

early years

This Month

Coleraine Branch lobbies
for Young Children

Lissan Playgroup
Ranked 'Outstanding'

Early Years Membership Survey



Howard Hastings, Luke Turley, Minister Arlene Foster and Siobhan Fitzpatrick at the launch of World Forum 2009 in Belfast

WORLD FORUM 2009 ON EARLY YEARS TO BRING 800 DELEGATES TO BELFAST

The Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment Arlene Foster MLA congratulated Early Years - the organisation for young children on its plans to host the 2009 World Forum on Early Care and Education in Belfast. The conference is due to take place on the 16-19 June 2009 at the Europa Hotel in Belfast. With over 800 early childhood administrators, trainers, caregivers, public officials, and advocates from over 80 countries around the world, this will be one of the largest ever conferences to be held in Belfast. Early Years beat off competition from South Africa and Hawaii to host the 2009 event.

The 2009 World Forum will mark the 10th Anniversary of World Forum Foundation. In these 10 years, over 5000 early childhood professionals from 90 nations have participated in World Forum gatherings in Singapore, Greece, Malaysia, New Zealand, Canada, United States, Georgia, Italy, Hungary, and Colombia.

Siobhan Fitzpatrick, Early Years Chief Executive said: "We are delighted to announce that the World Forum on Early Care and Education will be held in Belfast next year. The World Forum will promote the improved delivery of quality services for young children by bringing together early childhood professionals from six continents to share ideas and perspectives and to develop relationships that continue into the future."

Bonnie Neugerbauer of the World Forum on Early Education and Care said: "We are very excited about bringing the World Forum to Belfast and have had great interest from our members on holding the event in Belfast. Early Years - the organisation for young children

is a highly-respected comprehensive early childhood agency working throughout Europe and internationally and it is a credit to their work that the World Forum is being held in Belfast."

Caitriona Lavery, Group Sales Manager at Hastings Hotels said: "The Europa is delighted to welcome the Early Years World Forum next June. Our new Exhibition Centre opened earlier this year, and to be announcing this global conference literally months since we opened is testament to the validity and strength of our investment – and the need for such a facility in Belfast.

"Belfast has been lacking a dynamic, state of the art conference and exhibition centre for many years now. The Europa's Exhibition Centre is equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology and offers one of the largest and most dynamic exhibition spaces on the Island of Ireland - the announcement of the Early Years World Forum is also evidence of the Centre's world class credentials."

Delegates will have the chance to participate in a range of activities such as plenaries addressing major issues in early years with internationally renowned keynote speakers, over 50 workshops on policy, leadership, and curriculum issues, study tours to early childhood centres across Northern Ireland as well as experiencing the local history and culture. The World Forum will have over 120 presenters from 60 nations, the 10th Anniversary International Dance, five networking receptions, Gala Welcoming Receptions and Farewell Luncheons and an International Children's Art Exhibit.

There will be more information on the World Forum in the next issue of the newsletter, and a guide to selecting your personal journey through the conference.

DEAR READERS ...



Welcome to the December Early Years magazine. It is hard to believe that it is over one year since we formally launched our new identity and logo in November 2007. Over the past year we have used every opportunity to give visibility to the new brand identity and the new vision for the organisation. The feedback on our rebranding has been very positive from politicians, policy-makers, parents and our member groups. We believe that this new image has and will continue to create a greater understanding for our work with young children.

We used the launch of our new logo to host a symposium on the importance of investment in young children and invited the Nobel Laureate Professor James Heckman to address politicians and policy makers on the economic importance and rationale of investing in young children. This event was timed to influence budget priorities in the Draft Programme for Government.

Since then we have been delighted at the impact of Professor Heckman's visit. Right at the top of Government in Northern Ireland there is now a clear understanding of his key message and we are hopeful that this will be evident in the new 0-6 Strategy which will come out for final consultation early in 2009. It is wonderful to know that Professor Heckman is on President Elect Obama's special economic advisory team. Early Years certainly has friends in high places!!!

As you are aware we have lobbied hard for an investment in a Transformation Fund for the early years workforce and are becoming confident that we will see a commitment to this in the new strategy. I would like to thank our branches and member groups for their ongoing support on our advocacy and public affairs campaigns. The recent event in the Causeway Branch was another important development in bringing the voice of the membership to the heart of government. The Fermanagh Branch event celebrating Universal Children's Day was a great opportunity to create visibility for young children and for our work with them.

