



PEAL e-Bulletin - March 2008

Welcome to the third issue of the quarterly PEAL e-bulletin.

We would like to thank everyone who supported the project during this phase and who contributed to this e-bulletin.

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1. PEAL News

1.1. PEAL funds practice development

All practitioners who attended a PEAL training event in the first year of delivery (06-07) have recently been invited to apply for funding to develop a project to enhance parental confidence and involvement in children's development and learning. The

response was very positive, with many excellent applications. We had some difficult decisions to make, but twenty-five children's centres have now been selected and will receive funding to support their practice. They have also been offered some one-to-one contact time with a PEAL trainer, to bring elements of PEAL directly to their setting. Each centre will submit a short summary of their project, to share with others and these will be posted on the website in March, as additional practice examples. The projects include developing gardens with families; encouraging shared observations at home and in settings using digital cameras and camcorders; extending home visits; developing play bags and story sacks with parents for home use; art and music projects; and many more.

1.2. PEAL forum goes live

The PEAL forum for practitioners on the web has now been launched. This is an exciting development for all those who have been on the training, and for anyone with an interest in the subject of parental involvement in learning. Please visit go to the forum section of the website and take a couple of minutes to register. Then you can begin sharing practice and experience.

1.3. PEAL accreditation

PEAL accreditation has been very well received. Almost all participants are now expressing initial interest in gaining the recognised City & Guilds **Working with Parents** qualification. Participants in the PEAL training who would like more information on accreditation are invited to visit the accreditation section.

1.4. National profile of PEAL

The PEAL team are receiving requests to speak at national conferences. Dr Kim Bevan spoke about parents and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at the *Nursery World* Conference held recently in Birmingham, and as a result PEAL has been requested to provide a speaker for their next conference on 19 June in Manchester. Also, Helen Wheeler and Joyce Connor spoke at the *Education Show* in Birmingham on 28 February and PEAL took part in the *Sure Start Children Centre's Leaders Exhibition* in London on 5 March. The team is frequently asked for speakers on how PEAL enables early years settings to meet parental involvement requirements under the EYFS. Members of the PEAL team will be speaking about this topic at future conferences, including the Extended Schools Conference in London on 31 March and the EYFS Conference in London on 30 April.

1.5. Future of PEAL

The PEAL team is pleased to announce that PEAL training will continue to be available through the Early Childhood Unit of the National Children's Bureau after March 2008. We are now able to take bookings for events from April 2008, bringing PEAL to local venues. PEAL training supports settings to meet the requirements of the Early Years

Foundation Stage and Children's Centre Practice Guidance to work in partnership with parents to enhance children's learning and development. Participants complete a day's preparation activities in their own settings and then attend a facilitated training day that explores the underpinning research; examines the nature of relationships with parents; considers how to overcome barriers to involvement and highlights examples of successful practice.

All participants receive free resources including a DVD. Participants can seek accreditation at level 3, through City and Guilds, upon submission of a portfolio. It is also possible to select an option for training and consultancy over two days. This may be useful to organisations and local authorities who wish to explore how PEAL will help to meet requirements in their own area, and to train others to disseminate PEAL across a range of settings and services.

For more information, to discuss requirements and possible dates for a local PEAL event in 2008, please contact Joyce Connor on 020 7843 6102.

2. SCORGS News

2.1. *Barnardos - Babyfather Initiative*

Babyfather gains good practice recognition from DCSF

Babyfather has had its African Caribbean Fatherhood Programme included in a DCSF report as an example of good practice. 'Engaging Effectively with Black and Minority Ethnic Parents in Children's and Parental Services' specifically points out that it included the African Caribbean Fatherhood Programme, 'for the good practice it has undertaken in engaging with minority ethnic parents.'

Babyfather is an initiative working primarily with African Caribbean fathers and those who work to support them. The initiative - comprising of the Babyfather Alliance and Barnardo's - supplies training and consultancy directly to fathers and to professionals who work with the African Caribbean community.

The DCSF report is available to download from
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR013.pdf>

For more information on Barnardos babyfather, please visit
<http://www.barnardos.org.uk/babyfather>

2.2. *Parents As First Teachers*

How quickly it's gone! It seemed that no sooner had we trained the ELLP1 teams with whom we were partnered and sent them on their way to deliver the "Born to Learn"

parent support programme than it was time to attend their farewell conferences and hear their tales of achievement tinged with regret. Similarly, the Reflective Supervision courses, delivered as part of ELPP3, having got off to a slow start, gained momentum as the months went on and finished in a headlong rush to the finish. Now there is a need to draw breath and remind ourselves of what we do and what we stand for.

