

# The Shared Learning Newsletter

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Some of the pupils who are acting as Share mentors

## Pupils become Share 'mentors' at KS3

Many parents are not able to come to Share sessions due to the pressure of work or other commitments, especially when their children reach Key Stage 3.

Bicester Community College, in Oxfordshire, is tackling this issue by being involved in the pilot of a new extension of Share: pupils in Year 10 are working with Year 7 pupils on Share activities in an after-school club. Sue Quainton, the school's librarian, who runs this group and is very enthusiastic says: 'Share is a good framework for these sessions and provides excellent guidelines. It is raising so many people's self-esteem and self-confidence.'

Currently, there are fifteen Year 7 pupils and five Year 10 student mentors. The Year 10 students are given diaries to record each week's events and their achievements.

Recently, the pupils have been working together and looking at maps (part of the KS3 curriculum). They have been recognising the key symbols and then putting their learning into practice by walking the streets round Bicester. Each group then made a large Monopoly game, using Bicester street names. They have created chance cards, money and so on, as can be seen in the photo, and they are looking forward to playing the game.



Making 'Monopoly' money



Thelma and her grandson

### Why do the Year 10 students enjoy it?

Kimberley Abram says that she likes working with the Year 7 pupils: 'It's interesting. You get to find out lots of information and you begin to teach them – it feels good to be teaching them.' Kay Thomas agrees and adds: 'It also helps my course – I am doing a care course and this forms part of the "work-related" learning.'

Elizabeth Sweeney also believes that her involvement is worthwhile: 'You make more friends, especially with the pupils younger than you – it's also better than being at home bored!'

These students are also hoping to gain accreditation from the Open College Network for the work they do with the Year 7 pupils, which will add to their qualifications and CVs when they leave school.

### What do the Year 7 pupils think about it?

They really enjoy the Share sessions because: 'They're fun!...' 'Brothers and sisters don't get in the way!...' 'It's different and it's relaxing'... 'It's easier to do my homework; the Year 10s are fun to be with and they help us. We know they've been through it already!'

Amongst this group is a grandmother, Thelma Moyler, who comes along so that she can help her grandson, Taylor, at home. She often works with another pupil. 'It's really brilliant,' says Thelma, 'I like being with the children – some of the things they say have me in stitches!' She also adds: 'I enjoy it more than when I went to school myself. It's so different.' However, Taylor believes that his nan just comes for the chocolate biscuits and the hot chocolate!

# Share news ...

## Share Activity days

### Sharing Share at KS1

'To us sharing Share was a great success. We were able to give some parents a helping hand in occupying their children and in getting them to spend some fun time with each other.'

At Woolston Infant School, in Southampton, the Share group has organised some very successful activity sessions at the end of each half term for parents and their Year 1 children (other family members have also taken part). Easter bonnets, Alphabet fish and Success trees have all been made; last summer, they designed Champion sandwiches and had a Share picnic at the last meeting. Everyone enjoys these extra special meetings and the children look forward to them. The Share parents also organised a night out for the adults, including the Share teacher, who says: 'I feel it is a good ending to the year. It is also indicative of how well the group has supported each other.'

### Sharing Share at KS2

'We realised that there is so much of value in the Share activities, it was a waste not to share it with parents and carers, who do not come to our group,' writes Ann Dempsey, the Share teacher from Robin Hood Junior School in Nottingham. She has sent us the following report, written by a Share parent, about an afternoon workshop organised by the Share parents for other parents of Year 3 children. The group included one dad, who was looking for ways to keep his daughters occupied without turning on the television!

'We had separate tables for literacy, numeracy, visits and crafts. On each table was a selection of work done by our children, along with the work and comments by ourselves. We also supplied photocopies of activities and ideas for parents to take with them. Leaflets giving details of half-term activities were also available, along with the scrapbooks and visit books we had

produced after our trips during last half-term.

All the Year 3 children had designed invitations for their parents, who were keen to see the work that the children had produced and were also looking for things to do during the forthcoming holiday. The fact that most were educational activities (even in hidden ways) and all had been fun to do was even better!

### Accreditation success

Half of the parents have taken OCN accreditation units and several have gone on to courses, mainly ICT based. Some parents have also become involved in the 'Friends Association' and several now help as volunteers in the classroom.

The parents feel that they are supporting the school and that it 'keeps them in touch with the school world'. One parent believes that it also 'makes them aware of the strengths and weaknesses of their children' and they all very much enjoy being part of a group.

## Congratulations to Millennium Award winners!

The Share group, PRIDE, from Earlham School, in Haringey, has been successful in obtaining a 'Parents in the Community' Millennium Award, which is administered by CEDC. The group joined two other award recipients at the recent celebration event held at the Garry Weston Library, Southwark Cathedral.



Mums from the PRIDE Share group

Sharon Nacmias, who runs the Share group, spoke about the difficulties encountered by the children in gaining

access to education in a school where forty different languages are spoken – 77% of pupils speak English as an additional language, with a significant number coming from refugee and asylum-seeking families. As Sharon said: 'We can't do it alone – we have to work with parents and families.' This has resulted in the parents' group PRIDE being formed, which has since evolved into a Share group, as there is accreditation attached; Sharon feels that this is most important for the parents, as it boosts their confidence and helps them to move forward.

