

LEWISHAM PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

ISSUE 16

SUMMER 2011

SECONDARY TRANSFER WORKSHOP

This half day workshop will focus on supporting parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs through the Secondary Transfer process, aimed at SEN pupils in years 4 and 5.

**THURSDAY 16th JUNE 2011
9.30am till 12pm
CIVIC SUITE**

**Lewisham Town Hall
Catford Road, SE6 4RU**

**To book a place telephone
020 8695 5955 or
email [lewishampps@
pre-school.org.uk](mailto:lewishampps@pre-school.org.uk)**

Chat Room Now Live!

Our Parent chat room is now live, you can find it via the news page on our website. The forum has been set up to give parents a place to chat, ask and answer questions.

Please go and visit and share your experiences with other parents, you may be able to answer someone's query.

Newsletter Mailing List

Please email us at lewishampps@pre-school.org.uk to be added to our emailing list to receive newsletters and news of conferences and courses.

Parents & Carers Forum

Our Parents Forum Group is up and running and meets regularly. The group meets so mothers, fathers and carers of children with SEN have a forum for any concerns and issues you want to discuss or anything you want to raise with us to talk through with the Local Authority.

Next dates are:

Wednesday 22nd June

Wednesday 7th September

Wednesday 9th November

The meetings are 10am-12noon at Limelight Family Learning Centre, Goldsmiths Community Centre, Castillon Road, SE6 1QD

Service Reduced to Term Time Only

Due to changes in our funding the Parent Partnership Service has been reduced to term time only with our 2 Officers now working part-time. Our office hours are now 9-4, term time only.

Primary Transfer Drop-ins

We will be holding two drop-ins in October. More information will be available in the Autumn newsletter or contact us for further info.

SENCOs!

Many parents like to receive information about the PPS through their child's school so here is a quick checklist for you.

Please help us and your parents by:

- Mentioning our service to parents when discussing their Child's SEN
- Keep a stock of our leaflets and hand them to parents
- Photocopy our newsletter and give to parents who might be interested
- Post our newsletter on your school's website
- Pass on information about our events and courses

Thank you!

News

If you have some news you would like us to share the parents/carers of children with additional needs please contact us on **020 8695 5955 option3** or email lewishampps@pre-school.org.uk

Drop in Sessions

For children with special needs.

An opportunity to meet others, share experiences and play together in a safe environment.

For parents and carers and their children under 5 years, The group meets every Tuesday 10am - 12noon

Deptford Park Generation Play Club, The Pavillion, Deptford Park, Scawen Road off Evelyn Street, SE8 5AG

For more information please ring Evelyn Children's Centre on 020 8314 3417 or Deptford park Generation Play Club on 020 8469 0772

On a Friday morning there is a drop-in session for families who have children with special needs at the Lewisham Opportunity Pre-School. This is to answer the needs of families who are facing recent diagnosis of their child's special need and for families who are waiting for a pre-school placement for their child.

The drop-in has full use of the play hall and its facilities, and is therefore able to support a large group if necessary.

For more info visit www.lops.org.uk

'Special Educational Needs (SEN) - a guide for parents and carers'

The reference number is DCSF-00639-2008 and copies are available from the DfE publications centre, the document is also available as large print version and in various languages.

0845 602 2260 or education.gov.uk/publications/

New ACE School

Transport Briefing

ACE has produced a new 'My Child in School' Briefing which is available for parents and professional to download from the ACE website. 'School Transport' explains the law and guidance around children travelling to and from school, including details of local authorities' obligations to provide transport.

The document is available to download from www.ace-ed.org.uk/advice-about-education-for-parents/advice-booklets-and-briefings/

CyberMentors.org.uk

CyberMentors is all about young people helping and supporting each other online. If you're being bullied, or are feeling a bit low, or maybe troubled by something and you're not sure what to do or who to talk to, the CyberMentor is where you can go for help.

It doesn't matter how big or small you think the problem is, or whether you're being targeted online or offline, CyberMentors are here to listen and support you.

The best thing about it is that CyberMentors are young people too. It's never easy talking about bullying, and many young people have told us that they would prefer to speak to another young person if they could.

That's why CyberMentors are young people like you, who have been trained and are volunteering their time online to help you. It's still important however that you talk to your parents or teachers if you can.

If you want to talk about a problem you've

Lewisham Parent Partnership Service

The Kabin, Forster Park School, Boundfield Road, SE6 1PQ

Tel: 020 8695 5955 Email: lewishampps@pre-school.org.uk

Website: www.lewishamparentpartnership.org.uk

got with bullying, just drop a CyberMentor a message or ask to chat to them online. The site is secure and you can keep all your chats private, but there are also counsellors available for anything really serious.

cybermentors.org.uk

SEN Green Paper

The recently published SEN Green paper sets out proposed reforms for special educational needs. The aim is to lower the number of children classified as having special educational needs, make the system less bureaucratic and time consuming. The Green paper is one of the biggest reforms of the system since the Warnock report and the Education Act (1981) The consultation period is open until June for Parents and Practitioners to express their views.