As we prepare for Christmas and the New Year I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and parents a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We look forward to your ongoing support in 2009 and hope that the New Year will bring a greater focus on the needs of young children in Northern Ireland and on all those who work with them.

Siobhan Fitzpatrick
Chief Executive Early Years

SIOBHAN FITZPATRICK NAMED AS PRESIDENT ELECT OF INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORGANISATION

Siobhan Fitzpatrick, the Chief Executive of Early Years - the organisation for young children has been named president elect of the International Step by Step organisation at their annual conference in Budapest. ISSA is a membership organisation that connects professionals and organisations working in the field of early childhood development and education, promoting equal access to quality education and care for all children, especially in the early years of their lives.

Speaking upon her return from the conference where she delivered a series of addresses on the conflict resolution work that Early Years is pioneering on the international stage, Siobhan said that she was delighted with the honour of being elected to the post, which she will take up next year.

"The ISSA is a huge international organisation and its conference saw 350

early childhood practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and NGO activists from more than 70 countries from around the world come together to discuss practically every issue which has relevance to young children. To be proposed and elected as President elect is a truly great honour, and I take it as recognition of the work which Early Years is doing on the world stage."

She continued, "Our organisation is now recognised as a standard setter across the world on how conflict affects young children and the lessons which can be learned from that experience. Northern Ireland's conflict has had a huge impact on our children going back generations and that impact is only now being understood today. I am proud that Early Years expertise in this area is being adopted in other conflict areas such as Georgia, Palestine and Iraq as well as across South America, and I look forward to taking up the post next year."

HILLSBOROUGH PLAYGROUP



Twelve children enrolled in the first term, and the staff immediately saw the need for training and enrolled at Rupert Stanley College Belfast for a series of lectures on play advised by Early Years. This was the first of many training courses that the staff attended during the playgroup years recognising the need for personal professional development. However besides acquiring new knowledge themselves it was often they who shared the much needed advice and experience they had acquired over the years with staff of other early years settings.



The leadership of the group was first held by Helen Marks and Margret Maxwell and in later years and at the time of closure by Valerie Brew, Lily Connery, Jenny Stanley, Lila Martin and Elma Wakefield. The playgroup operated from the halls of the Hillsborough Presbyterian Church and continued over the forty years to provide a much needed service to local families.

In 2007 with dwindling numbers of children attending the group the staff made the difficult decision to close. Having been aware of the work that Early Years had been doing with staff in child care settings in Albania Eastern Europe, they proposed to donate all resources to the settings known as the Garden of Mothers. The children and staff in Albania have been overwhelmed by the generous donation.

Hillsborough Playgroup may be no more in Northern Ireland but memories will always be there for those children and their families who had the privilege of attending the group. Now a new exciting time is beginning, for children in Albania who also in years to come will have wonderful memories of their early childhood experience and all because of Hillsborough Playgroup.

On the 22 June 2007 Hillsborough Playgroup which had first opened in October 1966 closed the door for the final time after an unbroken service for more than forty years. The playgroup was one of the first members of Early Years and continued that membership for the period of its existence.

COLERAINE EARLY YEARS STAFF LOBBY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Early Years members from across the Coleraine area have made an urgent appeal for funding to help bring members up to graduate level as part of their Transformation Fund.

At a meeting of the Causeway Branch of Early Years members called on MLAs to support the introduction of the fund, which would ensure staff are qualified to a graduate level, similar to the system operating in England and Wales.

Present at the meeting were representatives from each of the four main political parties, Mervyn Storey of the DUP and Chair of the Education Committee at the Assembly, Francie Brolley of Sinn Fein, John Dallat and Maura Hickey of the SDLP, and David McClarty of the Ulster Unionist Party.

Early Years strongly believes that a properly remunerated graduate-led workforce will improve the quality of the care and education children receive. They also feel that this investment in the future of our children will reap financial and educational benefits for children for the rest of their lives.

Speaking after the event this week, Early Years Deputy Chief Executive, Barney McNeany said, "Our members used this platform to vocalise their commitment across this sector and to outline the reasons why the children of Northern Ireland and their parents will be extremely well served by the introduction of a Transformation Fund.

