



PEAL e-bulletin - September 2010

1. PEAL News:

- 1a. Special Offers on PEAL Resources
- 1b. Changes to the PEAL team
- 1c. PEAL Training Opportunities

2. PEAL Developments

- 2a. Coming soon - Sharing PEAL with parents
- 2b. How has PEAL helped you develop your practice?

3. Early Childhood Unit news

- 3a. Success for REAL
- 3b. New Practice Development opportunity for Early Years settings
- 3c. C4EO Early Years Theme

4. Training

- 4a. Developing Mentoring Practice in Early Years and Playwork
- 4b. Developing Assessor Practice in Early Years and Playwork
- 4c. Parents Involved in their Children's Learning (PICL)
- 4d. Growing Together Group - more than a 'stay and play'
- 4e. PEEP for Practitioner two-day training
- 4f. Born to Learn(R) training - Parents as First Teachers

5. Conferences

- 5a. PAFT National Network Day
- 5b. CWDC: Child poverty: everybody's business
- 5c. National Literacy Trust: Smile, Talk and Listen
- 5d. Engaging Fathers as Partners – Fatherhood Institute
- 5e. Parenting UK 15th Anniversary Annual Conference

1. PEAL News

1a. Special Offers on PEAL Resources

For a limited time only, we are able to offer a 25% discount on PEAL books ordered when you book training and practice development. *Parents Early Years and Learning: Parents as Partners in the Early Years Foundation Stage* by Joyce Connor and Helen Wheeler includes chapters on *Why work with parents? Barriers to parental involvement, Developing respectful relationships, Involving parents at the heart of practice, and Learning from the PEAL project*. The book will assist practitioners to examine practice and to build parents' confidence as their children's first and most enduring educators.

1b. Changes to the PEAL team

After 5 years, Heather Goodwin, PEAL's Practice Development Admin Coordinator, left the Early Childhood Unit on 3 September 2010. She has taken up a position as Manager of a disability cycling charity. Heather enjoyed her time with ECU and would like to thank everybody she worked with during her time with PEAL for making it such an enjoyable experience. Priya Jugnauth will be coordinating ECU practice development – including PEAL – for the foreseeable future, and can be contacted at pjugnauth@ncb.org.uk

1c. 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 aims to meet the needs of those who work with parents 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. Coming soon - Sharing PEAL with parents

Sharing PEAL with parents is a new PEAL resource to support practitioners who wish to begin conversations with small groups of parents about how important they are in their children's early learning and development. It provides three outline plans for facilitated group sessions – to build parents' confidence and awareness and to encourage regular sharing of observations and information between parents and practitioners. The material has now been successfully piloted and will be available very soon...

Further details will appear on the [PEAL website](#) shortly.

2b. How has PEAL helped you develop 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 email [Helen Wheeler](#) or call 020 7843 6101.

3. Early Childhood Unit News

3a. Success for REAL

The Early Childhood Unit has completed a very successful first year of the Making it REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) project – working

with Cathy Nutbrown at the University of Sheffield. There has been a strong and positive impact on children's language, literacy and social development and on parents' knowledge and confidence in helping their children learn. More information on the first year of the project can be found on the [PEAL website](#) now.

3b. New Practice Development opportunity for Early Years settings

Listening as a way of life courses are designed for early years practitioners and aim to inspire and enable staff to listen to young children and involve them in decisions which affect their lives, through every day practice. A one day course for children's centres, nurseries and pre-schools is now available, providing training to enhance existing practice and to plan next steps forward for individual settings. For further information on this course and a range of practice development options including the 'Mosaic approach' please email [Lucy Williams](#). Discounted resources are also available to accompany these courses until March 2011. The courses have been developed as part of the Young Children's Voices Network project (YCVN) based in the Early Childhood Unit at NCB. Visit www.ncb.org.uk/ycvn

3c. C4EO Early Years Theme

Early Years was the first theme of the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO). C4EO gathers together excellence in local practice, high quality research, and data about 'what works' - creating a single comprehensive centre of evidence. You can find out more about C4EO's work in Early Years on the [theme webpages](#).

