



PEAL e-bulletin - December 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 option. 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. The session will be run in **Nottingham on 9 March 2010**. Please visit <http://pealpt5.eventbrite.com/> for further details.

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.

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>.

Those undertaking PEAL training can now register for the Whole Award 3599 or undertake the single unit, 311.

For groups of staff who have attended PEAL training, top-up training is available to meet the needs of the Whole Award. For further information, please contact Heather Goodwin[LINK EMAIL] on 020 7843 6100.

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. FREE Taster Sessions

For a short time only this year and early next year, we are able to offer free taster sessions/presentations of up to half a day for the following:

Embedding Listening within the Early Years

Developing Mentoring Practice in Early Years and Playwork

PEAL

If you are able to bring together a group of staff, or can identify a local authority or setting meeting where you would like one of ECU's associates to deliver a session, please contact Heather Goodwin[LINK TO EMAIL ADDRESS] on 020 7843 6100.

3b. Project on Well-being

The Early Childhood Unit (ECU) and the Early Childhood Forum (ECF) at the NCB and the Early Childhood Team at the London Metropolitan University (LMU) are working together on a project to explore ideas about young children's well-being and how it can best be supported. The project team invite you to be part of this.

The project team plan to hold a series of focus group discussions with practitioners and parents in a range of early childhood settings, which will then feed into a series of discussion seminars held at both LMU and the NCB, to which practitioners, academics and policy makers will be invited.

There is a range of ways you could take part:

- As a host setting for a focus group discussion with practitioners and/or parents
- As a co-facilitator of a focus group alongside one of the LMU team
- As a 'leader thinker', offering a presentation at the seminar discussions
- As a small group leader at eh seminar discussions.

The group would be very pleased to hear from you regarding whether you are interested in joining with them on what they hope will be an important piece of work. Please contact Mark Alder at m.alder@londonmet.ac.uk who will put you in contact with a member of the core team. They will contact you for an initial discussion before including you in the relevant contact list.

Please note 2 of the seminars will be primarily for network members: 24 February for LAEYN members and 21 April for ECF members.



3c. Firm Foundations campaign INVEST IN YOUNG CHILDREN, SAFEGUARD THE FUTURE

The Early Childhood Unit has secured funding from the DCSF to deliver a campaign over the next 6 months focussed on promoting good quality early years provision. The Campaign will have its official launch in January with a website going live before Christmas to provide information and resources aimed at encouraging as many people as possible with an interest in early years to support its key aims and objectives. Campaign Manager, Patricia Durr hopes that as many people as possible will take action to spread the word about the benefits of good quality provision and to secure the future for early years at this critical time. Patricia will be drawing on the vast knowledge and experience within the sector to support the campaign and will have close links with ECU networks.

The broad aim of the Campaign is to promote and secure good quality early years provision for all children. Its objectives include building and establishing a broad and authoritative coalition on early years under the campaign umbrella; evidencing and promoting good practice and good experiences in early years; improving public understanding of how early years settings and the Early Years Foundation Stage quality framework support and promote equality and children's learning and development through play and making early years provision an election issue and gain commitments from all political parties to good quality early years provision and the EYFS principles.

In relation to the latter, we are pleased to report on David Willets' response to a question from us at the recent Daycare Trust Annual Conference, in support of the EYFS (see <http://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/news/login/969116/>).

The background to the Campaign is that there is a lot of concern within the early years sector about the future of early years provision in the present economic and political climate. There is also a lot of consensus within the sector about the key requirements for good quality early learning and education and the need to build on what has already been achieved over the last 12 years. The campaign is being delivered by the Early Childhood Unit at NCB and supported by the Early Childhood Forum.

The campaign will use a two-pronged approach to galvanise a supportive coalition and active campaigners for the early years, to promote the early years quality framework publicly and to call for continuing investment. The methodology is based on an understanding of the early years professional sector, the needs of children and families and the ways in which traditional and new social media can influence public perceptions and drive political agendas and priorities. We will utilise the range of ECU networks and encourage members to mobilise support from their own membership networks to build a broad coalition.

Contact: Patricia Durr[LINK TO EMAIL ADD - padurr@ncb.org.uk], Campaign Manager, 07876762245.

4. Conferences and Training

4a. Listening as a way of life - Introduction

3 December 2009, Manchester

Overall aim

The aim of this course is to gain an understanding of how important it is to listen to young children and involve them in decisions that affect them.

Intended learning outcomes

By the end of this course participants will:

- understand the benefits of listening for children, practitioners, parents and early years services
- identify challenges to listening and ways of overcoming these
- explore the different 'languages' through which children communicate and ways in which they can help children to express their ideas, feelings and preferences
- reflect on their current practice and plan how to develop children's involvement in the design, development and delivery of early years services

Who should attend?

This training is specifically geared towards early years practitioners working with birth to 5s. It is appropriate for professionals working with young children in nurseries, in local authority children's centres or as childminders.

4b. NQIN Professional Development programme

NQIN has developed an innovative professional development programme to support quality improvement managers and officers at different stages of their careers.

