

Edition 8, August 2011

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

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the last e-newsletter for the academic year 2010-2011. I hope all of you will have an opportunity to take a little time off to recharge your batteries and enjoy some August sunshine!

I would like to share two important pieces of news with you regarding the EYFS.

Firstly, some very positive news about children's outcomes at the end of their Reception Year in North Somerset.

This year, all outcomes in the six areas of learning have improved – so, the average total EYFSP score has increased; the percentage of children scoring 6 plus in Communication, Language and Literacy and Personal, Social and Emotional Development has also increased; and most importantly, the children from the most disadvantaged background have improved scores. This means that the 'gap measure' we use between our highest achieving and lowest 20% of children has narrowed significantly. This measure is typically very difficult to shift, particularly when overall achievement is also going up with all children.

It is a testament to all the secure 'foundations' you lay in the years before children start school, coupled with the practice developed in our schools, that so many children are doing so well in the EYFS in North Somerset. Thank you!

I would also like to ensure that as many EYFS practitioners as possible respond to the Tickell EYFS Consultation. There are a good many proposals for the EYFS, for example, the greater involvement of parents and tighter working with health. There are also some that I am fearful about in terms of how they may pervert your provision.

The 'simplifying' of the EYFS Profile is not as it seems. As a team, we have cross-referenced all the discrete pieces of assessment on the newly

proposed Profile. A good deal of ELG's have simply been lumped together in large chunks of narrative. There are, in fact, 137 pieces of learning and development to assess and not the 17 that is being suggested. I am also worried about the proposal to have a statutory assessment for children between 24-36 months, which practitioners would have to undertake and report to parents. I fear that Ofsted will add unhelpful pressure about 'tracking' young babies and toddlers' progress.

We know the best way to understand child development and plan high quality provision is through sensitive and informed observations; not by filling in a tick list, looking for the gaps - this so quickly and all too easily becomes the 'curriculum' we offer and this simply will not do for children with minds and fascinations of their own.

Please do read the 46 recommendations and think carefully about all consequences for yourself and your children – this is your framework!

Report: <http://www.education.gov.uk/tickellreview>

Consultaion:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1747&external=no&menu=1>

Enjoy any August sunshine and thank you once again for all your commitment and professionalism.

With best wishes

Andrea Sully

Senior Adviser: Early Years and Transforming Learning

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General articles:-

The law on Agency Workers will change in October

If your organisation hires agency workers you need to be aware that from October this year their employment rights and your organisation's responsibilities will be changing.

Regulations will give agency workers the entitlement to the same or no less favourable treatment as comparable employees with respect to basic employment and working conditions, if and when they complete a qualifying period of 12 weeks in a particular job.

Employment Tribunals will have the power to impose a fine of up to £5,000 per agency worker on employers found to be involved in illegal avoidance practices (for example hiring workers for up to 12 weeks then re-hiring them).

Acas employment advisory service have further guidance available on this

http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1873&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NTL+july+national+send+-+NTL+national+sendC85B59DE-1BA6-E011-BD36-00265554C55E&utm_content=NTL+july+national+send+-+NTL+national+sendC85B59DE-1BA6-E011-BD36-00265554C55E+CID_0065e25defa9081e7c8afef965b673a8&utm_source=Acas+National+email+marketing+UAT&utm_term=guidance

Pension reforms – advice for employers

Workplace pensions law is changing and **every** employer will have to act.

From 2012, changes to pensions law will affect all employers in the UK. The Pensions regulator has produced interactive online tools which will help employers get to grips with the basics of their new duties. These can be found on

<http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/pensions-reform.aspx>



Hello from Scrapstore



The Scrapstore is the perfect place for Early Years settings to get hold of a dazzling array of creative and play materials.

Becoming a Scrapstore member is easy, and is an economical way for your setting to pick up a huge range of great resources. Membership gives you access to the Scrapstore warehouse and 20% off in our art and craft shop, Artrageous. Loan equipment like badge makers and parachutes are available too.

