Claverham. Please ring for further details or ask at the Children's Centre.

Also we are getting together with three other Children's Centres at Glenny Wood on Wednesday 10 August exploring outdoor play with 0-8 year olds. We will meet at Glenny Wood at 10am until 3pm – please bring picnic and suitable clothing for the weather. If you require help with transport please contact us.

For further information on the above events, please call Lisa or Sarah on 01934 426633.

### **Reminder to childcare settings**

When the Early Years Foundation Stage came into place in September 2008 the Statutory Framework, Welfare Requirements stated "All supervisors and managers must hold a full and relevant level 3 (as defined by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) and half of all other staff must hold a full and relevant level 2 (as defined by CWDC)." This relates to those staff working on a daily basis not the total staff employed by a setting. It also means that if only 2 staff are on duty one should hold a minimum of a Level 3 Childcare qualification and the other a minimum of a Level 2 recognised qualification.

There has been a long standing requirement for at least one member of staff to hold a 12 hour Paediatric First Aid qualification which is also clearly documented within the Early Years Foundation Stage, Statutory Framework, Welfare Requirements "At least one person who has a current Paediatric First Aid Certificate must be on the premises at all times when children are present."

### **New websites - Paying for childcare & StudentParents.Org**



Daycare Trust has recently re-launched its parent website, [www.payingforchildcare.org.uk](http://www.payingforchildcare.org.uk). The website has all the same useful information about paying for childcare, but it is now even easier to use and find information about the help you can get with childcare costs.

The website is divided into different sections depending on your circumstances. For all families, it explains the 15 hours of free childcare that is available for three-and four-year olds in England, as well as Child Tax Credit and Child Benefit. There are also sections for families who work, study, or where someone in the family (either a parent or a child) has a disability or special need. Each section clearly explains the help with childcare costs you may be able to claim, and how to apply.

For working families, the website also has a tax credit checker to find out if you qualify for the childcare element of Working Tax credit. This can pay up to 70 per cent of eligible, registered childcare costs for working families on low incomes.

Please visit the re-launched website [www.payingforchildcare.org.uk](http://www.payingforchildcare.org.uk) to find out if you are receiving all the help you should be with your childcare costs . We always welcome your feedback about how the website works for you. Email us at [web@daycaretrust.org.uk](mailto:web@daycaretrust.org.uk)

## **[Studentparents.org](http://Studentparents.org)**



StudentParents.org was developed by BrightsideUNIAID, an education charity aiming to help students make informed choices about their education and employment options by providing online tools, ementoring and teaching resources. The website is: <http://www.studentparents.org> there is also a useful section on help with the cost of childcare for parents going to university.

## Staff Files

Please be aware that the following documentation should be held within staff files:

The Early Years Foundation Stage, Statutory Framework, Welfare Requirements state that;  
Providers should make decisions of suitability using evidence from: CRB disclosures, references, full employment history, qualifications, interviews, identity checks and any other checks undertaken, for example medical suitability.

It also states: Induction training should be provided for new staff to help them understand how the provision operates and their role within it. Induction training should include matters such as evacuation procedures and child protection and health and safety issues. Regular staff appraisals should be carried out to identify the training needs of staff. A programme of continuing professional development should be applied so that these needs are met.

Therefore to meet the Statutory Requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage Staff files should include;

CRB Disclosure Number, Date of Issue and Identity seen  
Completed Application Form  
Written references  
Copies of qualification certificates  
Evidence of interview (format, questions and answers given)  
Health or Medical Form  
Evidence of Induction training  
Evidence of Staff Appraisals.

This information should be available for all staff who have been employed since September 2008 and the start of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

## Simple Summer Treats to cool you down!



**Homemade Lemonade** - put one cup of sugar and one cup of water into a saucepan and boil until the sugar is dissolved. Leave to cool, then add the juice of 5 lemons. Pour into a jug and top up with 4 cups of cold water. Add ice cubes and lemon slices to serve.

