

The Shared Learning Newsletter

Sharing information about Share



Did you know ...?

- Since 1996, staff in 2,150 settings have received Share training.
- There are 203 Approved Share Trainers based throughout the UK and overseas.
- Share training has taken place in 101 UK local authorities – 92 in England, 1 in Northern Ireland, 2 in Scotland and 6 in Wales.
- Share training has been provided in Ministry of Defence (MOD) settings in Germany, Cyprus, Canada and Italy.
- Since January 2005, over 550 people have received Share training.

Feedback received from 108 questionnaires returned to ContinYou in the 2005 Share survey was overwhelmingly positive – ‘... an excellent inclusive programme’, ‘Very useful’, ‘A great experience’, ‘Very successful programme’, ‘... a fantastic programme’, ‘... a wonderful course’ are just a few of the many positive comments received.

According to the survey, Share was most commonly, but not exclusively, used with parents of nursery and primary-aged children. Most Share groups ran throughout the year, on a weekly basis. Mothers were the most likely family members to attend Share sessions, although there was a wide range of other attendees (aunts, grandparents, dads, and so on).

Participants had a range of needs, for instance, basic skills, children with special educational needs, and families living on minimal/insecure income. A significant number of participants were non-British and used English as an additional language – with mother-tongue languages ranging from French to Finnish, Arabic to Kurdish, and Fijian to Punjabi. One participant said: ‘Working with Fijian parents has been enlightening for [the] whole group and [has helped] integration of ethnic groups at school.’

Settings used different methods to recruit new Share members – for example, through coffee mornings,

posters, letters to parents/carers, displays of work, word of mouth and ‘taster’ sessions. Some settings used a combination of recruitment methods – for instance: ‘A letter is sent out to every parent in Year 1. Also, details of successful Share courses are written up in the newsletter at school ... Word of mouth in the playground.’

The majority of Share programmes were funded through the school or LEA, with several settings receiving family learning, extended schools or excellence centre funding. Other Share programmes, however, did not receive any funding at all, and had to find different ways of raising money and of gaining support – for instance:

- ‘I produced a healthy recipe book to sell in school, which gave funds to set up Share.’
- ‘Through a tuck shop in school.’
- ‘Fundraising events ... jumble sale and international food evening.’
- ‘Sure Start has provided a room and two community family workers to provide support.’

To read more about the 2005 Share survey – and to keep up-to-date with Share developments – visit the Share website at www.shareuk.org.uk .

Share accreditation 2005

Below is a summary of accreditation achieved for the Share programme during 2005. As the table shows, 364 people have been accredited through Share and, in total, over 550 people have received Share training during 2005.

Level of accreditation	Entry		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Tutor units	
	L	C	L	C	L	C	L	C	L	C
Provider										
Bolton	–	–	28	168	28	168	–	–	–	–
Coventry	7	42	16	96	12	72	7	42	–	–
Cumbria	–	–	–	–	2	12	1	6	–	–
Durham	–	–	8	48	–	–	–	–	–	–
Isle of Wight	–	–	85	510	22	132	1	6	1	6
Kent	–	–	3	15	5	30	–	–	–	–
Kirklees	–	–	1	6	5	30	–	–	–	–
Leicester	–	–	5	30	–	–	–	–	–	–
North East	1	6	15	90	2	12	–	–	–	–
Northumberland	–	–	17	102	1	6	–	–	–	–
North Yorkshire	1	6	8	48	24	114	2	12	–	–
Shropshire	–	–	–	–	6	36	–	–	–	–
Wakefield	–	–	1	6	10	60	–	–	–	–

Share Awards – recognising and celebrating achievement

- Has your Share tutor gone that extra mile for your group?
- Has the planning and delivery of Share in your local authority been outstanding?
- Is there someone in your Share group who has shown extraordinary commitment and dedication?

