

The Shared Learning Newsletter

The Early Learning Partnership Project (ELPP)

Encouraging and supporting parents

'Evidence shows that a strong home learning environment will give a child lifelong benefits. A home which supports and encourages learning, and where parents take an active and involved role in the early learning of their children, is a home which will produce positive outcomes.'

Mary Macleod, Chief Executive, FPI

Exciting new project

ContinYou is one of the lead partners in an exciting new early years project – The Early Learning Partnership Project (ELPP).

The project will use a variety of approaches to identify and work with parents of children in children's centres and other early years settings who could be at risk of falling behind in their learning.

The aim is to encourage and support parents to become more involved in their children's learning and development.

'The first few years are crucial to a child's development. This project will bring together some of the leading organisations in this field to explore and develop new ways of helping children get the best possible start in life.'

Mary Macleod, Chief Executive, FPI

ContinYou's role

ContinYou will be responsible for managing the ELPP project in five localities – Leeds, Bradford, Telford, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. We will be working closely with two delivery partner organisations – Pen Green and Thurrock Community Mothers.

ContinYou will be supporting the development of the Share programme at the Foundation Stage – addressing the way in which family learning is introduced to families with children from the age of 1.

The focus will be on working with children's centres and early years settings to ensure that the approach is embedded in the culture and practice of the setting.

Working together

Coram Family, Home Start, NCH, Barnardos, PLA (Pre-School Learning Alliance) and FWA (Family Welfare Association) are also members of the consortium delivering the project, which is being co-ordinated by the Family and Parenting Institute (FPI).

The ELPP has been funded by the DfES, and is due to run from 2006 to 2008 in twenty localities across England.

'One of the most important things about this project is its collaborative nature. Across the country, the voluntary sector will be spearheading this project and all the organisations taking part will be bringing their unique expertise to the table.'

Mary Macleod, Chief Executive, FPI

To read more about the project and the role of the partners, visit www.continyou.org.uk/share.



Share news

Hints and tips – useful websites

Film Street – www.filmstreet.co.uk

This website supports children's literacy skills through filmmaking and is for use at home, in informal learning settings, and at school. Free downloadable activities and information sheets are available.

Parent Know-how – www.parentscentre.gov.uk

Offers a range of free booklets produced by the DfES to provide parents and carers with advice on children's learning and development, health and other parenting issues. Topics include: childcare choices; tax credits; adult learning and skills; dealing with bullying; and helping with homework and revision.

Rolls-Royce Science Prize – <http://science.rolls-royce.com>

Each year, prize money is available for science teachers and pupils in the UK and Republic of Ireland in three age categories: 3 to 11, 11 to 16 and 16 to 19. The money is available for schools to invest in science education.

There are 59 awards to be given away, from £1,000 to £15,000, and the overall winner also gets a day out with the Red Arrows. Closing date for entries is 28 February 2007.

RaW – the BBC's new literacy campaign

RaW (Reading and Writing) is the BBC's biggest ever literacy campaign – with activities on television, radio, the internet and 'on-the-ground'. It was launched in October 2005 and will run until 2008.

RaW is targeted at the 12 million UK adults with 'intermediate' reading skills and aims to reach these adults in a way that's fun and accessible. From December 2006 RaW will specifically target parents using the hook of telling stories to children.

Storytelling is a great way to reach adults with intermediate reading skills – it's fun, it builds confidence, and it avoids the stigma commonly attached to literacy activity. RaW will offer parents, carers and grandparents a variety of opportunities to develop their storytelling skills (and their reading and writing).

The 'Parents strand' is being launched with high-profile BBC television trails (promotions) over the Christmas period and early January – catching parents over the festive period when families are together. Following on from this, activity on-the-ground will run throughout January and into February.

At the centre of the 'Parents strand' will be the BBC RaW storytelling pack – a free resource with lots of visual content, activities and encouragement to help parents get more out of sharing stories with their children. The pack will be promoted

by television trails and parents can get their copy by phoning the free RaW helpline (see below).

The focus on parents and storytelling will be reflected across the campaign. The RaW website, which was re-launched in December, contains lots of new content aimed at parents. RaW centres and libraries will run a range of activities, including RaW Stories (informal workshops where adults develop their oral storytelling skills). There will also be editorial and storytelling activities across BBC local radio.