"We at Early Years, have an ambitious policy agenda based on international studies which have highlighted the economic, educational and health benefits to be had from investment in this sector. Playgroup staff do a fantastic job but we want to raise their skills which in turn will allow them to provide higher quality care for young children."

Those at the meeting took the opportunity to raise other issues of concern including the problems with Access NI. Karen White, the owner of Treetops Daycare said, "As a day care owner I have been highly frustrated at the slowness and inefficiency of the vetting procedure that is carried out through Access NI. The recent changes have made it more complicated to get staff and parents checked. We recently brought in a new member of staff and had to begin the vetting process in August, knowing that she would only then be able to start in November. We are providing employment for rural women and the delays we and they face in starting their employment are unacceptable."



All of the MLAs present agreed that the process was unacceptable and have agreed to raise the issue with Paul Goggins, Minister of State responsible for this issue.

Joanne Gaile from St Malachy's Pre-School asked the MLAs how they could help groups who had to pay for translators to help meet the needs of ethnic minority children, "There is an increasing number of children attending pre-school who do not have English as a first language. I currently have seven Polish children in my pre-school and am having to pay £4000 per year for a translator to help with these children. This is taking money away from other things in the pre-school, for example our garden."

Again all of the MLAs present recognised this as an important issue, and agreed to take the issue up with the local education board.

Early Years has been very pleased with the lobbying sessions held so far in Fermanagh, Down and Coleraine. We will continue to hold these sessions to enable our members to meet their local representatives and question them on issues of local concern.

NEW STAFF AT EARLY YEARS

Early Years has recently received funding from the International Fund for Ireland to extend the Respecting Difference Programme. This has enabled us to employ two more Senior Early Years Specialists for the team.

Rachel Steele will be based at the Trory Office delivering cross border training in the Fermanagh, Sligo and Leitrim areas. Rachel has been working in the field of early years since 2001, she has the Early Childhood Studies Degree from Stranmillis University and also has a Diploma in Child Psychology.

She previously worked in Speech and Language Therapy as a Technical Instructor in the Western Health and Social Care Trust. Her role involved delivering training to Classroom Assistants working with children with Special Educational Needs in early years settings across Fermanagh and Tyrone.

On taking up post Rachel said, "I am really delighted to be joining Early Years in the post of Senior Early Years Specialist, and I am really delighted that the Respecting Difference programme will be rolled out further in the

border areas. I believe that the programme makes a real and positive difference in the way children view themselves and others."

Clionagh Boyle is based in Early Years Derry Office, she was previously Director of Derry Children's Commission, an Interagency Partnership focused on promoting and protecting the rights of children and young people as defined by the UNCRC. In this role she had a particular interest in supporting children and young people who experience barriers in realising their rights, in building Child Friendly Communities and in outdoor play. For this work she received the Save the Children Northern Ireland Woman of Achievement award in 2005.

Previous to that she was Education and Development Co-ordinator of The Women's Centre, a key community initiative supporting women and children through education and childcare. Prior to this Clionagh taught Women's Studies at the University of Ulster and has been an International Program lecturer for Earlham College USA focusing on the impact of conflict on women and children and the role of community development in peace building.

She is a member of the Western Area Children and Young People's Committee and the NW Interim Peace and Reconciliation Partnership. She has a BA Hons in English from Trinity College Dublin, an MA in Written and Verbal Arts and an MSc in Professional Development in the Community from the University Of Ulster. Clionagh has three children Naoise, Sorcha and Lara.

LISSAN PLAYGROUP “OUTSTANDING”



Lissan Cross Community Playgroup had been rated as outstanding in its inspection report from the Education Training Inspectorate. In the report they stated, “In all areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the centre is outstanding; and the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The centre has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.”



Lissan Cross Community Playgroup has been running for approximately 12 years. Situated in a rural location just under four miles from Cookstown the premises are purpose build and can accommodate 24 children. The group has strong links with three local primary schools, and the setting offers excellent indoors and outdoor facilities, including an outdoor sandpit, picnic tables and an adventure tree house.

In the report the pre-school centre was described as “very well managed and the outstanding leadership and management of the leader is underpinned by highly effective teamwork and the excellent contribution made by the assistants.”

The report’s findings also commented on the interaction between staff and children as being “very effective, ensuring the children having opportunities to extend their thinking, promote their learning and to foster an awareness of the world around them. The interactions are of a consistently high quality.”



