



PEAL e-Bulletin - December 2007

Welcome to the second issue of the quarterly PEAL e-bulletin. The PEAL team would like to wish you a very happy festive season and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

The PEAL e-bulletin will be emailed on the last Tuesday of every three months.

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1. PEAL News

1.1 PEAL gets 'accredited'

Working closely with the PEAL team, Parenting UK, Lifelong Learning UK and City & Guilds, the accreditation project team has developed an optional unit at level 3 for a new City & Guilds Award in Work with Parents - Unit 16 - Work with parents to engage them in their children's early learning. This unit has now been accredited by City and Guilds at Level 3 - and can be combined with other units to achieve the 'Working with Parents Award'. This means that anyone undertaking the PEAL training can now choose to extend their learning and have it assessed, gaining three credits at level 3 towards this new award.

Work is also underway to develop two other optional units for the level 3 award - Working with fathers/Working with young parents to engage them in their children's early learning - to address specific needs which have been identified by frontline practitioners.

Gaining 'accreditation' for the PEAL training is an important achievement because it not only supports government initiatives towards a more skilled workforce through a

flexible qualifications system (the Qualifications and Credit Framework, QCF) but it also provides practitioners with the opportunity to gain recognition for their continuous professional development, in the increasingly important area of parenting education and support.

The accreditation team is now working with other ELP partner organizations to map their training to the new award, to extend the benefits of national accreditation to as many programmes as possible.

For more information about the PEAL accreditation, visit the [accreditation page](#) of the website

1.2 New Promotional Material

The communications team has been working hard producing new promotional material to raise the profile of the project. PEAL now has roller banners that can be displayed at events and conferences and also a website postcard, promoting the new website. These have both been very well received.

[View the website postcard](#) [PDF 400KB]

For copies of the PEAL website postcard, please contact Paulina Filippou on 020 7843 1169 / 020 7833 6810 or pfilippou@ncb.org.uk

1.3 New practice examples

The PEAL team have developed and published several new practice examples. For those of you who already have your packs, the new practice examples are available to download from the website. They include two examples that focus particularly upon childminders. Find out more and download the new examples from the practice examples page.

1.4 New DVD

The PEAL DVD, Developing effective early learning partnerships with parents, has been re-issued and was launched at the Local Authorities Early Years Network meeting on 21 November 2007. The DVD highlights three projects taking place in settings in Camden: 'Stop, Look and Listen,' 'Sharing Observations with Treasureboxes' and 'Music and Movement.' It encourages regular, shared observations between parents and practitioners recorded through video, cameras, note taking and verbal feedback. In this way, an individual child's needs and interests are well known and future learning and development can be planned for - both at home and in the setting. The DVD is shown as part of the PEAL training - and will be included in participants' packs from January 2008.

1.3 Future Training Dates

Details of training events are available on our [training page](#)

2. SCORGS News

2.1 Pen Green

Pen Green Conference 2 February 2008

A national conference held by Pen Green, 'Children's Centres, Outcomes and Meeting the Complex Needs of Priority and Excluded Families'

Date: 2 February 2008

Time: 10am - 4pm

Venue: Pen Green Research Base, Rockingham Road, Corby, Northants NN17 1AG

Cost: £180 + VAT

This conference is designed for all those working in partnership with children and families in children centres, other early childhood provision, extended schools and family support services in the statutory, private and voluntary sectors.

For further information contact Donna McDaid on <mailto:dmcdaid@northamptonshire.gov.uk> or 01536 443435.

Summary of the Pen Green Conference 17 November 2007 - Involving Parents in their Children's Learning: Sustaining and Deepening Engagement

Dr Margy Whalley talked about how the PICL (Parents Involved in their Children's Learning) Approach has developed at Pen Green, and the principles and philosophy underpinning this way of working with children and families. PICL is a knowledge sharing approach where parents' knowledge of their child is honoured and parents are encouraged to become advocates for their child's learning.

Children's learning is extended through parents and workers sharing child development concepts and discussing and reflecting on video observations in an equal dialogue. It is a community development model; parents become involved in shaping the development of services and many parents go on to train in early childhood education and care and have joined the staff team through this way of working.

