



Early Learning Partnership Project

“BORN TO LEARN”

This new work, based in Coram Parents Centre, is part of a national DfES-funded pilot scheme known as the **Early Learning Partnership Project**. Coram Family are a partner in this along with Barnardos, Continyou, FWA, Homestart, NCH and the Preschool Learning Alliance. The scheme nationally is co-ordinated by the Family and Parenting Institute. It will run from December 2006 – March 2008.

What is the aim of the scheme?

Practitioners will try out new ways of working with parents of young children, both individually and in groups, with the aim of supporting them to get involved in their children’s learning and to engage with Children’s Centre services.

How will families get involved?

Any family with a child aged 1 – 3 living in Camden or Islington can choose to join the project or can be referred. We are particularly encouraging families to get involved where there is a child who might need extra support with their learning. We will also be working with specific groups of families – young parents, Bangladeshi families, and families with children with special needs – who already attend Coram Parents Centre.

We expect to work with 200 families over the course of the project.

What does the programme include?

The work will use materials from a programme called “Parents as First Teachers” known as PAFT. This includes: building on parents’ strengths, a focus on relationships between parents and child, giving clear child developmental information to a parent (including brain research) adapted to their understanding, and sharing observations of the child. The programme has a range of simple activities, which practitioner, parent and child take part in together, and which are chosen to match the child’s developmental stage.

How will it be delivered?

Some families will receive a series of 1:1 visits in their homes while others may get involved in group sessions in drop-ins. In addition, as part of our parenting group programme, additional material on children’s learning will be included.

Who are the staff?

The project will employ the equivalent of 5 full-time staff based in Coram Parents Centre. Some of these will be home-based outreach workers and some centre-based, while our parenting group facilitators will also be involved in the programme. Some staff will concentrate on this project full-time, while others will do it as part of their existing role (eg our Drop-in Co-ordinator). We will employ sessional staff to bring additional specialist skills and knowledge to the project.

All staff will have existing childcare qualifications and will then be given further training (5 days) in the use of the PAFT model. They will be supported in their underpinning theoretical knowledge by the PEAL (Parents, Early Years and Learning) programme and will have extra training in working with couple relationships from OnePlusOne.

Practitioners from other Childrens Centres in Camden and Islington would be welcome to contribute to the programme, taking part in the training and using the materials and model of working with families from their area.

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