To find out more about BBC RaW and to order free materials, sign up online at www.bbc.co.uk/raw/campaign or call 020 8752 6777 and speak to the campaign team. Once signed up, you'll receive the free RaW e-newsletter and be able to order and download free RaW resources.



Take this advice

Accreditation

You may require strong medication
To help parents through Share accreditation
But here goes ...
Firstly, they'll not succeed without a well-planned lesson
So make sure you're effective at every session
Demonstrate and give guidance, till your face turns blue
You'll be a poor trainer, if you 'blag' your way through!

Qualifications

Seeking to aim for a Level 2
Is a little like doing an NVQ (an easy one!)
But those who aspire to a Level 3
It's like gaining A* at GCSE (I think!)
So, as you can see, Share trainers have a lot to do
In helping eager parents through
But a word of advice
There's endless paperwork to complete
That may fill you all with fear
So a quick degree in form-filling
Might be a good idea!

Outcome

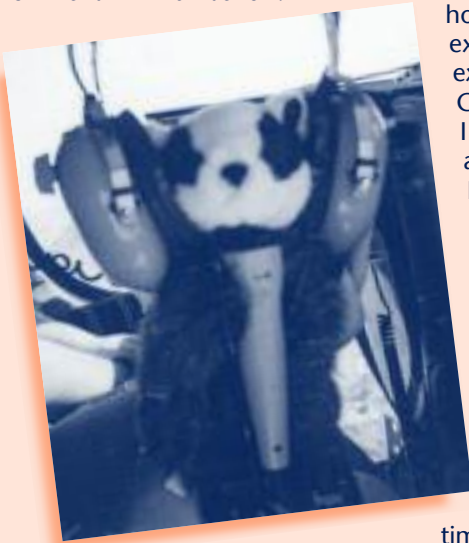
But when it's done
And parents stand proud with their certificates
All sporting a lovely big smile
You'll see (I hope) that the 'accreditation bit'
Has, in fact, been quite worthwhile.

**By Gail Sutcliffe,
Inclusion Manager at
Greengates Primary School,
Bradgate**

The diary of a travelling badger

By Angela Robson, Deaf Hill Primary School, Durham

'My name is Prince and I've had a very busy and exciting year at Deaf Hill School. I've done marvellous things and been to distant places. Kieron and Faye took me to their home. Their dad played peek-a-boo with me, and Faye took me for a walk in a little pushchair. I played with Kieron on his farm – it was fun.'



Christmas treats

'I spent Christmas and New Year with Molly and Jason. Molly got a Barbie bike, Jason a Nintendo DS, and I got a lovely new diary to take back to school.'

'On Boxing day we went to Nana Lawson's for a huge party with 21 people ... I can't remember all their names, but everyone liked me. I'm never eating turkey or chocolate again.'

'Everyone was a little sad at Molly and Jason's home as their dad was going to Iraq. He's promised me a trip to his base when he comes home so I can see the tanks. I'm so looking forward to that!'

Easter trip

'Easter ... yeah ... off to Las Vegas. One of the teachers took me on holiday. When I arrived I was too excited to sleep. We visited loads of exciting places – like the MGM Grand New York-New York Hotel ... I ate cheesecake at Caesar's Palace and a burger at the Harley Davidson Café. I watched the Bellagio fountains, went to the top of the stratosphere, and rode in a limousine.'

Flying high

'The highlight of my trip was a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon. The pilot let me have a go at flying ... I think I may be a pilot when I retire from Deaf Hill School. I found a little time to chill out and sunbathe before the long flight home to start a new term.'

New experiences

'I went home with Hannah and Charlotte for the first time as their mum has joined our group. We had lots of fun when we went to the beach looking for pebbles. I rode Charlotte's motorbike ... it went very fast but I was not scared. We also went to visit a horse called Polo. Hannah had a ride and then Charlotte took

me to gymnastics. She was really good – I had a lovely time.'

'Josh and Reece have started our school after living in Spain. Josh really loves me and always has a great big smile for me. Oh my ... their hamster got out of his cage! I was a bit scared in case he tried to eat me. Everyone was chasing him – phew, they caught him and he's back in his cage. What a visit...'