**Smoothie Popsicles** - blend your favourite smoothie mix (see below), add 1/4 cup of whatever yoghurt you like to it, then pour into lolly moulds (or paper cups if you don't have them) and freeze!

**Bananarama** - 1 banana, 1/2 cup of vanilla yoghurt and a dash of milk

**Strawberry Crush** - 1 cup strawberries, 1 cup orange juice and 1 cup crushed ice

**Princess Peach** - 1 pitted peach, 1 banana and 1/4 cup orange juice

**Very Berry** - 1 cup mixed berries and 1/4 cup milk

### This month's quote:

#### **Fostering Collegial Spirit**

*The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it is the same problem you had last year.*

*-John Foster Dulles*

## CPD Online: Course Bookings Online

**What is CPD Online?** CPD Online is a website giving you up to date details about events offered by North Somerset Council. You can search our entire directory of events and then make your booking online.

**How?** Logging in is easy. As CPD Online is a website it can be accessed at any time from home or work, just go to <http://cyps-nsomersetcpd.webbased.co.uk> Why not add this link as a favourite, bookmark or shortcut to your desktop to enable easy access.

**User accounts and login details** If you would like to attend one of your events you will need to **make your booking online**. If you have not attended one of our events in that past you will need to register as a new user.

**Register a new user account** Click the link [new user registration](#). You will need to complete your details and choose your place of work/setting from the establishment list. If you cannot find your setting please contact us on 01934 427560 or [cpdonline.support@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:cpdonline.support@n-somerset.gov.uk). An email address is required as confirmation of your bookings will be sent by email. This can be a work or private e-mail address, whichever is the easiest for you to access.

**Unsure of your log in details** If you're not sure of your login, try the 'forgotten password' link located on the login box to be sent a reminder.

If you have attended one of our courses in the past we will have created an account for you. Please do not register a new account as this will create a duplicate record. If you have not been able to retrieve a reminder of your log in details but think you may already have an account please contact us on 01934 427560 or [cpdonline.support@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:cpdonline.support@n-somerset.gov.uk)

**Benefits of using CPD Online** CPD Online has benefits for colleagues and managers available from the **My CPD** menu.

You can use your CPD Online account to:

- Book a range of training activities
- See what courses you are booked onto, with full details of venue, times and any additional reading materials
- See what you have attended, complete online evaluations and print off certificates
- Keep your own record of professional development by adding details of additional events attended and development activities undertaken

Managers (CPD Leaders) can also;

- Look at training colleagues are due to attend
- Use the report function to show previous training attendance by individual, course or course area

For all enquiries about user accounts and CPD Leader access please contact Kate Boyce, CPD Online Coordinator, at [cpdonline.support@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:cpdonline.support@n-somerset.gov.uk), or on 01934 427560

Forthcoming meetings, training and network events:-

# North Somerset Branch



**Geoff Evans**  
**Autism and Transition and**  
**Our 3rd Autism Heroes Awards**

**Date: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011, 7.00pm**

(Please arrive by 6.30pm)

**William Knowles Centre, Winterstoke Road, Weston Super Mare BS249AA**

**Contribution: £5**

Geoff Evans is Head of Quality improvement at the Options group which is an independent provider of care and education of children and young people on the Autistic spectrum. He has 30 years experience of supporting both children with autism, adults and their families, his past roles have included Head of social work service with the National Autistic Society and senior lecturer of autism at Sheffield Halam university. This talk explores the difficulties experienced by those on the spectrum with both small and major transitions in seeking to offer insight and practical support he draws upon relevant theory best practice and personal experience

For more details please contact Liz Kelly, Branch Officer Tel: 07765 232622.  
Email: [northsomerset@nas.org.uk](mailto:northsomerset@nas.org.uk) , Website: [www.nas-northsomerset.co.uk](http://www.nas-northsomerset.co.uk)

Please complete and return the cut off slip below with payment **by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011** to:

Branch Officer, NAS Autism Heroes, 3 Coleridge Rd Weston-Super-Mare North Somerset BS23 3UH