Share celebrates the outstanding achievements of parents, learners, settings, authorities, and tutors involved in Share through its annual Share award scheme. If you are a member of Share, you can make a nomination for one or more of the following categories:

- Share Tutor (Group Leader)
- Share Organisation
- Share Local Authority
- Share Family
- Share Adult Learner.

To make a nomination, you can either:

- visit the Share website at www.shareuk.org.uk/shareawards, where you will be able to

complete the nomination form online, or download the form in Word and return it to Paula Woodall at: Share Awards 2006, ContinYou, Unit C1, Grovelands Court, Grovelands Estate, Longford Road, Exhall, Coventry CV7 9NE
Fax: 024 7658 8441; Email: share@continyou.org.uk

- fax, post or email the information requested below to Paula.

The deadline for receipt of nominations for the next Share awards is **Friday, 27 October 2006**.

Each nominee will receive a certificate of achievement. The Share award winners are presented with their framed certificate at ContinYou's annual family learning conference, along with a cheque for £500, which may be exchanged for resources, equipment or training.

Making a nomination

Please make sure you provide the following information for each nomination:

- your name, telephone number, email and local authority
- the name, address and telephone number of the person being nominated (please also state how long they have been involved with Share).

Share award categories

Share Tutor

- 1 How does the tutor encourage people to become involved in the Share programme?
- 2 Describe how the tutor has supported you and others in the Share sessions.
- 3 Through the Share programme, what difference has the tutor made to the setting and everybody involved with the Share programme?

Please provide a supporting statement from the nominee, stating how they have benefited, as a facilitator, from being involved with Share, and adding any future plans they have for Share.

Share Organisation

- 1 Describe how Share is promoted and delivered in this setting.
- 2 What benefits have been gained from being involved in Share, for example:
 - for the organisation?
 - for staff?
 - for families?
- 3 What are the future plans for Share in this setting?

Please provide a supporting statement from a Share family learner.

Share Local Authority

- 1 Describe how Share is promoted and supported by the local authority (LA). You may wish to include information about accreditation, support networks, funding, other partners, and so on.
- 2 Give examples of best innovative practice.
- 3 How is your best practice disseminated?
- 4 What are the future plans for Share in your LA?

Please provide a supporting statement from a Share setting.

Share Family

Please give the names and ages of the children involved.

- 1 Describe what activities, if any, your family participated in before becoming involved in Share.
- 2 What benefits have you gained from working together in Share:
 - as a family?
 - individually?
 - in your relationship with the school/setting?

- 3 How has your involvement in Share changed your plans for your future learning?

Please provide a supporting statement from your Share tutor.

Share Adult Learner

- 1 How has your involvement in Share changed your attitude to, or views on, your own learning?
- 2 What skills have you gained through doing Share with your child?
- 3 Have you plans to do any more learning in the future?

Please provide a supporting statement from your Share tutor.

Notes for entry

- 1 Any nominee must have been taking part in Share for at least six months.
- 2 ContinYou can accept no responsibility for names that are spelled incorrectly. Please make sure you spell names correctly, as the name you give will appear on the certificate.
- 3 A national panel will select a winner from each category to receive an award. The successful winners for 2006 will be invited to the national family learning conference on 31 January 2007, where they will receive a framed certificate and a voucher to the value of £500, which may be exchanged for resources, equipment or training.
- 4 The judges' decision is final.
- 5 If you have any questions, please telephone Paula Woodall on 024 7658 8440.

Winners of the 2005 Share Awards

The Share Awards panel team, which consisted of representatives from ContinYou, Campaign for Learning, Open College Network, and Laings (who have kindly agreed to fund the 2005 Share Awards), met on Thursday, 17 November 2005 to consider the nominations and selected the following winners:

- Share Adult Learner 2005: Elaine Robertson, Blackburn
- Share Adult Learner 2005: Adenike Ade-Onojobi, Kensington and Chelsea
- Share Family 2005: Evans Family, Coventry
- Share LA/EAZ 2005: Education Leeds
- Share Organisation 2005: St Michael with St John CEP School, Blackburn
- Share Tutor 2005: Ruth James-Souch, Haringey

See the next issue for more details about the 2005 Share Award winners.