Parents As First Teachers trains professionals to work on a one to one basis with parents and their children, pre-birth to 3 years, using the Parents as Teachers “Born to Learn” programme, based on the most up to date child development and neuroscience research and delivered in the home or other appropriate setting. A key feature of Parents as First Teachers is that it is the parent, not the project worker, who works with his or her child to achieve the benefits of the programme. It uses a strengths model, recognising that all parents have strengths and that the parent is the child’s first and most influential teacher.

Work with young families is demanding, costly of effort and can be very draining. Parents As First Teachers believes that the quality of supervision given to the workers is key to the effectiveness of their outreach to the families they serve. Therefore, in addition to the “Born to Learn” training, PAFT UK offers courses in relationship-based reflective supervision for supervisors supporting people who work with parents.

Parents As First Teachers UK has relished its involvement with the Early Learning Partnership Project, gaining many new insights, participating usefully in the Accreditation process and experiencing the joy of training many highly experienced and keenly motivated family workers from Health Visitors to Fathers’ Workers, from Homestart staff to Midwives, from Children’s Centre Outreach Workers to Social Workers. It has been a most stimulating experience!

For more information on Parents As First Teachers, please visit <http://www.parentsasfirstteachers.org.uk/> or call Pam Holtom on 01844 345847.

3. Conferences

3.1. *ELPP conference*

A conference will be held on June 25 2008 in London where the results of a full evaluation of the ELPP strand 1 (Demonstration Projects) will be revealed. This event is highly recommended for local authority Early Years Leads, National Strategies Foundation Advisers, commissioners of parenting and children’s services, Directors of Children’s Services, Children’s Services Advisers, Government Office Parenting Leads, family learning leads and those in the voluntary sector who are involved with this area of work.

For more information contact the NCB Conferences Department on 020 7843 6041.

3.2. Early Childhood Unit's biennial national residential conference

The Early Childhood Unit's biennial national residential conference will take place on 19 and 20 June 2008 at Nottingham University. This very popular conference has been taking place in Nottingham for the past 22 years. It is well known in the sector for the quality of discussions and speakers, and for the fun and networking to be had (not least at the gala dinner and disco)!

In 2008 the theme of the conference will be 'Listening to young children... and those who care for them.' With input from the NCB's government-funded Young Children's Voices Network and from practitioners and researchers who are experienced in participation, the conference will directly address the new duties in the Childcare Act 2006 to take account of the views of young children and their families in the development of policy.

For more information contact Jayne Garner on 020 7843 6064 or email jgarner@ncb.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CONFERENCE HAS NOW BEEN CANCELLED

3.3. National Quality Improvement Network's conference "Fitting the quality jigsaw together"

The National Quality Improvement Network's conference "Fitting the quality jigsaw together", will be taking place at Manchester's MacDonalD Hotel on 30 April 2008.

"Fitting the quality jigsaw together", NQIN's second national conference, will bring together managers, practitioners and policy makers from across the early years sector to consider current policy and practice developments, and the future of quality improvement within the children's sector.

Keynote speakers will include Michael Hart, Ofsted's Children's Director and Helen Moylett, Senior Regional Advisor from the Primary National Strategy.

For more information or to book your place, please contact NCB's Conference Department on 020 7842 6441 or e-mail esmith@ncb.org.uk

3.4. Early Years Foundation Stage: Effective Preparation & Implementation Re-Run

Due to the overwhelming popularity of February's conference in Birmingham, Nursery World are re-running the day, to make sure all early years settings are well prepared

for the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This one-day conference will be held in London.

Early Years Foundation Stage: Effective Preparation & Implementation Re-Run in London takes place on 30 April.

For more information visit:

<http://www.haymarketevents.com/conferences/?fuseaction=eventIntro&eventID=3706>

3.5. *Extended Schools Conference*

Want to have your say on extended schools? How about taking the chance to question **Beverley Hughes MP** on the future of the programme, get involved in **interactive discussion groups** with your peers and interact with a **multi-agency panel?**

With representatives from six local authorities; the police; the NHS; and charities, *Children & Young People Now* are delighted to present their fourth annual conference on this challenging topic. It will take place on the 31 March in London.

For more information visit:

<http://www.haymarketevents.com/conferences/?fuseaction=eventIntro&eventID=3451+&aid=+COR3+&cid=+1708708+BTN>

Please direct any comments or queries to:

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