**Cheques should be made payable to: NAS North Somerset Branch**

(Contributions are requested in order to cover the cost of this and similar events)

Booking form ( Autism Heroes/ Geoff Evans )      Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Job title / parent / carer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel no. \_\_\_\_\_      Email \_\_\_\_\_

**For confirmation of booking, please send a stamped s.a.e. or email details.**

Please tick to receive the following:    Quarterly Newsletter       Flyers for future events

**STOP PRESS!!! Funding is now available for... CACHE Level 3 Award, Certificate & Diploma in Playwork**

## **CACHE Level 3 Award, Certificate & Diploma in Playwork**

**PEYTU are pleased to confirm that we can offer this excellent qualification at a subsidised cost of just £230 per person subject to eligibility (normal price is £1150)**

**These qualifications provide in-depth information about the role of the Level 3 Playworker when working with Children & Young People between the ages of 4 to 16. Learners will gain an understanding of the management of play environments and the line management of staff.**

**Start date:** Course begins in October 2011 and runs through to March 2012

**Time:** 7pm to 9pm

**Venue:** To be confirmed

**For more details or to register your interest, please contact PEYTU:**

**E-mail:** [training@peytu.co.uk](mailto:training@peytu.co.uk)

**Phone:** 0117 908 0601

**Web:** [www.peytu.co.uk](http://www.peytu.co.uk)



Jobs:-



## Do you work in childcare? Exciting new start up Nursery in Bristol

£ Competitive salaries

Fantastic opportunity for various full/part time roles in our new nursery in Coombe Dingle, Bristol. Opening in September, we will be based in a large, beautiful building with excellent inside and outside space, offering wonderful opportunities for the children and an inspiring place for staff to work. You should be passionate about delivering the highest standards of care to children aged 0-5.

Positions available :

**Manager (salary to £30k)**  
**Deputy Manager**  
**Room Leaders (Babies, Toddlers, Pre-school)**  
**Senior Nursery Nurses**  
**Nursery Nurses**

(Also required : Cooks/Cleaners)

For an application pack email [joinus@redbusnursery.co.uk](mailto:joinus@redbusnursery.co.uk)

Alternatively, call Liz for a private, informal discussion on 07920 519067

Volunteering:

# Volunteers needed! :



**Weston Child Contact Centre** provides a safe, neutral and friendly venue for children to spend time with a parent who does not live at home with them or other family members. The Centre is accredited by the National Association of Child Contact Centres and is run by trained and CRB-checked volunteers who want to make it a happy time for the children who come along. **We are keen to recruit more volunteers to help with this worthwhile service.**

### **What does the Contact Centre provide?**

- Morning and afternoon sessions held twice a month for children and parents to spend valuable time together.
- Three separate areas that can be used for playing games, drawing, reading, talking or for having a run around in.
- Toilet facilities for adults, children, disabled users and baby changing facilities.

### **What does a volunteer do?**

- Set up the areas that are going to be used in the sessions
- Provide a safe environment for parents and children to use
- Meet and greet parents\guardians and children
- Show new parents and children the waiting areas, the rooms and facilities that they can use
- Make drinks for the children and parents
- Allow children and adults privacy but being aware and on hand to give help if needed
- Record any accidents or incidents in the health and safety book
- Confirm the date and time of the next session with parents\guardians
- Tidy up the rooms at the end of the sessions

### **Would you like to join us?**

The services of Weston's Contact Centre could not be offered without the support and dedicated work of our team of volunteers. Can you offer three hours of your time once a month to help us provide this valuable service? Most of the contact parents are fathers, so we would especially welcome more male volunteers.

If you are interested, please contact our Coordinator on 01934 515891 or email [westonccc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:westonccc@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **Please note:**

- Volunteers must be over eighteen years old.
- You will be asked to complete a small application form and training will be arranged once the CRB vetting checks have been made.
- There are also a few meeting dates set up during the year. These sessions gives volunteers some time together for a chat and to update our skills.
- Out of pocket expenses for travelling to and from the centre will be paid