Linda Mitchell and Yvette Simonsen gave an international perspective with their work in relation to engaging parents in New Zealand. Linda talked about giving parents space; both physical space where they feel welcome and comfortable in settings and psychological space so that they can share in a dialogue about their children. She also talked about the 'funds of knowledge' that families hold.

In the afternoon Kate Hayward outlined the development of the PICL training programme. This is initially a two day training programme with participants supporting each other in pairs from each setting; carrying out work with their whole staff team; undertaking a child study with one family and then returning for a further third day to review their work and develop an action plan for their centre.

Three practice based case studies demonstrated excellent examples of how a childminder and children centre drop in groups have adopted the PICL approach in very different communities.

Parents Involved in their Children's Learning Quality Improvement Scheme A way to show that you are making a difference

Pen Green has developed the nationally recognised PICL (Parents Involved in their Children's Learning) Quality Assurance Scheme into a scheme for Quality Improvement, giving settings a framework for enhanced practice in terms of engaging parents. This scheme is underpinned by the Principles of Quality Improvement, and maps onto the National Occupational Standards for Working with Parents.

As an important new development in the scheme, we have incorporated the Results Based Accountability approach (Friedman 2005) to enable settings to engage with all the stake-holders in their work. The process involves parents and workers determining agreed outcomes so that they can show how they have made a difference through parental involvement. It builds on the PICL way of working which is a community development approach, engaging parents in dialogue and encouraging them to be advocates for their child's learning.

Through PICL, parents and workers reflect on video observations and share child development concepts; extending children's learning through supporting children's interests. Mark Friedman states 'trying hard is not good enough'. The PICL QI scheme will enable you to show you are 'turning the curve' on parental engagement.

PICL (Parents Involved in their Children's Learning) Accreditation at level 4

We have worked with the University of Northampton to offer accreditation on working with parents at level 4 to participants who are working through the PICL programme. They are required to produce evidence of learning outcomes in a portfolio following the work they do with their staff team and a child study with a family. The assessment will enable them to obtain a 10 credit module at level 4 within the CHESL programme or could be submitted towards the Foundation Degree. We have had lots of interest in this opportunity, which enables many participants to take a first step towards degree level work.

PICL is also accredited at levels 2 and 3 through NOCN and level 7 as a 20 credit module at Masters level through the University of Leicester.

For more information on Pen Green, please visit <http://www.pengreen.org/>

2.2. National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA)

Working in Partnership with Parents Training

NDNA is delivering 'Working in Partnership with Parents', a one day training course for full day care practitioners. The courses, funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, have been very popular in each of the nine English regions, with all courses being heavily oversubscribed. In order to ensure the practitioners training

needs are met, NDNA has been working in partnership with Local Authorities and Private Providers to deliver extra courses.

The course focuses on the development of partnership between parents, carers and practitioners by exploring the importance of partnership, barriers to parental involvement, best practice in sharing information, ways to develop parental involvement and the importance of different communication styles. The day of learning is prepared for by completing a pre-course audit of parental involvement in the setting and followed by a post-course action plan and reflective statement which links to NDNA's Quality Counts scheme.

NDNA has been overwhelmed with the level of interest, there is a clear demand for this type of training not only for newly qualified practitioners but also for more experienced staff who acknowledge that working in partnership with parents is an ongoing development which requires fresh new ways of thinking and time to trial and develop new ways to engage with parents.

For further information on Working in Partnership with Parents please contact Angela Gibbons, NDNA Programme Manager on 01484 40 70 70 Ext 230 or email angela.gibbons@ndna.org.uk

For more information on NDNA, please visit <http://www.ndna.org.uk/>

2.3 Family Links

Parent Support Skills Training

As part of the Early Learning Partnership Programme, Family Links is delivering training in Parent Support Skills. Since September they have successfully run five trainings, reaching 94 people. The trainings have been received very positively with one participant commenting: "From the first hour I realised that this training would be very different. For a start it didn't feel like training, it felt like I was being let in on a fabulous secret ", she goes on to say, "The training I was given and the parenting puzzle I now have are invaluable, they will help me personally and professionally". Another trainee told us, "The course has been very good and well run, everyone was included and enabled to join. Well presented and above all practical and useful". Seven more trainings will be run in the New Year.

For more information on Family Links, please visit <http://www.familylinks.org.uk/>

We want your feedback and ideas!

Please direct any comments or queries to:

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