



## PEAL e-bulletin - March 2010

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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 option. Further information about the available options can be found on the PEAL website, under the training section.

PEAL (Parents, Early Years and Learning) and the early home learning environment - PEAL aims to meet the needs of those who work with practitioners in a variety of roles including family support workers and health visitors as well as setting and home based practitioners. PEAL is also suitable for those working in nursery schools and reception classes.

### 1b. \*Special Feature\* - Focus on Accreditation

On 25 February the PEAL team were invited by Sefton Council to Firwood Cricket Club, Bootle, to host a celebration event for the latest group of candidates gaining the City and Guilds Work with Parents award. There were a mix of candidates who successfully gained the single unit of the new 3599 award as well as a small group of Childminders who had completed 'top-up' training to enable them to gain a further two units of the award, completing the qualification.



The successful candidates were presented with their certificates by Joyce Connor, Principle Officer of the Early Childhood Unit, who has been involved in developing PEAL since it first began in 2005.

Lynda McQueen from the Sefton Early Years and Childcare Quality and Inclusion Service opened the celebrations and presentations were also given by Annie Simpson from the Pre-school Learning Alliance (who worked alongside the PEAL team, providing the Assessment Centre for these candidates), and Joyce Connor.

Two successful candidates, Jane Marsh from The Big Picture Nursery and Sarah Kay from Home from Home presented insightful accounts of how the PEAL training and accreditation had improved practice within their settings, not only for them as individuals, but for their team too.

Following a lunch and a chance to network with other participants of the PEAL training from Sefton Council, attendees were moved into smaller groups and invited to share their experience of both the training and accreditation. These discussions provided valuable feedback for the PEAL team to enable continual improvements to the accreditation process.

To find out more about accreditation for PEAL training, please visit the [accreditation section](#) of the PEAL website.

## 2. PEAL Developments

### 2a. How has PEAL training helped your practice?

Have you made any changes to your practice/your setting's practice since attending PEAL training? Have you introduced a new project or started working in a different way with parents? Have you noticed the impact on parents' confidence and involvement in their children's learning, and/or on children's progress? We are gathering stories to help us build up a picture of the impact of PEAL. If you have stories to share with us, please contact [Helen Wheeler](#) or call 020 7843 6101.

### 3. Early Childhood Unit News

#### 3a. Young Children's Voices Network

##### Children's views inform the Free Nursery Entitlement

In February 2010 the Young Children's Voices Network (YCVN) published *Am I staying for lunch today?*

This collaborative project with Hertfordshire County Council, commissioned by DCSF, set out to inform national policy around the Free Entitlement (the number of free hours that all 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to receive) and how settings offer this to meet parents' needs. As a result of the project DCSF have accepted a proposed amendment to the Code of Practice on this policy. Ten settings that were already delivering the 15 hour entitlement in Hertfordshire were selected to take part in the consultation, which involved 58 children aged 3 and 4 years. Please visit the [DCSF website](#) to view this report.

The next YCVN national networking event - Tuesday 15 June in Leeds - will include presentations from Leeds local young children's voices network, workshops and a presentation from UNICEF's rights respecting schools project for early years. These events provide an opportunity for Local Authorities and settings across England to share good practice on listening to young children to inform quality improvement. For further information please contact [Lucy Williams](#).

#### 3b. Firm Foundations campaign

It's been a busy time for early years and the Firm Foundations Campaign has been following closely!

The 3,500th Children's Centre opened this month sparking a political row over the future of Sure Start <http://twitter.com/FFCampaign>. You may have seen the [editorial](#) in the Times on the back of this, arguing that money was being given to young children through Sure Start at the expense of young people wanting to access higher education. Firm Foundations was on the case with a letter to the Editor to point out the fact that money spent on further and higher education far exceeds that spent on the early years. Thankfully Firm Foundations Campaign supporter and 4Children CEO, Anne Longfield, had her letter published and you can read it [here](#).

The Budget announcements reaffirmed Government commitments to Sure Start funding and the extension of the free entitlement. There was also some good news for parents of one and two year olds who are to receive £4 extra per week in Child Tax Credits.

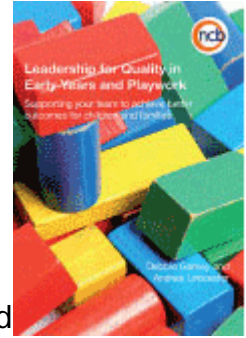
With all of this early years news and an election imminent, you might find it useful to sign up to [Twitter](#), where you can now also follow the Firm Foundations Campaign!

