

# The Shared Learning Newsletter

## Share significant for extended schools agenda

By now you will all have heard of the extending services agenda and are perhaps already considering how your schools/organisations can help address the core offer.

But did you know that Share can play a huge part in this? The extended schools prospectus, published by the DfES last summer, set out the government's vision for transforming school services for communities.

And in it, parenting support has finally been acknowledged as a significant part of our children's learning and well-being.

The core offer services (that are to be accessible in or around all schools in England by 2010) are:

- quality childcare on site or through local providers
- a varied menu of study support activities
- parenting support, including family learning
- swift and easy referral to specialised support services.

As you can see, parenting support features prominently, which obviously includes family learning

and is fantastic news for Share and all the other work being delivered with parents.

The following four points summarise the elements that the DfES see making up the menu for parental entitlement:

- information sessions for all parents on thematic issues, such as transition, health, sex education, careers and so on
- parenting groups and parenting courses/programmes
- specialised support, on issues such as attendance, behaviour, parenting contracts and so on
- availability of further information on where to go for advice and support – national helplines/websites/organisations and local services.

Share is perfectly positioned to give your setting a headstart in achieving the core offer aspirations.

With Share you can:

- create your own information sessions for all parents/carers on thematic issues, such as transition, health or ICT. These can be one-off events or multiple sessions

- develop a parenting group with Share Plus
- signpost parents/carers to the central Share website, which provides information, advice and support, including national helplines, websites, useful organisations and local services
- use skills gained to engage with parents who are finding some aspects of parenting a challenge. You could hold sessions on personalised learning, for instance, to support parents in helping disaffected young people.

Have you thought about expanding your Share provision? Perhaps you can collaborate with other schools in your extended school cluster to increase capacity? This means more families will have access to Share and you will have access to more resources. Neighbouring schools may be able to offer more space or trained staff to facilitate sessions.

If you are using Share as part of your core offer commitment, please let us know! We are always on the look out for case studies.



# The National

Every year Share celebrates the achievements of those who are involved in the Share programme through the National Share Awards. The ceremony for the 2005 awards was held at the National Family Learning conference on 25 January 2006 in Coventry. Winners were invited along to be presented with their £500 cheques and certificates. **Saima Naseem** from Sidney Stringer Community Technology College, Coventry, tells us about the inspiring qualities of this year's winners.

## Share Adult Learner Award

**Winner: Adenike Ade-Onojobi**

Adenike Ade-Onojobi, a Share facilitator, won the Adult Learner Award for her commitment to children's education and to developing her own learning.

Adenike enjoyed using everyday objects to teach her children, and took pleasure from meeting other parents to share ideas and solutions around teaching issues. Through the Share group, all kinds of difficulties were dealt with. Two parents in the Share group had children with special educational needs so they, for example, were able to help each other adapt the Share activities to suit their needs.

Through her work with Share, Adenike realised that most curriculum subjects could be adapted into games or activities while still offering a learning element. She also noted that activities could be adapted to suit different children's needs. Adenike now has 'talking time' with her children and they do activities together instead of watching TV.

After years of staying at home as a full-time carer, Adenike found that Share was an easy way to meet other adults and share ideas. It has given her more confidence in using her skills.

Adenike uses a lot of activities from the Share booklet when teaching in her local supplementary school and

has combined this teaching with starting a Share group for some of the children's mothers. She has taken a beginners course in Share and would like to learn more about delivering it. Her future plans? Adenike would like to start another Share class at a local centre, maybe with a group of mothers with SEN children.



## Share Family Award

**Winner: Evans family, Coventry**

Ann Evans and her family have really enjoyed doing the Healthy Share and Healthy Eating activities together. Learning about different fruits and vegetables has had a huge impact on their diet; previously they had rarely



eaten fruit, but now it is a staple in their household. The family enjoy planning, preparing, cooking and eating food together.

However, Healthy Share has not just affected their physical well-being. Youngest son Benjamin really enjoyed the nursery rhymes and counting games and has started to learn them. Sean, Ann's eldest son, enjoyed the story-making activities and now finds it easier to concentrate. It has also helped with his reading and writing skills. Daughter Lauren got a headteachers award in her school last July for being the most improved pupil in the school.