For more information, please visit our website at www.childrensscrapstore.co.uk, or come and visit us at the Scrapstore.

Reception aged children in your setting

Please can you inform your Early Years Consultant if you have a child of Reception age in your setting. Then your Early Years Consultant can ensure that you have all the relevant information so that you can fulfil the statutory requirements set by the DfE.

Toddle to raise money for Barnardo's

On Monday 27th June, the 'Clevedon Childminder's Network Group' took part in a sponsored toddle to raise money for Barnardo's. In total 29 children took part and currently the sponsorship figure stands at £400. This is likely to rise as sponsorship money is still coming in.



One 2 year old managed to raise £141 alone, so a big well done to Amrit. This year the toddle was animal themed and the children and their childminders dressed up for the occasion. We started by singing animal themed songs at the Salthouse Playing Fields, including the Barnardo's theme tune

'we're all going on a toddle'. The children enjoyed practicing this song leading up to the event and were all in good voice on the day! Once we completed our toddle, each child was presented with a medal and a certificate to say 'Thank You' for all their hard work.

The weather was kind to us (just) and we even managed a picnic and a play in the park before the rain set in. A big thank you to everyone who took part to made it an enjoyable and exciting way for the children to learn about helping others.

Springboard Opportunity Group's Art Exhibition

On Friday 8 July 2011, a Clevedon art gallery held a special charity opening for an exhibition of children's art.

Fizz Gallery in Hill Road played host to paintings and drawings from children at Springboard Opportunity Group, a local charity supporting children under 5 with special needs or disabilities. The pictures included handprints, collages and paintings.

The event was organised to showcase the work of the charity, which is the only organisation of its kind in North Somerset.



Speaking on behalf of Springboard, manager Joanne Harris said: "Seeing these pictures framed and hung in such an unusual setting really brings home the value of the work we do with our children."

"It has been a lovely evening. Thanks to Sandy and Fonella at the Fizz Gallery for hosting this event, to all our supporters who turned up despite the very heavy rain, and a special thank you to all our young artists. Despite the monsoon weather, it has been an enjoyable and novel way to celebrate the work of the children and staff here at Springboard."

Guests at the opening included staff and trustees from Springboard, and representatives from the media, the local authority, and Bristol Airport.

The event was organised by Gareth Powell, Springboard's promotions officer. He said: "For the past 25 years, Springboard has been doing excellent work with families in North Somerset, and it's good to see the charity finally getting some recognition."

"In these austere times, we are dependent on the generosity of trusts, the local council, and individual donations. We hope events like this will raise awareness of the vital work we do."

Our Voice Counts! North Somerset - Parent Participation Forum

Please could you bring the following to the attention of any parents that you think may be interested:-

Our Voice Counts! Is the local Parent Participation Forum. The Forum is working to ensure that the participation of parents and carers of disabled children and children with additional needs can, and does, happen at every level of decision making in the lives of their children and the services they receive.

We really want to see parents being listened to - both about what services are wanted and needed and also how well those services are doing in meeting the needs of the children and families concerned.

Our aim is to continue and increase our partnership working with the Local Authority and other services, particularly in becoming more involved at the planning stages of services. However, it is important that our membership is as representative as possible. This will only happen if enough parents get involved and use the Forum as a way of making sure the right messages are heard by those that need to listen.

Please give us your support and forward this invitation to your friends with children with additional needs in North Somerset. This is a unique opportunity for us to really influence what happens in our Authority.

Over the three years since Our Voice Counts first started, we have been building the number of parents and families signed up as members. Open meetings, held twice a year, are attracting more and more parents who want to get involved and have their voice

heard. There are many other ways in which people can also become involved, ranging from information receiving and sharing through to active involvement with the Steering Group and being part of service strategy groups and decision making panels. We also have a website: www.nsppf.org.uk and a Facebook page where people can get updates and information.

It is easy to become a member. All you need to do is let us have your name and e-mail address or phone number. Being a member will, if it does nothing else, mean that you are kept in the loop!