Visit the [Firm Foundations website](#) to support the campaign. Contact [Patricia Durr](#) for more information.

### 3c. New NCB publication: Leadership for Quality in Early Years and Playwork: Supporting your team to achieve better outcomes for children and families, Debbie Garvey and Andrea Lancaster

This essential new publication supports existing, new and aspiring leaders within childcare, early years education and playwork to develop a leadership style relevant to their context.

Eagerly anticipated by many working in the early years sector, it has already been adopted by one local authority for use in all their early years settings. The book presents key theories of leadership illustrated with real case studies and reflections and also includes suggestions for further reading.



*The sector has at last recognised that leadership, as much as management, matters and is beginning to nurture a new generation of leaders with vision, passion and reflectivity. This book will make an important contribution to this movement.*

Professor Chris Pascal, Director, Centre for Research in Early Childhood Charitable Trust

[Read the full review online](#)

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### 3d. EYFS Resource Project

#### EYFS Parent Survey

We have devised a survey of parents' views on the EYFS with our partner Netmums and we would encourage anyone who is interested to use the survey with parents you work with. Results will be used to inform our submission to the DCSF EYFS Review later this year. Please [go the website](#) to look at the survey.

#### EYFS Case Study Call

NCB's Early Childhood Unit is putting together an Early Years Foundation Stage resource bank to support everyone, particularly workers and parents, who has an interest in early years services, in order to deepen their understanding of the EYFS. One of the best ways to do this is to share information about what works. It is a chance to showcase your work or experience.

We are particularly interested in:

- examples of how the EYFS has improved your work with children;

- illustrations of the key ideas and principles within the EYFS, including work with mums and dads, the six areas of learning, listening to young children, safeguarding, play (outdoor play specifically), the key person, equality, assessment and the EYFS profile.

If you have a case study to share or would be interested in providing any other information please go to the [EYFS Case Study webpage](#) and complete the form. Contact [Patricia Durr](#) for more information.

## 4. Conferences and Training

### 4a. NQIN Conference

22 June 2010, London

Delegates will:

- Discover how quality experiences within the home learning environment impact positively on children's well-being
- Explore a principled approach to evidencing practice.
- Explore the engaging with families principles and how these can be used alongside the Quality Improvement Principles to develop their LA's quality improvement framework.

We are delighted that Professor Kathy Sylva from Oxford University, Sally Russell from Netmums and Margy Whalley from the Pen Green Research Base have been confirmed as keynote speakers. At the conference NQIN will be launching its next resource *Principles for Engaging with Families* which is currently being developed with the Early Learning Partnership Parental Engagement Group. Please contact [Natasha Din-Gabisi](#) to receive a conference flyer and booking form when they become available next week.

### 4b. Effectively Engaging Parents

27 April 2010 (morning) - The Ibis, Earls Court, London 47 Lillie Road Earl's Court London United Kingdom SW6 1UD

Nursery World brings you a new half-day conference on 'Effectively Engaging Parents' which addresses ways in which to get parents more involved in their children's learning and provides practical examples and solutions of how practitioners can successfully build partnerships with parents and how this can facilitate children's learning journey.

To book please visit the [Nursery World conference page](#).

Come and meet PEAL and the ECU at their stand at this conference!

### 4c. Upskill The Early Years Workforce

27 April 2010 (afternoon) - The Ibis, Earls Court, London 47 Lillie Road Earl's Court London SW6 1UD

With 2010 seeing the introduction of several significant staff training measures,

including the new level 3 qualification, *Nursery World* presents a new half-day conference to clarify staff training options that exist and identify which are most appropriate to your setting in order to maximise the quality of staff development and help ensure future sustainability.

To book please visit the [Nursery World conference page](#).

Come and meet PEAL and the ECU at their stand at this conference!

#### 4d. Childcare and Nursery Show 2010

25-26 June 2010, Bournemouth

The exhibition is dedicated to all nursery owners, managers, nursery group executives and professional childcarers. The two-day event is a dynamic market place, learning zone and forum for its industry.

For more information visit the [Nursery Show website](#).

#### 4e. Early Education Annual National Conference

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010, Aberdeen

Please see the [Early Education website](#) for further details.

We want your feedback and ideas! Please direct any comments or queries to: [Heather Goodwin](#), Practice Development Admin Coordinator.

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