1. Training

4a. Developing Mentoring Practice in Early Years and Playwork

14 October 2010 - Birmingham

10 February 2010 - Manchester

This course aims to raise the quality of mentoring in the early years and play sector by increasing knowledge of the theory that underpins mentoring and developing the skills involved. It will provide essential guidance as mentoring skills 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.

Cost: From £241.50

Contact NCB: 020 7843 6084 training@ncb.org.uk

4b. Developing Assessor Practice in Early Years and Playwork

10 November 2010 - Manchester

This course on the development of assessing skills is relevant to anyone working in early years and play settings, as well as Local Authority managers and officers. Assessor skills are essential for managers and local authority officers who aim to support early years and play settings to improve their practice through reflection, learning and action.

Cost: from £241.50

Contact NCB: 020 7843 6084 training@ncb.org.uk

4c. Parents Involved in their Children's Learning (PICL)

Various dates October 2010-March 2011

Pen Green Research Base, Corby

A 3-day programme designed to help workers develop successful and sustainable ways of engaging parents in their children's learning and development through respectful and responsive relationships. Participants are provided with a training pack and DVD materials.

Cost: £1,350 for two people (£675 each)

Contact: Nicky Millard 01536 443435 nmillard@northamptonshire.gov.uk

4d. Growing Together Group - more than a 'stay and play'

4th & 5th November 2010 with the 3rd day TBC

20th & 21st January 2011 with the 3rd day TBC

Pen Green Research Base, Corby

'Growing Together' groups facilitate an approach to engage parents and children under 3. The programme involves 2 days training at Pen Green, working with 1 family on a child study back in your setting, and a third day's training after 3 months. Participants are provided with a training pack and dvd materials.

Cost: £1,350 for two people (£675 each)

Contact: Nicky Millard 01536 443435 nmillard@northamptonshire.gov.uk

4e. PEEP for Practitioner two-day training

Various dates October-November 2010

This course explores PEEP principles, materials and practices. Throughout the 2 days we will support you in looking at ways in which PEEP can be used in *your* work with families. A comprehensive practitioner's handbook accompanies the course.

Cost: £330

Contact: jayne.lacny@peep.org.uk if you wish to reserve a place or get more details. Other courses are also available from PEEP.

4f. Born to Learn(R) training - Parents as First Teachers

Week commencing 18 October - Saunderton, Buckinghamshire

Born to Learn Training, Pre-natal to Three Years is a comprehensive five day training with a follow-up day after several months. Born to Learn courses are developed from the most up to date child development and neuroscience research.

Contact: info@parentsasfirstteachers.org.uk

4. Conferences

5a. PAFT (Parents as First Teachers) National Network Day: "With a little help from our friends"

8 October - High Wycombe

Contact: info@parentsasfirstteachers.org.uk

5b. CWDC: Child poverty: everybody's business

12 October 2010 - Newcastle

Cost: £45-£75 DEADLINE October 1st

Website: <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/events/show/439>

5c. National Literacy Trust: Talk to your Baby Project
Smile, Talk and Listen: doing our best for babies

18th October 2010 - Westminster

Cost: £200

Contact: shawna.spoor@literacytrust.org.uk 020 7820 6265

5d. Engaging Fathers as Partners – Delivering for families in the ‘Big Society’ Fatherhood Institute

11 November 2010 - London

Cost: £165 + VAT - £195 + VAT

Website: <http://www.fatherhoodinstitute.org/index.php?id=3&cID=1116>

5e. Parenting UK 15th Anniversary Annual Conference: Supporting Britain's Parents: the way forward for the next generation

13 December 2010 - London SW1Y 5AH

Cost: £150-215 plus VAT

Website: <http://www.parentinguk.org/15-anniversary>

We want your feedback and ideas! Please direct any comments or queries to [Daisy Hirst](#), Admin Assistant.

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