Ann has found since doing Healthy Share, the children are better behaved and less demanding. They sit down

together as a family and talk, and Ann encourages them more than she used to with their school work. The children, and indeed the whole family, are taking pleasure from learning together.

Ann would like to continue with their learning together as a family, so she plans to take part in more Share sessions, enabling her to help her children with their exams and revision as they get older.

Ann would also like to gain accreditation for her Share work and to take more courses, which she admits she would never have had the confidence to aim for in the past. She would like to do an Access course, take a university course and, later, work with special needs children.

# Share Awards

## Share Local Authority Award

### Winner: Education Leeds

Jo Odu is the Share Programme Project Manager for Leeds. This role is supported by a learning mentor co-ordinator and four learning link mentors. Each incorporates the support and development of Share into their roles, which also link with the Leeds Healthy Schools agenda. The geographical area has 231 primaries and 41 secondary schools.

A firm believer in partnerships, Jo Odu has linked into the following support networks: Learning Strategy



Group, Learning Mentor Group, Governors Support Service and the Foster Carers Network Group.

Accreditation has been arranged in partnership with the Leeds adult and family learning co-ordinator. Support from various partners ensures that Share is seen as a tool to support Every Child Matters and the SEF (Self Evaluation Form).

A Share and Share Plus networking event was held to bring together practitioners and speakers from ContinYou.

The Leeds adult family learning co-ordinator provides information on other courses that complement Share. Recruitment workshops have been organised and Share has been featured in the Learning Mentor newsletter, the Leeds Foster Carers newsletter, and the Governors' Bulletin. Case studies of existing Share groups and recruitment activities are an integral part of the Leeds Share newsletter.

Parent representatives are encouraged to attend Share training to shadow practitioners.

Future plans for Leeds include further support, training and development of Share groups and more support for schools in overcoming difficulties in setting up Share. In spring and summer 2006, Share Plus training will be rolled out and more networking events for Share will be held. A celebration event will be organised in the summer.

Training will be extended to a wide range of professionals and work with Leeds prison will be further developed. Education Leeds will be maintaining support and links with social services and Leeds foster carers, and will build further onto an ongoing commitment to encourage fathers/male groups and BME parent involvement.

## Share Organisation Award

### Winner: St Michael with St John CEP School, Blackburn

In St Michael with St John CEP School, Share sessions take place one afternoon per week. Children and parents are supported and guided with their learning, which has the added effect of raising confidence levels and self-esteem. The Share team use a range of learning styles and link all the activities to the curriculum.

The programme brings great benefits to the school, especially through fostering stronger family links. School standards have been raised and Share has created many opportunities to develop closer relationships with outside agencies and communities. Children and parents now know the school is a focal point for information and advice on adult learning and other courses.

Future plans for St Michael with St John CEP School would be to increase and enhance the Share

programme, offer more training for Share tutors, introduce Healthy Share, encourage more fathers to participate and to continue building their learning community.



## Is there someone in your Share group who you'd like to nominate for a Share award?

This year we are seeking applications for the following categories:

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

To nominate someone, visit the website. Note that only members of Share can be nominated and make nominations. Completed forms must be received by ContinYou by Friday, 27 October 2006.



## Share at Ireland Wood Primary

Ireland Wood Primary School, in North West Leeds, has 230 pupils on roll. The school has a children's centre attached and the premises are used on weekends by a supplementary school.

Learning mentor Gail Pollard launched Share successfully in the school in 2004. However, on coming back in September 2006, Gail decided to re-launch with a wider

focus, including parents from a variety of backgrounds and those from Key Stage 1, who were not initially included.

Funding from the Leeds Share Family Learning Project (through the Parenting Fund) enabled Gail to provide translated promotional flyers and leaflets.

Thanks to the re-launch, ten new parents committed to the group, which runs once a week. These parents formed friendships within the group and now meet regularly outside of school to discuss Share and work together.

The children at KS1, whose parents now

attend the group, enjoy seeing their work displayed in school and in classrooms and regularly attend the parents group to show off their work.

Headteacher, Mr Jaques, said: 'Share supports our school ethos and our commitment to addressing local community needs. It helps parents to help our pupils make improved progress in school. It supports our "open door" policy, removing barriers between home and school it supports our aim to ensure school is seen as a learning environment by all its stakeholders.'

Miss Leach, KS1 co-ordinator, said: 'Share has given the parents confidence to get involved in school life. Many have gone on to become volunteers in school and attend further adult learning courses. This is really beneficial to their children and their own learning.'