EARLY YEARS RESOLVES DAY CARE TRANSPORT ISSUES

The report continued: "Children are encouraged to express their views, make choices and decisions and this is reflected in the setting's effective planning which incorporates the children's ideas and spontaneous play and reflects the voice of the child." The playgroup leader Marguerite Hagan said: "The staff and I were delighted with the report. I feel that our success is due to our strong team work, dedication and the continued support we receive from our management committee, parents and our Early Years Specialist Fiona Scullion."

Aideen O'Kane the committee chairperson commented that over the years the parents of Lissan have seen the staff bring out the best in each individual child giving them a great start to their school life, "The children love being part of the playgroup and love to take responsibility in the playgroup. The environment is very stimulating and enriching and is continually being changed and adapted. The playgroup staff are very creative, imaginative and resourceful. Communication with the parents is very good, involving them in the activities as much as possible so that the learning goes on long after home time. The playgroup is a source of pride to the community."

The Early Years Specialist Fiona Scullion congratulated the staff on this excellent and well deserved report, "The enthusiasm of the staff is reflected in the vibrant learning environment provided for the children. The setting is welcoming, relaxing and inviting. Implementing the voice of the child is an integral part of the practice and this is reflected in the confident happy children that attend. The group is lead by a leader who is enthusiastic, pro-active and an excellent communicator and who will, I am sure, continue to take this group from strength to strength."



Children from Greendale Nursery with Minister Sammy Wilson

Early Years has welcomed the outcome of a recent meeting with the Minister for the Environment, Sammy Wilson to develop an exemption scheme for courtesy transport in registered childcare providers which was introduced from September 2008 by the DVA.

The exemption scheme is available to all registered providers who use transport other than minibuses to transport children to and from child care services. The exemption has come about following press reports relating to the transportation of children by nurseries and day care centres which had arisen as a result of a change in the enforcement of regulations. The scheme will be a short term solution, prior to a longer term review of courtesy transport including childcare.

Siobhan Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive of Early Years met with Sammy Wilson, Environment Minister and officials from Driver Vehicle Authority to discuss plans to implement the exemption scheme. Minister Wilson asked for the meeting with Early Years to follow up a commitment made by the previous Environment Minister, Arlene Foster to resolve the issue.

Siobhan said, "Early Years has lobbied the DOE closely to ensure that this issue is resolved, courtesy transport for childcare cannot be subject to the same licensing rules as commercial taxis. The cost and knock on effect to parents and childcare businesses would have far reaching consequences. I thank the minister for resolving the issue so quickly."

The DVA has advised that minibuses are different from people carriers and cars as they are defined as a separate class of vehicle in the relevant legislation, therefore the DVA had no option but to deal with minibuses separately. Minibuses will be included in the temporary exemption scheme and will not require a PSV vehicle licence under the scheme, but members will still need specific driver and vehicle licensing for the use of a minibus.

Minibus drivers will need a full category D1 driving licence as the vehicle is used for commercial purposes. The owner will also need a Road Service Licence (RSL) which is required to operate the minibus. As transport is not the main business of the nursery a reduced number of requirements will have to be met in order to obtain an RSL. It is also important that the minibus owner checks with their insurance company to ensure that they have the appropriate level of insurance cover in relation to the transport that they are providing.

To clarify the licensing regulations for minibus use, and for any other information please contact the DVA on 028 9025 4171.

SUPPORTING BOYS THROUGH ACTIVE LEARNING: THE 'CRISIS' FOR BOYS IN EDUCATION

Sandy Slack and Gerin Martin's masterclass at the recent Early Years conference challenged stereotyped thinking that 'boys always ...' or 'girls always ...'. They discussed the biological and physiological differences which help us understand why gender does matter. During the master class participants were encouraged to consider consciously creating a 'goodness of fit' for all children and explore active learning strategies that benefit boys and yes, even girls!

Sandy and Gerin have worked as a team for five years in a child care centre where Sandy supported children with developmental delays in Gerin's classroom. Gerin initially began working on the issue of meeting the needs of boys because of the high numbers of boys in special education and the demanding physical behaviours in her own classroom. Together they began to read about and experience first hand the gender based needs of boys.