Individuals are welcome to join courses running in London and the regions. These courses can also be rolled out in-house to local authorities and government offices.

The programme includes training on:

- *Making a difference: measuring outcomes* (one-day course for managers/team leaders).
 - Leeds 19 January - <http://mo3.eventbrite.com/>
- *Policy, evidence and practice programme* - this will be a 2 x 2 day residential course starting Spring 2010. Contact Heather Ransom[LINK EMAIL ADD] in the ECU (020 7843 6078) to receive details when available.

- *Developing mentoring practice in early years and playwork* (one-day course for managers, local authority officers and early years professionals including childminders).
 - Bristol 9 February - <http://meys8.eventbrite.com/>
 - London 19 March - <http://meys9.eventbrite.com/>
- *Developing assessor practice in early years and playwork* (one-day course for managers, local authority officers and early years professionals)
 - Leeds 11 February - <http://aey02.eventbrite.com/>

Please contact Heather Ransom[LINK EMAIL ADD] in the ECU (020 7843 6078) if you would like to discuss your training needs.

4d. Mummy's Black, Daddy's Yellow and I'm Orange: talking with young children about racial identity.

24 February 2010, London

This newly developed course aims to give practitioners confidence and the tools for talking with young children about racial identity.

Intended learning outcomes

By the end of this course participants will:

- Understand how prejudice and racism impact on young children within and beyond settings
- Improve practitioners' confidence in discussing racial identity, skin colour and racism with children, parents and carers and each other
- Consider specific issues for multi-ethnic and multi-heritage families

Who should attend?

This level 1 course is targeted at practitioners working directly with children and their families. The course is aimed at those working in primary education settings. It is open to practitioners working in both multi-racial/multi-ethnic and predominantly white communities.

4e. PEAL training for practitioners

9 March 2010, Nottingham

PEAL inspires and supports early years practitioners to develop the involvement of parents in their children's early learning and development, both at home and in settings.

PEAL training supports all early years settings to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and Children's Centre Practice Guidance to work in partnership with parents.

Participants can seek accreditation, at level 3, through City and Guilds, upon submission of a portfolio.

Come on the training to:

- gain further knowledge on the difference parents make when involved in their children's learning and development
- increase your understanding of the key role you play in supporting learning partnerships with parents
- learn from and develop activities to support your work with parents

A free resource pack will be available, including pre-course activities.

4f. Listening as a way of life - Introduction

3 December 2009, Manchester

Overall aim

The aim of this course is to gain an understanding of how important it is to listen to young children and involve them in decisions that affect them.

Intended learning outcomes

By the end of this course participants will:

- understand the benefits of listening for children, practitioners, parents and early years services
- identify challenges to listening and ways of overcoming these
- explore the different 'languages' through which children communicate and ways in which they can help children to express their ideas, feelings and preferences
- reflect on their current practice and plan how to develop children's involvement in the design, development and delivery of early years services

Who should attend?

This training is specifically geared towards early years practitioners working with birth to 5s. It is appropriate for professionals working with young children in nurseries, in local authority children's centres or as childminders.

4g. Developing Mentoring Practice in Early Years and Playwork

19 March 2010, London

This 6 hour course on the development of mentoring skills is relevant to anyone whose role encompasses mentoring whether formally or informally. Mentoring skills have become a key tool for managers and local authority officers who aim to support early years and play settings to improve their practice through reflection, learning and

action. Mentoring is now an aspect of support for those undertaking the Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) or National Professional Qualification in Centre Leadership (NPQICL) and National Professional Qualification in Headship (NPQH). There are also an increasing number of university diploma courses considering mentoring theory.

Who should attend?

This training is specifically geared towards those working in the Early Years and Play sector. It is relevant to local authority staff working within children's services and playwork, and is also of interest to voluntary sector staff.

4h. Looked After Children

Theme: Looked after children

As a contribution to the learning and development of practitioners working with children in care, the National Children's Bureau has been granted funding by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to run regional based events for practitioners working with looked after children over the next three years.

Cambridge: 1 December 2009, Nottingham: 19 January 2010, Leeds: 27 January 2010

For further information, see

http://ncb.org.uk/resources/conferences_and_events.aspx

4i. NCB Regional Membership Events

Themes: Early years, education, health and Children and young people at risk

A series of regional seminars to give members a unique chance to meet, network and exchange ideas with other NCB members. NCB experts will address a range of issues and will ensure a focussed discussion. Local Government Office representatives will introduce a local focus on the most important subjects on the national and regional agenda and they will be available for question and answer sessions. Discussions arising from the events can be continued online at the new NCB discussion forum.

For more information or to book please click a link below:

Nottingham: 28 January 2010, Liverpool: 11 February 2010, Newcastle: 3 March 2010

For further information, see

http://ncb.org.uk/resources/conferences_and_events.aspx

4j. NQIN Conference 2010

The next NQIN (National Quality Improvement Network) annual conference will take place in early June 2010. Initial details including a date and venue will follow shortly.

4k. News form the NCB Training Unit

The NCB Training Unit is able to offer a number of courses, UK wide. For further information, please see the attached document [LINK TO PDF].

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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