## Pond dipping in Reddish Vale

A parent from St Elisabeth's Church of England Primary School organised a great trip for its Share group: they went pond dipping

with the park rangers at Reddish Vale. It was a glorious day and parents and children had a wonderful time, first pond dipping

and then sharing a picnic afterwards. Everybody had plenty to talk about, sharing plans and gathering lots of ideas for activities during the summer holidays.

Kath Kelly, who runs the group, said that one parent from her group is celebrating the fact that she now has the confidence to enrol on a computer course at her local community-based college.

The Share group has also visited the local library. Parents were given information about opening times and charges for hiring videos and so on. Parents who were not already members were encouraged to join, both for themselves and for their children. The librarian asked parents to make a display of their Share activities for the library. This will provide an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of child-centred activity within the local community.



## £5 sale!

Buy any of the following publications for just £5 each (plus 10 per cent p&p; min £1). Offer ends 2 June 2006.

- *Branching out* – how schools can build community partnerships and contribute to local regeneration.
- *Managing schools in the community* – an essential guide to planning and managing the community dimension of primary and secondary schools.
- *Pathways to child-friendly schools* – a guide to identifying what makes a school child-friendly and to getting parents involved.
- *Raising money for out-of-school-hours learning* – regional fundraising guides for the South of England, the Midlands and London with advice on finding sources of funding and writing funding applications.

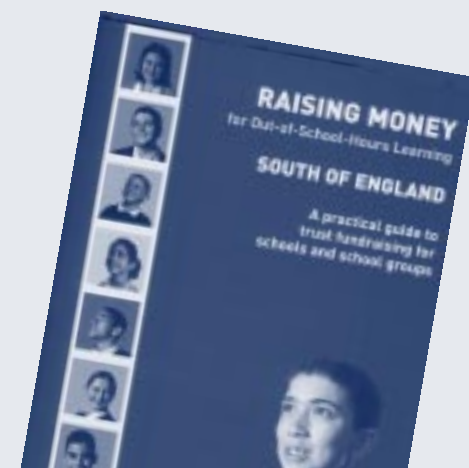
To find out more about these and other publications sold through ContinYou's catalogue, visit [www.continyou.org.uk/catalogue.php](http://www.continyou.org.uk/catalogue.php).

To order: For orders under £30, please send a list of the publications you require, together with your name, contact details and a cheque made payable to ContinYou Solutions, to the address below. For orders over £30, we can invoice your organisation (please send us full details).

Alternatively, you can pay online at [www.continyou.org.uk/catalogue.php](http://www.continyou.org.uk/catalogue.php).

Publications sales, ContinYou Solutions, Unit C1, Grovelands Court, Grovelands Estate, Longford Road, Exhall, Coventry CV7 9NE; Tel: 024 7658 8440; Fax: 024 7658 8441.

Email: [info.coventry@continyou.org.uk](mailto:info.coventry@continyou.org.uk).



## Puppet making and storytelling

Parents and pupils at Cavendish Primary School in Manchester have been engaging in all kinds of learning activities, from puppet making and storytelling to cooking different recipes from around the world. The school has set up two Share groups – one led by an EMA teacher

and the other supported by a bilingual teaching assistant.

Parents say that they like finding out about how children learn and they are keen to spend quality time doing Share activities with their children.

## Selling Share in Edgeley library

A Share group, arranged by Chris Comer, Tracy Markham and Brigid Marsh, has started meeting at Edgeley library, Stockport. It was advertised through the local press and promoted as a session of enjoyable activities for carers to take part in with pre-school children.

Leaflets and posters were delivered to all local playgroups, nurseries,

primary schools and clinics. Library staff also handed leaflets out to customers and promoted the programme during regular story times. The Sure Start Storybus helped by publicising the programme to parents.

The group was a great success, with children aged from eight months up to three years attending.



## Hints and tips Their scrap is your treasure

Many of the activities that are run during Share sessions are creative and require lots of different materials to help draw, build, colour or glue fantastic projects. However, the more creative they get the more expensive your Share sessions can be. Buying coloured paper, crayons and other materials is not cheap.

