



PEAL e-bulletin - Sept 2009

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1. PEAL News

1a. PEAL Training Opportunities

PEAL is available to buy in to Local Authorities. There are several options available; from standard 1 day PEAL training that enables participants to get the training accredited at Level 3 (a single unit of the whole award); to a two-day strategic options. Further information about the available options can be found on the PEAL website, under the training section.

There are also some individual places available through the NCB training department. These places are very limited and fill up quickly. Sessions will be run in **London on 16 October 2009** and in **Nottingham on 9 March 2010**. Please visit <http://pealpt4.eventbrite.com/> for further details.

1b. Staffing

The Early Childhood Unit (ECU) welcomes Daisy Hirst as the new part time Early Childhood Unit Administrative Assistant. Daisy takes over the role from Priya Jugnauth who recently became the departments' Administrator.

2. PEAL Developments

2a. Accreditation

We are delighted to announce that the National Children's Bureau (NCB) have recently become an Assessment Centre for the City and Guilds *Work with Parents* award. Candidates now registering for the accreditation of their PEAL training will now be registered through the NCB assessment centre. For further information on accreditation, please visit <http://peal.org.uk/training/accreditation.aspx>.

2b. Making it REAL

The Early Childhood Unit began work on the new Making it REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) project in August 2009.



Funded by The Big Lottery Fund (Family Learning programme) the project will use the REAL framework developed by Cathy Nutbrown and Peter Hannon at the University of Sheffield. Eight children's centres in Sheffield and Oldham will work together with the university, Sheffield and Oldham local authorities and the ECU over a three-year period. A team of early years teachers, practitioners and local authority officers will receive training each year in the REAL approach, and families will be invited to receive a series of home visits and invitations to special events and workshop sessions.

REAL builds on what parents already do at home to help children learn. The relationships developed between practitioner, parents and children are central. Parents will receive support to provide more opportunities for their children to learn through books and stories, songs and rhymes, environmental print and early mark making activities.

Parents, practitioners and children will be directly involved in evaluating the effectiveness of the project. Anticipated outcomes are increased parent confidence and knowledge of how to join in with children, model practice, recognise, and respond to children's progress - and improved communication and social skills for young children.

For more information contact jconnor@ncb.org.uk and hwheeler@ncb.org.uk

More can be read about REAL in Nutbrown, C, Hannon, P and Morgan, A (2005) *Early Literacy Work with Families*, Sage Publications.

Further information can be found at the [Big Lottery Fund site](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

2c. PEAL for Parents posters available to buy now!

PEAL has developed 10 posters that depict ways in which parents help their babies and young children's learning and development through play and every day activity.

- Listening, talking and thinking
- Reading books and telling stories: going to the library
- Imagining and pretending
- Singing songs and rhymes
- Going on visits
- Drawing, painting and making
- Playing with friends
- Doing real things together
- Playing with letters and numbers
- Letting children have a go



The posters have been used in parent workshop sessions and for displays to inform parents of research findings and to generate discussion. They will form part of the forthcoming PEAL for Parents, a resource pack to support a series of sessions for parents, currently in development.

They are available now as a set of 10 for £10.00 inclusive of post and packing

To order, please contact Daisy Hirst in the Early Childhood Unit - dhirst@ncb.org.uk or call 020 7843 6064

3. Early Childhood Unit News

3a. ECU Annual Report 2008-9

The latest Annual Report from the Early Childhood Unit is hot off the press. The report highlights the work of the unit over the past 12 months as well as indicating what is planned for the next 12 months for the Unit. News from both the networks and practice development is included, including that of PEAL, REAL, the Local Authority Early Years Network (LAEYN), Young Children's Voices Network (YCVN) and the Black Voices Network (BVN).

Copies of this will be available to download from the new and improved ECU website shortly.