Week 53

A week dedicated to celebrating study support/out-of-school-hours learning (oshl)

Week 53 (27 February to 3 March 2006) is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and highlight the outstanding work that schools and communities across the UK do in bringing extra learning opportunities outside curriculum hours to children and young people.

ContinYou invites you to join us in this annual week-long celebration of 'extra time' activities.



What is extra time?

Extra time describes ContinYou's approach to study support/oshl activities. It is about putting extra learning opportunities within the reach of every child and young person in the UK – giving them that extra time and space they need for more relaxed informal learning outside curriculum hours.

What is Week 53?

Week 53 is one week in each year when you are invited to show off the wide variety of extra informal learning activities that your young people voluntarily undertake – their extra time activities.

We have calculated that the total number of hours spent by young people participating in extra time activities equates to at least one extra week in a calendar year – hence the name 'Week 53'.

For more information about Week 53, and to download the *Week 53 Essential Guide* – offering suggestions and tips to help you join in the celebrations and get publicity for what you do – visit www.continyou.org.uk/week53.

Hints and tips – useful websites

Spark Island Online –
www.sparkisland.com

This web-based learning service is for children aged 3 to 11, and their teachers and parents. It has been designed to help children practise and develop core skills in a highly interactive and enjoyable way. The website focuses on English, maths, science and ICT, and contains over 130 interactive learning activities. There is a free 14-day trial; it then costs £100 a year for a school and £49 a year for a home subscription.

Kid Premiership –
www.kidpremiership.com

Targeting children between the ages of 3 and 14, Kid Premiership uses characters to stimulate and encourage the enjoyment of

learning. It relates to, and engages with, sport as a whole – not just a few individuals or teams. Early years materials focus on the importance of health and safety, while Key Stage 2 materials look at numeracy skills and Key Stage 3 activities focus on transition.

All 4 Kids – www.all4kidsuk.com

Do you want to know where to find a tutor or where to book your family holiday? All 4 Kids UK can help you find anything from schools to ski clothes, baby equipment to bikes – try the Unique/Unusual heading in the directory for something special. On the website you will find useful, up-to-date, local, regional and national information on a wide range of companies, services and products.

Familyrapp.com –
www.familyrapp.co.uk

This online family magazine was originally designed to be enjoyed by parents and carers of children between the ages of 3 and 13, but has now expanded to cover both younger and older children. The website is easy to navigate and full of useful information, including parenting tips – from sleep management to advice on teenagers, fun, games and competitions.

Parentalk – www.parentalk.co.uk

Parentalk is an online magazine all about inspiring and equipping parents to enjoy parenthood more.

Share success in Bolton!



Bolton Literacy Trust was created three years ago to help local people improve their literacy and numeracy skills, and it has since established itself as a major force in benefiting the lives of local people. The Trust has delivered Share sessions to over 150 families, with 77 parents achieving accreditation during this period.

Many of the Share activities are held in the four Sure Start areas of Bolton, and in April this year Sure Start held a major 'celebration of achievement' event in Bolton Town Hall, which included 35 Share learners who received certificates from Greater Manchester Open College.

Parents who have participated in Share have really valued and enjoyed

the sessions – feedback has been extremely positive:

'I've learnt that I can do just about anything if I put my mind to it.'

'I have enjoyed involving my son in everyday things I have to do in the house – cooking, cleaning – and make it fun for both of us.'

'I am more aware of what my son can do and where he needs help – we spend more time together.'

'I would definitely encourage others to join. It just goes to show that you don't need to spend lots of money on toys to teach your children ...'

'The Share group is really helpful and is helping my daughter with her counting and being creative. Share has given me ideas on how to make activities that my daughter will enjoy.'