The group is now producing booklets, games and Storysacks for other parents in order to help boost attainment. Bilingual parents are translating these into Turkish and Somali.



Mums from the PRIDE Share group

# from around the country

## Spotlight on Barrow EAZ



The Share teachers with the 'street' made by parents and children from Barrow

At Barrow-in-Furness, five schools are taking part in Share. Twelve parents at St George's C of E Primary School, together with twenty children, have been involved in making a street of houses, which has included Design Technology, Art and Maths skills, as well as the development of speaking and listening

skills. Parents have enjoyed helping to extend their children's vocabulary and were very impressed with their children's observations, including observations of drainpipes and satellite dishes. The houses have been included in an EAZ display and are currently being used for a Harry Potter scene.



More handiwork from Barrow

Inspired by this activity, parents are now contemplating making a zoo and helping their children to research and write about the different animals. Support for the parents, especially in the areas of accreditation and progression, is being provided by Jane Knibbs, a development worker from the WEA.

## Recommending Share to all parents

Sue Rogers, from Leicester College, sent us this letter from Asha Sodha, a parent at Sandfield Close Primary School, in Leicester:

'As a mum of eight children, I'm always trying to find ways of helping my children with their education at all the Key Stages (especially with the radical changes), so it was great to be part of a Share group, where many simple ideas were shared

by my Share tutor. Even the idea of "shopping" was found to be educational. We shared many ideas as a group. I would recommend that all parents should take part in the Share group because ways of teaching have changed due to the government wanting children to reach certain targets. Through Share the tutor can keep us up to date with these changes.

Our Share tutor, Shabnam, was great and she put in a lot of effort into motivating and inspiring us to achieve the accreditation we wanted. She made every parent feel important in the group. She helped us hugely to help our children. We felt we were doing a good job with our children. I have gained a lot. Thanks to all.'

## New 'beetle' game

A new version of the 'beetle' game was invented by Share parents at Priory Grove Infant School, when they used a die to see who was the fastest to put a Father Christmas back together. 'Snowman' Storysacks were also created.

Parents of Year 2 children have been concentrating on improving their children's language and investigative skills through science activities. Other

activities have included: making a birdfeeder, and puppets and games, such as dominoes.

Numeracy has been the main focus for activities at Greengate Infant School. Year 1 parents have been engaging in activities involving 'Shapes', writing numbers and looking at 'Maths around you'.

## KS2 in Barrow

Parents of Year 4 children at Abbotsmead Junior School enjoyed their Share modelling sessions and making Christmas pop-up books. They have also created some imaginative poems from the activity 'In my pocket I have...' – I wonder who they are describing!



A parent from Abbotsmead with some of the Christmas pop-up books

# Ann's gone and Anne's here!

We are sorry to announce that Ann Brian, our 'Share 40' Regional Development Officer in the North, has left to take up a post within Arts Education in Halton. We would like to thank her for all her hard work in developing and supporting Share in the LEAs in the North West and North East. We wish her luck in her new job!

## Welcome to Anne Hydon



Anne Hydon with her Share group at Forest Lodge Primary School

CEDC has recently appointed Anne Hydon as the new Regional 'Share 40' Development Officer, who will be responsible for the East Midlands, South Yorkshire and the North-East. Julie Higson will now be responsible for the North West, West Yorkshire and the West Midlands.

Anne introduces herself:

'I have a passion for lifelong learning and have been involved in the delivery of adult education and training and in primary education.

'I have worked as a primary teacher for the last three years at Forest Lodge Primary School in Leicester, during which time I have been involved in running a range of successful parental involvement projects, including Share. I have been extremely fortunate to see from first-hand experience the valuable contribution that the Share project can make to enabling parents and carers to become effective partners in their children's learning and to raising children's educational attainment.

'I am very enthusiastic about the Share project and the opportunities it presents for parents, children and schools and I look forward to working with you in making family learning an exciting reality.

'I am currently based at the CEDC offices in Coventry, but hope to have a base in Leicester very soon.'

## Foundation Stage update

The Share training for teachers has taken place and the pilot scheme started at the end of September. The materials for parents are currently being produced and consist of:

- a bag
- a memo pad
- a pen
- stickers
- a ring-binder
- two sets of activities
- a CD of nursery rhymes
- a nursery rhyme booklet.



## New accreditation units

CEDC is writing four new Share accreditation units. These are:

- Play plus
- Let's get moving
- Let's find out
- Using everyday experiences.

These units will be available from October 2002 and will form part of the 'Share at the Foundation Stage' pilot.

As with the other twelve Share units, these units will be available at all levels: Entry, One, Two and Three, and can be used by parents of children in all the Key Stages.

## DIARY DATES

### Extended schools

Offering a full service to learners and their families

A CEDC/SHA/ConfEd conference

Date: Thursday, 5 December 2002

Venue: Jury Hotel, London (opposite the British Museum)

Conference fee: £195 + VAT

### Approved Trainer Course

Venue: Technocentre, Coventry

Dates: Monday/Tuesday, 13/14 January 2003

### LEA/EAZ Network meeting

Venue: Charterhouse, Coventry

Date: Thursday, 16 January 2003

### Annual Share Conference

Venue: NEC, Birmingham

Date: Wednesday, 12 March 2003

The *Shared Learning Newsletter* is primarily for teachers and parents 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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