'I've been going to Neil's home for a long time now. He has a special Share box full of good things to do – every home should have a Share box.'

'Molly and Jason's dad arrived home and kept his promise of a visit to see the tanks and big trucks. What a day. I had lots of photos taken.'

'I hope other badgers have had exciting adventures like mine.'



His name's Buddy

This term's winner of the 'Name the badger' competition is **Aidan Whitfield** from Merseyside. Aidan has named the badger 'Buddy' and this is Buddy's story:

'Buddy is 5 years old and lives under the ground, where it is nice and cosy. Buddy likes to have fun

and make nice things with paper and glue, and also likes playing games that are fun too. Buddy has no brothers or sisters, but likes to have lots of fun with his pals. Buddy likes to eat carrots because they help him see in the dark, and it is dark under the ground where he lives.'

Aidan says that the Badger who attends his Share group feels 'soft and cuddly' and has a shiny nose.

Well done Aidan! A badger of your own is on its way to you.



Diary dates

Share events

Approved Trainer Training 2007

Venue: Coventry
Dates: 6–7 February; 5–6 June
16–17 October

Share Facilitator Training 2007

Stafford: January (dates tbc)
Wandsworth: 23–24 January
Kingstanding: 5–6 March

Schools of the future

Venue: Stratford-on-Avon
Dates: 27–28 March 2007
Email: chantelle.peat@continyou.org.uk

NIACE adult learners' week 2007

Dates: 19–25 May
Email: alw@niace.org.uk

What's new

Learning families – healthy communities

31 January 2007, NEC Birmingham

This one-day conference will highlight, for managers, planners and practitioners, the extent to which engaging families in learning together can be the vehicle for developing dynamic and successful learning communities. There will be a particular focus on issues to do with health and mental health, and on engaging fathers and male carers.

Speakers include: Duncan Fisher, Chief Executive Officer of Fathers Direct; Miriam Rosen HMI, Director for Education, Ofsted; and Chris Edwards, Chief Education Officer for Leeds. A number of workshops will be on offer, and a range of professionals from around the UK will showcase successful strategies for engaging parents and working collaboratively with them.

Conference fee: £250

For more information, and to request a booking form, please call Paula Woodall on 024 7658 8467 or email paula.woodall@continyou.org.uk.

It's a Man Thing!

Encouraging fathers to support their children's reading at home

ContinYou is selling the *It's a Man Thing!* pack at the cut price of £7.50 (+ 20% p&p). The pack includes two activity booklets, a diary, pen and tape.

It's a Man Thing! aims to:

- develop the skills, knowledge and values which facilitators need for working with parents, especially fathers
- raise awareness about the need for positive male role models for children
- develop communication between facilitators and fathers
- develop methods and approaches for involving fathers in family learning activities.

Call 024 7658 8467 or email paula.woodall@continyou.org.uk.

Facts and figures

- 400 Share facilitators were trained in 2006.
- Since Share began, 2,350 communities have received Share training.

Winter sale

Share discounts

- *Tutors' accreditation support pack* – provides practical resources and templates which can be adapted to suit local needs for the accreditation of Share programmes.
Was £15 – now only £11
- *Mapping booklets* – map the Share accreditation at Foundation Stage and KS1 and 2 to the adult core curriculum within numeracy and literacy.
Was £12 – now only £9

To obtain copies, please use the order form as usual.

Special offer!

To celebrate its launch, ContinYou is offering *Schools Plus to extended schools: lessons from the last five years* at a special discount.

Hot off the press, this book charts the success of extended schooling in developing schools' work with families, young people and communities.
Was £23 – now only £20 (inc p&p)

Call 024 7658 8470 or email publications.sales@continyou.org.uk to order your copy of *Schools Plus to extended schools*.

Buy now – offer ends 31 March 2007

The Shared Learning Newsletter is primarily for practitioners and parents/carers taking part in Share. It is also useful for agencies or individuals who wish to find out more about how Share works in practice. We welcome articles, examples of activities, photographs and comments for inclusion in the newsletter. It is published termly and information needs to be sent in eight weeks before the end of term. We look forward to hearing from you!

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continyou
Building learning communities

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