We have just developed a new twelve-week Healthy Share programme, and we hope to deliver this at the Family Learning Centre in Great Lever in the new year. Four parents who attend the Centre,

which is managed by the Trust, have recently achieved Level 2 accreditation. One mum, Razia Rizvi-Sellers, wrote the poem below to celebrate the work she had done with her son Travis.

For more information about the work of the Bolton Literacy Trust, please contact Sandra Telleck on 01204 332013.

'Into Space'

'Into Space'
Was another great game
Learning the planets
Name by name.

Writing stories
Travis found a chore
But with encouragement
He'd always write more.

We wrote a poem
About wibbly wobbly jelly
It was much more fun
Than watching telly.

We've learnt to be patient
And not interfere
We've learnt to listen
And not just hear.

I've helped my son
And he's helped me
We've learnt together
Happy as can be.

Reflections from Australia

By Sister Mary Nuttall

I am indeed a privileged person! Between 1991 and 2005, thanks to ContinYou and its predecessor CEDC, I have had several opportunities to 'experience' at first-hand some exciting educational initiatives being undertaken in the UK.

One of the highlights of my visits to the UK was to meet the 'creators' of the Share project, to learn about Share's prospects, and to be present at the official launch of Share in London in 1996.

Since that memorable day I have eagerly 'followed' the progress of Share from afar. By visiting the Share website, reading about creative Share initiatives in the *Shared Learning Newsletter*, keeping in touch with key Share personnel at ContinYou, and visiting a few Share schools during my most recent visit to the UK in 2004, I believe that the initial 'dreams' for Share are being more than realised.

It seems to me that the reasons for the success and continued expansion of Share in schools throughout the UK – and beyond – can be attributed to a number of key factors, for example:

Share's cyclical development process

Initial detailed planning, step-by-step implementation of the



various Share levels, internal and external evaluation of various Share pilot projects, and sound recommendations for further Share initiatives, have ensured that Share is meeting its aims.

Involvement of stakeholders

Parents, students and teachers have developed vibrant networks for enhancing learning opportunities between schools and homes.

Empowerment

Formal evaluation reports and Share newsletter accounts indicate that all stakeholders have expressed overwhelming support for Share activities, and have noted increased confidence, self-esteem and ownership through participating in the Share activities.

Parents are empowered to share in their children's learning, to gain accreditation for their efforts, and to engage in further learning, such as developing skills to become classroom assistants.

Flexibility

It is inspiring to learn about the range of creative learning initiatives undertaken to meet the needs of particular school communities in unique settings throughout the UK and beyond.

Lifelong learning

Share activities are centred around the development of a number of life skills, such as understanding the value of money,



map-reading skills, computer skills (see *Computers don't bite*), and healthy lifestyles (see the Healthy Share materials).

Celebration of success

The creation and display in homes and schools of success books or success charts, in which to record individual children's personal and academic achievements, provide great incentives for further learning.

Future perspectives

It is my dream that we can 'share in Share' by initially developing pilot Share projects in Australia. Our education systems are similar, and we already promote lifelong learning and develop learning partnerships among parents, teachers, students and university personnel, including student teachers and various community agencies.

As 'share-holders' we could adapt the Share process within Australian educational settings. Through newsletters and websites we could share our insights with ContinYou and schools about what works well, what have been challenges for us, and how we can ensure that Share continues to thrive and to be open to the development of new and exciting learning networks on international bases.

What wonderful prospects!

Celebrating in Nottinghamshire



Liz Barnes, Share Co-ordinator of ACLS, sent us this report.

'In July of this year ACLS organised a countywide celebration event for families who have attended a Share course at their local school. Over 120 parents, children and Share tutors attended the event at

County Hall. The schools represented were:

- Robert Jones Primary School, Blidworth
- Brinsley Primary School
- Pinewood Infant and Foundation School, Arnold
- Sutton Road Primary, Mansfield
- Mount CE Primary, Newark
- Norbridge Primary, Worksop.

'Councillor Winterton, Cabinet member for Regeneration, presented everyone with certificates. The children were entertained with art and craft activities and Joy Pitt, a well-known local storyteller, told a story using puppets.'