So, you will be delighted to hear that there are a number of organisations across the country that recycle 'waste' educationally. They collect scrap resources such as plastics, wood, fabric, cardboard, leather, sticky tape, feathers, ribbons and paper from local businesses and pass them on to deserving groups for a small donation.

On the right are two such companies, but if you want to find a scrap store near you, go to [www.childrensscrapstore.co.uk](http://www.childrensscrapstore.co.uk) where you will find a directory, listing organisation addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and links to their websites.

The following areas have scrap stores:

Midlands – 15 stores  
North East – 12 stores  
North West – 14 stores  
South East – 24 stores  
South West – 23 stores  
Scotland – 6 stores  
Wales – 8 stores  
Northern Ireland – 3 stores

### Scrappies – the scrap store

Scrappies aim is to broaden the range of resources available to all those working with children and young people, for example: play groups, schools, youth clubs, play schemes, churches, community groups or families.

Visit [www.scrappies.org](http://www.scrappies.org)

### Scarf – the schools and community arts resource facility

Scarf is an innovative arts resource facility supplying schools and community groups with high quality art, craft and circular resources that have been sourced from the waste products of local businesses.

Visit [www.scarf4art.co.uk](http://www.scarf4art.co.uk)

## Reading is not just for World Book Day

World book day may have just passed (23rd April) but we've decided to pass on some great websites to do with reading and books anyway. After all reading is forever, not just one day a year!

### Booktrust – [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)

Booktrust is an independent national charity that encourages people of all ages and cultures to discover and enjoy reading.

### The Prince of Wales Arts and Kids Foundation – [www.artsandkids.org.uk](http://www.artsandkids.org.uk)

Arts and Kids works with committed arts partners around the UK to give children the chance to get to know and feel at home in their local theatre, orchestra and gallery over the course of a year.

It focuses on the children who can benefit most and gives them the best experience possible.

### Reading Connects – [www.readingconnects.org.uk](http://www.readingconnects.org.uk)

Reading Connects is a DfES-funded National Reading Campaign initiative. It seeks to support schools in building



their own reading culture. Through this site, all schools are offered the tools they need to get started on developing a whole-school approach to reading for pleasure. There are case studies, advice on where to look for funding for reader development activities, resources and, most importantly, practical tried-and-tested ideas for developing reading. In addition, schools can request a booklet with ideas, case studies, solutions to common problems and a whole-school reading for pleasure audit.

### Book-it! – [www.continyou.org.uk/book-it](http://www.continyou.org.uk/book-it)

This free Extra Time resource pack was produced by ContinYou and funded by the DfES to help schools

set up reading clubs and keep them going. The pack contains advice, guidance and activities.

### Other useful websites

#### YoungMinds – [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

Providing information and advice on mental health issues. Topics covered include parenting, homelessness, eating problems, bullying, divorce and separation, bereavement, abuse, education, government funding and legislation. Information is aimed at parents, children and professionals.

#### Family Learning Network: funding directory – [www.campaign-for-learning.org.uk/familylearningnetwork](http://www.campaign-for-learning.org.uk/familylearningnetwork)

Information regarding family learning funding sources and support agencies within different regions of the country.

# Revamp of Share resources!

In 1996, the Share programme started with Key Stage 1. Since then it has grown and the programme now runs in Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 and at the Foundation Stage. With each new stage of Share another badger logo was born, followed by another set of pens, bags and memopads. The Share logos currently consist of:

- a baby badger looking at toys with the mother badger for the Foundation Stage
- a young badger holding a pencil and learning with the mother badger watching for Key Stage 1
- an older badger wearing a baseball cap and learning independently for Key Stage 2

- the black and silver Share family learning logo for Key Stage 3.

In the past, some customers have found the range of logos confusing, and so to make things easier, a generic logo has been specially designed for use on pens, carrier bags and memopads. However, the Share resources will continue to carry the logos specific to the key stages. In addition, you will still be free to use specific logos for your own purpose in your individual settings. The new design, which will be available from January 2007, will have a white background with the ContinYou and Share combined logo – see right.

If you have any comments regarding the revamp of resources, please let Paula know at [share@continyou.org.uk](mailto:share@continyou.org.uk).



## On the Share website

Visit the Share members area:  
[www.continyou.org.uk/sharemembers](http://www.continyou.org.uk/sharemembers)

Here you can find:

- logos
- monitoring forms
- quality learning certificate information
- Share order forms.