Working one day a week, the Parent Forum now has a Participation Support Worker – Paula Edmondson. Paula can be e-mailed on: paulaedmondson@vodafoneemail.co.uk or by mobile on 07717 706340.

You can could also email: enquiries@nsppf.org.uk or call us on 07561 512072.

Co-Chairs Kaddy Thomas and Liz Kelly can also be contacted for a chat or further information on:

Kaddy: ktcharity@yahoo.com Mobile: 07886 654473

Liz: liz.kelly@kellys-heroes.com

We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming new members on board! Paula Edmondson/Kaddy Thomas/Liz Kelly

Ofsted's parents poster – updated version

Please follow the link below to download the latest version of Ofsted's parents poster which show their new address.



<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Poster-for-parents-childcare>

Smokefree Homes Campaign: SMOKE OUTSIDE



To tackle the problem of smoking within the home, Smokefree South West launched a campaign in May which focused on the news that poisonous chemicals linger in the home

long after a cigarette has been extinguished.

Recent data shows that 2 out of 10 households in the South West still allow smoking in the home and the campaign aims to halve the numbers in the region from 20% to 10% by 2015. This will require smokers to change their behaviour and to **'take the smoke outside'**.

Many people's health has benefited from the smoking legislation in 2007 which prevented smoking in public places. However, the family home has remained untouched by the law and an estimated **5 million children under the age of 16 are exposed to the dangers of cigarette smoke in their home.**

Although it is acknowledged that smoking around children is harmful, what has not been taken into account is the impact of poisonous chemicals that are left behind in the home as a result of smoking.

Studies have found that poisonous chemicals including arsenic, formaldehyde and cyanide can linger on the furniture and everyday household objects such as sofas, cushions, curtains, kitchen worktops and even children's toys. Surviving as tiny particles of poisonous dust, these toxins can linger for days and in some cases even months after the cigarette has been put out.

To be effective, the message **'take the smoke outside'** needs to be delivered at a community level to complement and reinforce the media channels used at the beginning of the campaign. We would appreciate your help in publicising and promoting this information within your workplace settings.

The Smoke Outside info pack contains all the facts smokers need about the dangers of smoking inside, in order for them to make an informed decision to smoke outside. If you would like some packs please contact Lesley St Leger at: Lesley.StLeger@smokefreesouthwest.org.uk or by phoning 0117 9707022 /7024.

If you would like any more information about this campaign, secondhand smoke or smoke free homes please contact: Miriam.thornton@nsomerset-pct.nhs.uk

Health Protection Agency

The most up to date Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings can be found on the following link:-

http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1274087715902

If a notifiable disease is present within your setting then you need to contact the South West Health Protection Agency on 0845 504 8668 for advice.

Free Early Education

The Early Years section on the North Somerset web site contains various information regarding the 3 & 4 year old free entitlement funding for providers and parents. There is also an easy to use funding tool calculator that providers may find helpful in predicting future funding and a section of FAQs that may answer any funding queries. Please take a look! www.n-somerset.gov.uk/earlyyears

New name for OpenFamilyServices

OpenFamilyServices (a national online directory of accredited childcare, family services and positive activities with information which comes directly from participating Local Authorities across England, including North Somerset) are seeking opinions on a new name, and would like to invite you practitioners and providers to take part and have their say. You will find a short “new name” survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8FY9FTH>. The survey closes on the glorious 12th of August! Go for it!

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

Honeytree day nursery – new outdoor environment



The Honeytree day nursery at Weston General Hospital has recently been through a change with the outdoor environment. We have transformed our car park into a natural spectacular outdoor space that incorporates all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage. We are celebrating the opening of our new outdoor environment and would love to share the exciting process that we have been through with you all. We are officially opening the garden on the Monday the 22nd August from 6pm and would love for you to attend. There will be activities, nibbles and the official cutting of the ribbon.