4. Conferences

4a. Black Voices Network London Seminar

14 October 2009, The Diana, Princes of Wales Memorial Fund Rooms, London
'Talking about black* families...'

As black practitioners, we come from an immense range of backgrounds - different heritages, nationalities, faith systems, educational backgrounds and work environments. However, when we meet, we often recognise and acknowledge many common experiences. We will all remember the negative commentary directed at the black staff who visited Victoria Climbié and the subsequent debates about interpreting black experiences. This seminar is a chance for us to talk about the challenges we experience, and value we bring, as we work to support the families within our communities.

The day will include:

'Licks 'N' Beats' - a short film by Patrice Lawrence about physical discipline and a discussion about the role of smacking in our families; Joel Culpepper talking to us about why three young London men want to bring more positive role models to London's early years settings; Dalvir Gill (tbc) sharing research on what parents who recently have migrated from another culture want for their children in early years settings; Anita Bey helping us think about play and culture.

And more!

To book on this FREE event - please contact

Priya Jugnauth: pjugnauth@ncb.org.uk or telephone 020 7843 6444

These events are part of the Black Voices Network (BVN) a national project promoting skills, knowledge and participation of black practitioners in children's services policy and practice development. The project is funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.
www.ncb.org.uk/bvn

** 'We use 'black' in a political sense to include any person of African, Caribbean or Asian heritage that may experience prejudice as a result of their skin colour.*

4b. Young Children's Voices Network (YCVN) conference

Thursday 5 November 2009, Hallam Conference Centre, London
Early Years - are we listening?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted twenty years ago on 20 November 1989. The Childcare Act came into law in England in 2006, and included specific duties for local authorities (LAs) to have regard to the views of young children and their parents. Legislation is in place to protect and ensure the rights and entitlements of young children and for services to listen to the voice of our youngest citizens - But, to what extent are we listening? And how much is what we learn from children informing service design, planning and delivery?

This conference will:

- examine where we are today regarding listening to children and responding to the voice of the child in practice and policy
- explore the challenges involved
- discuss ways in which children's rights, specifically the right to be listened to, can be kept central to all decisions that affect them
- discuss the role of legislation and whether more is needed

The day will include: a key-note speech from Y. Penny Lancaster, presentations and displays from LAs across England, and workshops on a range of aspects of listening; including training, leadership and supporting parents.

Who's it for?

This will be of particular interest to early years advisers, managers, practitioners, consultants, strategic leads and participation officers who want to; increase their knowledge and awareness, network and share good practice on listening to young children.

To book please visit: <http://ycvn.eventbrite.com>

4c. Working with Parents: A way of working or a delivered formula?

9 November, Pen Green, Corby

The Early Childhood Unit at NCB is co-constructing an event with the Pen Green Research Base to bring together providers and commissioners of services for parents and young children to debate this question 'Working with Parents: A way of working or a delivered formula?'

This conference will provide an opportunity to:

- debate and influence the way in which professionals work with families to improve outcomes for children
- debate and identify principles to assess the appropriateness of ways of working with parents
- consider how services support all parents whose children could benefit
- raise awareness of how the effectiveness of services can be measured
- identify the richness of parent knowledge and how to embed this knowledge within services to improve children's development.

As a result of the conference we intend to produce information and a set of principles to influence the development and delivery of early childhood services. The principles will:

- help inform commissioners on the efficacy of parenting services
- influence the development and delivery of parent support services
- inform workforce development
- enable practitioners to reflect on how their services best meet parent's needs.

The event is strictly limited to 60 places (2 max per LA) so we would advise early booking. The conference is aimed at parenting commissioners and lead LA officers responsible for children's centres, with Local Authority Early Years Network members also welcome to attend.

To receive details of the programme and to book your place, please contact to:

Ally McGivern

Tel: 01536 443435

Email : amcgivern@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Please note, this event is in place of the Local Authority Early Years Network meeting 18 November which has been cancelled

**We want your feedback and ideas! Please direct any comments or queries to:
Heather Goodwin, Practice Development Admin Coordinator,
hgoodwin@ncb.org.uk**

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