Share facilitator training dates:  
[www.continyou.org.uk/sharetraining](http://www.continyou.org.uk/sharetraining)

Are you, or is anyone you know, interested in receiving Share Facilitator training? Check this website address to see if training has been arranged within your authority, or at a location close to you.

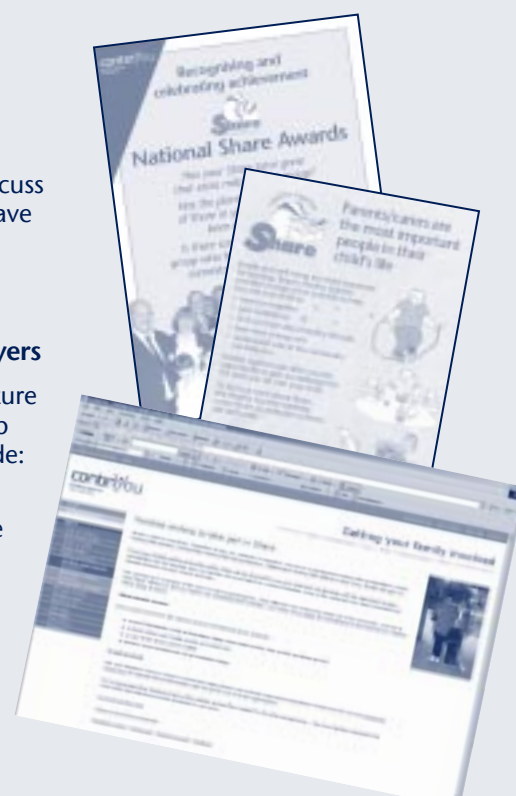
Share message boards:  
[www.continyou.org.uk/messageboards](http://www.continyou.org.uk/messageboards)

Join the Share community to discuss and share any issues that may have arisen within the family learning agenda.

Share promotional literature:  
[www.continyou.org.uk/shareflyers](http://www.continyou.org.uk/shareflyers)

Download all promotional literature for the Share programme to help you promote Share. Flyers include:

- Healthy Share
- Share: an inclusive programme
- Helping you get the most out of Share
- Computers don't bite
- National Share Awards.



# Diary dates

## Share training

9 & 10 May 2006 – Wolverhampton

8 & 9 June 2006 – Wandsworth

26 & 27 June 2006 – Oldham

## Share approved trainer training

15 & 16 June 2006 – Coventry

5 & 6 September 2006 – Bradford

10 & 11 October 2006 – Coventry

# Quality learning certificates

The following schools have received the Share quality learning certificate for the excellent work they are doing with families:

- Cotsford Infant School, Peterlee
- Our Lady of the Rosary, Peterlee
- South Moor Greenland Infant School, Stanley.



# What's new

## Schools ETC – great new network

Schools across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are exploring new ways of extending services to communities. *Schools ETC* (extending to communities) is a new magazine that highlights the huge range of partnerships and initiatives being developed through schools across the UK in order to support learning beyond the classroom and bring about more coherent services for children and families. It is part of the ETC subscription service.

The magazine will help those who work in and with schools to share good practice, ideas and practical advice on how to improve outcomes through extended services. *Schools ETC* will be a vehicle through which you can share success, voice disagreements and concerns, tell your stories and help to inspire others.

It will cover:

- parenting support and family learning
- study support and out-of-school-hours learning
- partnerships for on- and off-site wraparound childcare
- closer links with specialist support services
- community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities, and adult learning.

Subscription to *Schools ETC* provides:

- a quarterly, full-colour magazine
- practical advice sheets
- free membership of Sum-it! (a maths club network) up to March 07
- free membership of Book-it! (a book club network) up to March 07
- exclusive access to a subscribers' award worth £3,000
- discounts on ContinYou events and conferences
- an e-newsletter for extended schools
- invitations to regional networking events.

All this can be yours for just £35 a year. And if you join on behalf of a cluster of schools or a group of colleagues, you can claim a 5 per cent discount (that is, £33.25 per subscription, for a group of at least ten).

We look forward to welcoming you as readers of *Schools ETC*. To join, simply call 020 8709 9900 or email [jason.barlow@continyou.org.uk](mailto:jason.barlow@continyou.org.uk).



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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Website: [www.continyou.org.uk](http://www.continyou.org.uk)

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Building learning  
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