If you have any more queries about the opening evening or the childcare we provide then please feel free to contact The Manger Bernadette Rosewell on (01934) 414471

This month's quote:-

“Some people come into our lives and quickly leave.
Others come into our lives and leave such an impression
that they stay with us for all time.”
(Docia Zavitkovsky)

Forthcoming meetings, training, networks and events:-



Paediatric First Aid Course

This course covers the role of the First Aider and how to act safely, promptly and effectively when an emergency occurs such as a child becoming unwell or injured.



Target audience:

All Early Years, Childcare and Play Practitioners (Essential for Childminders, and other settings who must have a qualified First Aider on the premises at all times).

The Certificate **must** be renewed every three years. Please ensure that you renew your certificate before it expires. **The certificate must not run out of date.**

NB Prospective childminders **must** hold a current paediatric first aid certificate before they apply to Ofsted.

Duration: 2 days

Course dates:

CPD Event Code	Date	Time	Venue
10-001363	Saturday 17 & 24 September 2011	09:30 – 16:00	To be confirmed, Weston-super-Mare

Course fee:

£52 per person
(a cheque made payable to North Somerset Council for the course fee is required immediately after the booking was made)

Training provider:

Services in Health Education Ltd

Booking enquiries:

Stana Balogova
Training Administrator, Tel. 01275 888 677
Email stana.balogova@n-somerset.gov.uk
On-line booking:
<http://cpd.n-somerset.gov.uk/cpdonline>

Services in
Health Education Ltd



All cheques to be sent to:

Stana Balogova, Training Administrator
Integrated Workforce Development Team
Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)
North Somerset Council,
Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road,
Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ



**Have you considered using CPD Online
but are not sure how it works?**



**Have you already looked for CPD events
but could not find the ones you were looking for?**



Are you having trouble logging in?

CPD Online demonstration sessions

Come along to find out more about:

- The CPD Online booking system
- Benefits of using CPD Online
- How to manage your training records
- How to obtain your own certificate

**We are holding CPD Online demonstration sessions at Castlewood
in Clevedon on the following dates:**

Tuesday 16 August 2011:

9.30am – 11.30am and 12.00pm – 2.00pm,

Wednesday 17 August 2011:

10.00am – 12.00pm, 12.30pm – 2.30pm and 3.00pm – 5.00pm

Thursday 18 August 2011:

9.30am – 11.30am, 12.00pm – 2.00pm and 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Friday 19 August 2011:

9.30am – 11.30pm, 12.00pm – 2.00pm and 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Thursday 25 August 2011:

9.30am – 11.30am, 12.00pm – 2.00pm and 2.30pm – 4.30pm

**In order to determine the number of attendees, could you please contact Stana
Balogova to book your appointment on 01275 888677 or
email stana.balogova@n-somerset.gov.uk**

**Please note that we are planning to run further sessions in the new
academic year.**

Link to CPD Online:

<http://cpd.n-somerset.gov.uk/cpdonline>

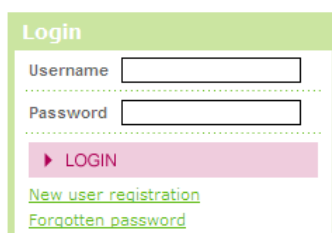
CPD Online step-by-step guide

Stana has also produced an online guide to help you with logging onto and using CPD Online. Please follow the link below to the guide

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/693495F4-689C-4606-9CF0-9911BFB6DD97/0/CPDOnlineStepByStepGuide201108.pdf>

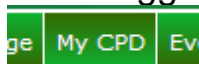
CPD - How to obtain your certificate

1. Please use the following link:
<http://cpd.n-somerset.gov.uk/cpdonline>
2. Click on your service area i.e. Services for Children and Young People
3. Use the login box to enter your login details and click Login:



The screenshot shows a login form with a green header. It contains two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password'. Below the fields is a pink button with a right-pointing arrow and the text 'LOGIN'. Underneath the button are two links: 'New user registration' and 'Forgotten password'.

4. Once logged in, select "My CPD" from along the top toolbar:



5. Then within "My Development – Events", select "events attended":



6. This will then bring up the list of events you have attended. Find the one you wish to print your certificate from and select "Download Certificate":



7. Print your certificate!