'Everyone enjoyed a buffet lunch, and received a 'goodie bag' before leaving for their journey home. It was a lovely day and everyone enjoyed the event. The children especially liked the visit to County Hall, with its grand entrance and sweeping staircase.'



A Bucks Fizz kind of morning



Alison Emsley sent us this report.

'Rawdon St Peter's is a primary school in Rawdon. We have about 300 pupils on roll, and an inclusion base for special needs children. We have only been running Share for about four months. However, it is already proving very successful and is making a difference to everyone involved.'

'We recently held a non-alcoholic Bucks Fizz morning to try and recruit some new members. I put up a display of the fantastic Share work that our parents and children had done, and they all brought along

their files to show our new recruits what fun Share is. Following this event, we have gained some more new members, who will be joining us weekly on a Wednesday morning.'

'Not only do we discuss Share activities, but the sessions also give parents a chance to ask other things about school that they may be unsure about – and to meet parents with children of similar ages.'

'Everyone is very positive about Share – the really nice thing is that the parents, children and myself all have great fun doing it!'

Learning can be fun

This letter has been sent by Mandy from Enfield to her Share tutor.

'I took part in the Share course you did at Keys Meadow School. I got so much from doing the course, and I just wanted to say thank you.'

'I took part as I thought it would help my 7 year old Charlie, but I got so much more. I learnt learning can be fun, and Charlie has really enjoyed all the things we have done, which is great.'

'More than that, my 12 year old Chloe, who has Attention Deficit Disorder, really struggles at school, and at home things are really hard. For the first time in twelve years I have spent so much quality time with her. We are communicating better and having fun together, which for me is the best thing of all.'

'For her, being able to do these things independently, and understand the games we are playing, is fantastic! So, thank you so very much!'

Mission impossible?



Malcolm Ratledge, from Walsall in the West Midlands, has sent this case study.

In 1998 I was offered the job of a lifetime. Using a small fund from

the Single Regeneration budget, the simple brief was to research national schemes to introduce effective family learning in Walsall – a borough with high levels of deprivation and one whose academic performance was well below the national average. The authority wanted initiatives that would help raise standards of achievement in our communities.

The mission (if I chose to accept it) was to find initiatives that clearly involved the parent or carer in the learning activity. They were not to involve complicated equipment, space or resources. Participants must be able to complete tasks at home, after school, at weekends, or on holiday. Oh, and by the way, they must be great fun for everyone involved!

I accepted the mission and 'had a blast!' Imagine the pleasure of meeting like-minded colleagues around the country sharing the same ideals – colleagues who were

prepared to take risks, find out what really works with families, and not only learn from mistakes, but also be willing to share ideas and develop (what was for us) a new methodology – learning together as a family!

Although I found a few programmes that could, in time, complement an evolving family learning agenda, there was a clear 'winner' in what we needed – Share.

The parents and schools in Walsall did not disappoint. They were supportive and willing to embrace Share from the start. It has not been difficult to introduce, promote or establish the programme. We have not encountered resistance or scepticism about the benefits it produces – although we recognise the need to have a strong presence in supporting colleagues in Share schools.

For some, it is still too easy to postpone a Share session when the demands of a parents' evening or Ofsted come calling. As an advocate for family learning, I still feel schools should actually put on extra Share sessions at that very time when parents or inspectors pay a visit!

It would also be fair to say we have learnt the lesson well that it should be a whole-school approach, rather than simply training staff who inevitably gain quick promotion with their new-found way of working.

Those schools in Walsall who have embraced Share have made a clear commitment to family learning, and to extending and enhancing a wide range of other learning experiences. They have embraced the opportunity to work in partnership with parents – making a real difference to the lives and learning of young people in the community. From humble beginnings, we now have fifty schools that have the capacity to enjoy the experience of Share.

I found that the mission was not impossible and, indeed, Share continues to energise parents, carers, students and staff alike.

