



Images from  
Play Day 2010 - Devizes  
Brickley Lane event  
(2 August)

## Welcome...

Issue 1 - November 2010

...to the **first** edition of 'From Infancy to Beyond!' from Wiltshire Council. This new-style communication, which will be sent by email from the next edition, replaces our previously published newsletter. To be issued every-other month it will be designed to communicate issues that both affect or just interest you. Especially in these ever-changing times we hope that this will be a faster and more efficient way to communicate to the entire Wiltshire early years and childcare sector.

It has been compiled and sent out by Emily Wood (tel 01225 785 666 or [emily.wood@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:emily.wood@wiltshire.gov.uk) on behalf of the council, who will welcome all feedback on this communication.

### Comprehensive spending review

#### Message from Michael Gove, Secretary of State

"In relation to early years, we have shown that we recognise the crucial importance that a good early years education plays in children's development. We are maintaining the 15 hours a week of free childcare for all three and four-year-olds and extending this entitlement to disadvantaged two-year-olds. We will also be protecting overall cash funding for Sure Start, including our investment in Sure Start health visitors." More information on the spending review can be found on the Department of Education's website: [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

**The Graduate Leader Fund.** This may be coming to an end in 2011 and so far 140 settings have accessed the funding to help them support a graduate curriculum leader. Find out if your setting is eligible. Full details are at [www.childcarejobs.co.uk](http://www.childcarejobs.co.uk)

**Staff recruitment.** Place your vacancies at [www.childcarejobs.co.uk](http://www.childcarejobs.co.uk) This year Bright Horizons have helped to fill 222 vacancies and they get an average of 6,000 visits from jobseekers each month. You will find examples of job descriptions, person specifications and advertising hints on-line. They can also send your vacancies to the Jobcentre website. All at no cost to you.



### Forthcoming conference reminder:



Wiltshire Council early years conference:  
Cumberwell Park,  
Bradford on Avon.  
Friday 12 and Saturday

13 November - to book your place, call  
0845 601 2392.

Do you deliver free entitlement to three and four year olds? Have you seen our request for feedback on how this is funded? We would really like to learn your thoughts and ask that you complete our feedback questionnaire. This can be found on the council's website: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schoolseducationandlearning/earlyyearsandchildcare](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schoolseducationandlearning/earlyyearsandchildcare). Response closing date: **19 November**.

**New level 3 Diploma for the children and young people's workforce.** This qualification was brought in from September 2010 and has replaced existing qualifications such as the Children's Care, Learning and Development (CCLD) National Vocational Qualification's (NVQ). The key aim of the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is to rationalise and clarify qualifications across the children's workforce. More detail on this new course is available from assessment centres. Existing qualifications on the CWDC Qualifications list will continue to be accepted by Ofsted and those currently undertaking NVQ's will be allowed plenty of time to complete.



**Did you know...** that the minimum wages were increased on the 1 October to the following rates:  
16-17 year olds: £3.64, 18-20 year olds: £4.92, 21 years +: £5.93

Please  
turn over

### Wiltshire forest school network

Are you forest school trained or do you have an interest in outdoor learning or improving your outdoor environment? Would you be interested in sharing ideas with other practitioners, hearing of training and conferences and meeting like minded people? If so please contact Karen Bird (Karen.bird@wiltshire.gov.uk) or 01225 785667 with your name, job title and contact details. Play Development Advisors Ella Coghlan and Niki Willows will send out an email newsletter by 6 December to interested parties.



Please check the Bright Horizons website ([www.childcarejobs.co.uk](http://www.childcarejobs.co.uk)) for current forest school courses and contact Karen Bird about the forest school taster sessions and also look out for the North Wiltshire Outdoor Play Project display at the early years conference.



### Information from ask

**ask** held a most successful AGM in October. The opening address was by Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive Wiltshire Council who spoke of the speed of change in public services being the greatest seen in 100 years and that more services are likely to be outsourced which may well benefit local charities and social enterprises such as **ask**. This was followed by a series of video clips of parents describing how **ask** services had made a really positive impact on their situation. Pictures and words which told much more than statistics and evaluation feedbacks ever could. Very bravely three parents stood up and spoke personally of the changes parenting groups had made to their lives.

### How are decisions made about early years funding?

Critical to achieving our goals of meeting parents demands for childcare which suits local circumstances is a strong partnership between Wiltshire Council and providers in all sectors; private, voluntary, independent, maintained and childminders.

In 2007 the council brought together a representative group of stakeholder members to consider all early years funding issues in response to the government's plans to introduce nursery education funding reform. This is the Early Years Reference Group (EYRG) which acts as a sub-group to the Wiltshire Schools' Forum. Membership of the EYRG is representative of the different types of early years education providers across the county who are eligible and registered to offer free entitlement nursery education.

Read more about this group and who the current members are on the council's website. [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schoolseducationandlearning/educationgrants/nurserygrants/earlyyearsreferencegroup](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schoolseducationandlearning/educationgrants/nurserygrants/earlyyearsreferencegroup). If you are an owner or manager of a setting and are interested in serving on this group please contact Jackie (01225 765661 or Jackie.bedford@wiltshire.gov.uk).

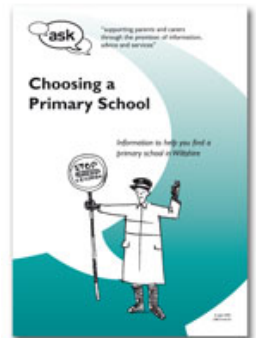


### New primary school admissions from 2011

For children who could start school in September 2011, there are two key changes to Wiltshire's admission policy.

Firstly all reception children must be offered full time provision from the September following their fourth birthday and this is a change to the current arrangements. However parents may choose part time provision if that is their preference or they can defer entry until later in the academic year. Children will be accessing the same foundation stage curriculum in their pre-school setting so will be at no disadvantage to children in reception classes. Parents may opt for a pre-school setting if this gives extended cover outside normal school hours.

Secondly the date for applying for a school place has been put back to a new national deadline of **15 January 2011**.



The next issue of this communication will be sent electronically, if you wish to receive this, please forward your email address to:  
[emily.wood@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:emily.wood@wiltshire.gov.uk)