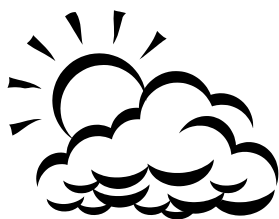
<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/a0075339/sengreenpaper>

News for Carers

A new online information service for carers went live on 26th January. This is designed to provide a single and comprehensive online resource to help carers manage their lives around caring. It includes guidance on the different stages of caring, information for claiming benefits and contact details for local authorities.

The online service can be accessed via the NHS Choices website and the national telephone advice line for carers goes live on 1st April.

Freephone: 080 802 0202
www.nhs.uk/carersdirect



Mud Pies & Blue Skies

Re-Engaging
Children with Nature

30th June 2011

PSLA Conference on Outdoor Play
More details available soon or email
lewisham@pre-school.org.uk

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

ADISS (ADHD) 020 8952 2800
www.addiss.co.uk

ADVISORY CENTRE for EDUCATION(ACE):
GENERAL ADVICE LINE: 0808 800 5793
EXCLUSIONS LINE: 0808 800 0327
www.ace-ed.org.uk

AFASIC HELPLINE (SPEECH & LANGUAGE)
0845 3 55 55 77 or 020 7490 9420
www.afasic.org.uk

CARERS LEWISHAM: 020 8699 8686
www.carerslewisham.org.uk

CHILDLINE: 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

CHILDREN'S LEGAL CENTRE:
COMMUNITY LEGAL ADVICE: 0845 345 4345
CHILD LAW ADVICE LINE: 08088 020 008
www.childrenslegalcentre.com

CONTACT A FAMILY: (FOR FAMILIES WITH DISABLED CHILDREN) 0808 808 3555
Lewisham: 020 8297 8056
www.cafamily.org.uk

IPSEA ADVICE LINE: (INDEPENDENT PARENTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVICE) 0800 0184016
www.ipsea.org.uk

KIDSCAPE (BULLYING ADVICE) 08451 205 204
www.kidscape.org.uk

LEWISHAM AUTISM SUPPORT:
020 8699 3066

LEWISHAM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:
020 8314 8320

NATIONAL DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION
Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham:
07000 50 50 55
www.dyslexiawise.co.uk

FAMILY LIVES (formerly PARENTLINE PLUS)
0808 800 2222
www.parentlineplus.org.uk

SCOPE: (FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY) 01432 370860
www.scope.org.uk

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY TRIBUNAL (SEND):
HELPLINE: 0870 241 2555
www.tribunals.gov.uk

LEWISHAM SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TEAM
020 8314 7453

TERMLY TOPIC:

SCHOOL SETTING BASED SUPPORT

What is The Graduated Approach?

Early education settings and schools place great importance on identifying special educational needs (SEN) early so that they can help children as quickly as possible. Once it has been decided that your child has SEN, your child's teachers should take account of the guidance in the SEN Code of Practice, which includes giving you information about the Parent Partnership Service.

The graduated approach recognises that children learn in different ways and can have different kinds or levels of SEN. So increasingly, step by step, specialist expertise can be brought in to help the school with the difficulties that a child may have.

- ↓ Child is identified as having SEN
- ↓ Early years Action/ School Action
- ↓ Early years Action plus/School Action Plus
- ↓ Statutory Assessment (statement or note in lieu)

The school **must** tell you when they first start giving extra or different help for your child because your child has special educational needs. The extra or different help could be a different way of teaching certain things, some help from an extra adult, perhaps in a small group, or use of particular equipment.

In early education settings this help is called **Early Years Action** and in schools this is called **School Action**.

If your child does not make enough progress, the teacher or the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) should then talk to you about asking for advice from other people outside the school. They might want to ask for help from, for example, a specialist teacher, an educational psychologist, a speech and language therapist or other

health professionals. This kind of help is **Early Years Plus** or **School Action Plus**.

The SENCO should try to include you in any discussions, and should consider your views in making any decision about how best to help your child. They should keep you informed about your child's progress.

If your child does not seem to be making enough progress or needs a lot more extra help, the Local Authority (LA) may decide to carry out a more detailed assessment of your child's needs.

Your child's school or early education setting can ask the LA to carry out a Statutory Assessment. They should always talk to you before asking the LA.

Or

If you feel that your child's school or early education setting cannot provide all the extra help that your child needs, or your child is not making enough progress and so is falling further behind other children of the same age **you** can ask the LA to carry out a Statutory Assessment.

Beyond statutory Assessment

When a statutory assessment is requested the LA must first decide whether or not a Statutory Assessment is needed. They will decide this by collecting advice from school and parents.

If statutory assessment is agreed and has been completed your child will either be issued with a statement of special educational needs or a Note in Lieu. If a Note in Lieu is issued, this will mean that your child remains at Early Years Action Plus or School Action Plus.

Further information

Special Education Needs Code of Practice 2001

To obtain a copy telephone:

0845 60 222 60

Ref: DfES 581/2001