These schools exemplify everything that is good about education in our borough, and they all deserve to 'share' richly in the success that Share brings. So, mission accomplished!

Oh, and by the way, above all else, Share really is still great fun for everyone involved!

Share message boards

It's good to talk!

The new message boards for Share members have just been launched. Join our online community to ask questions, talk to other Share co-ordinators, share good ideas or just have a chat, at: www.continyou.org.uk/messageboards

To use the boards you will need to log in with your email address and enter the password. Current topics for discussion include:

- funding
- ESOL issues
- recruitment/retention ideas
- accreditation
- partnership agreements
- general.

For a brief on how to use the message boards, download the instructions from the message board page.

The screenshot shows the 'Message boards' section of the website. It includes a table of message boards with columns for 'Topics', 'Replies', and 'Last Post Info'. Below the table, there are sections for 'Active users (1)', 'Forums Statistics', and a 'Legend'.

Share Message Boards			
	Topics	Replies	Last Post Info
Funding	1	0	8 Dec 2005, 01:51:19 pm By Gill Murray, Cambridge
ESOL issues	0	0	--
Recruitment/retention ideas	2	0	13 Dec 2005, 02:16:18 pm By Paula
Accreditation	1	0	8 Dec 2005, 01:16:18 pm By Paula
Partnership agreements	0	0	--
General	0	0	--

Active users (1)
0 guest(s) and 1 member(s)
Active Members: Administrator

Forums Statistics
Our members have made a total of 4 posts across 4 topics
We have 712 registered members

Legend
New Posts No New Posts

Diary dates

Share events

Approved Trainer Training

Venue: Coventry
Dates: 3–4 February 2006
15–16 June 2006
10–11 October 2006

ContinYou events

Family Learning Conference – Engaging families in services

Venue: Ricoh Arena, Coventry
Date: 25 January 2006
Contact: Paula Woodall on
024 7658 8440.

Maximising impact: developing study support/out-of-school- hours learning in a fast- changing learning environment

Venue: East Midlands
Conference Centre,
Nottingham
Dates: 29–30 March 2006
Contact: Chantelle Peat on
024 7658 8440.

Active Citizens in Schools (ACiS) seminars – helping teachers develop a successful ACiS project

Venue: Various
Date: Various (18 January to
30 March 2006)
Contact: www.continyou.org.uk

Quality Learning Certificates

- Haylands Primary School, Isle of Wight
- Eden Community Primary, Durham
- Brandon Infants, Durham
- Tanfield School Specialist College of Science and Engineering, Durham

Congratulations

Congratulations go to Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School, Bilston, West Midlands, who have won £50 worth of Share materials for returning their Share evaluation before 31 August 2005.

What's new

Engaging families in services: family learning and parenting support

25 January 2006, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

'This is an ideal opportunity to get the latest information on making links between family learning and parenting support. Don't miss it!' NIACE

ContinYou is bringing together a variety of practitioners working with parents and families to share successful family learning and parenting support strategies. The day will highlight the extent to which learning can become a vehicle for engaging and involving families in a much wider range of services and support.

For more information, and to book your place, call Paula Woodall on 024 7658 8440, email paula.woodall@continyou.org.uk or visit www.continyou.org.uk.

Special offer!

Discounts of up to 10 per cent off the standard delegate rate on group bookings of five or more people.

Competition – Building on success

We are looking for examples of 'best practice' in promoting and sustaining regular study support/out-of-school-hours learning activities. We will be offering prizes for the best entries received that demonstrate how you successfully:

- recruit providers in your community
- introduce new and 'unusual' activities into your programme
- sustain pupils' participation

- measure the impact your activities have had on your pupils.

The deadline for entries is **17 March 2006**. Entries can be in your choice of format – for instance, photographs, written text, press cuttings, programmes, cassette, CD, video or DVD.

See www.continyou.org.uk/week53 for further details about the competition and how to enter.

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!

For further information, contact:
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Building learning
communities

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