Neurological Differences

- Males are born six weeks developmentally behind females in *some* areas of development.
- By age two boys can be 18 months behind in some areas of development especially language and fine motor skills.
- Boys have less of a corpus collasum, the part that connects the two hemispheres of the brain.
- Boys have *strong* visual awareness.
- Girls process verbal information more quickly than boys.

In developing our awareness of the differences in boys and girls, the master class explored some strategies which have successfully worked not just for the boys in the setting but create this 'goodness of fit' in providing for all the children in the setting.

What Boys Need

• Physical Activity

In acknowledging that boys in particular enjoy physical activity and contact such as shoving, nudging, pushing each other we also need to understand that this is a form of male intimacy and bonding. Opportunity for physical activity is essential, boys learn more by being active and particularly by being outdoors. They need space to move about, completing activities standing up or lying on the floor. They need opportunities to explore especially the outside environment and the opportunity to take risks.

• Positive Discipline

To control the physical aggression often displayed by boys we need to introduce firm, consistent and realistic limits. Remembering that boys are visual learners we need to enforce the rules with visual reminders, placing them at the area of play as reminders.



• Problem Solving Skills

Problem solving strategies such as conflict resolution encourage boys to work through issues finding an agreeable solution rather than hitting out. To do this we need to teach emotional literacy, providing boys with the language and opportunities to express how they feel. The master class stressed the importance of using emotive language at any opportunity and not just for problem solving to encourage boys to talk more freely about their feelings.

This immensely enjoyable and interactive masterclass demonstrated the benefits of active learning through practical application. Sandy and Gerin concluded by emphasising that in acknowledging that boys learn differently from girls, settings which provide a stimulating environment using appropriate strategies can encourage boys to engage in the learning environment.

PARENT AND TODDLER EVENT IN NEWRY AND MOURNE

An event for parent and toddler groups in Newry and Mourne was held at Ballybot House on the 21st October. Over twenty groups attended at different stages on the night and they received a pack of books worth £100 to support them in their work.



MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS 2008

In May we distributed our Membership Survey to all of our members. Those who returned their survey by 30th May were entered into a prize draw to win a year's free membership. The winning members were Thorndale Playgroup in Belfast, Banbridge Pre-School and Pomeroy Pre-School Playgroup.

Generally the services that Early Years provides for members were viewed extremely positively, with 92% of respondents agreeing that Early Years membership is beneficial. This is a 1% increase on the 2006/07 survey findings and whilst we are delighted that such a vast majority of our membership finds the service of benefit, we cannot allow ourselves to become complacent as we strive to continually improve our services.

When asked whether they felt Early Years membership was value for money, 83% of respondents agreed that membership was value for money. This was a 6% increase on the 2006/07 survey findings. We feel this increase

has been brought about by the fact that we are continuously adding value to the membership service by sourcing new benefits for members whilst continuing to provide a high level of service for a minimal annual fee.

Early Years Advisers

All group-based members are entitled to one visit per term from an Early Years Advisor, Specialist or Development Worker. When asked to rate this service, 79% of respondents felt the service was Good or Very Good (a 2% increase on 2006/07). Unfortunately, 3% of members rated the service as Poor or Very Poor (5% in 2006/07) and we are investigating why these members felt the service was not acceptable and what we can do to improve our levels of service.

As you will be aware, Early Years offers a Specialist service to groups involved in the Pre-school Education Expansion Programme. PEEP groups must have the support of a qualified Early Years Specialist to meet the terms of the scheme. Member groups can opt in to this service and are charged a fee appropriate to the number of funded places they have been awarded. In this most recent survey, respondents were asked to indicate if they felt this service was value for money. 76% of respondents stated that they felt the service was value for money - an increase of 6% from the 2006/07 findings. We feel that this is a reflection of the continually high service provided by our Early Years Specialists.

We asked members to rate our Early Years newsletter. 89% of members rated the newsletter

as Good or Very Good - an increase of 1% on the previous survey. We are delighted that the vast majority of members see the newsletter as an important tool for communication.

Members were asked whether they felt Early Years is an effective 'champion' for the sector. 91% of respondents see Early Years as an effective champion - an 18% increase on the 2006/07 survey. We feel this is a reflection of some of the lobbying work we have been doing on behalf of the early years sector and we are delighted that our members have recognised its value.

We also asked how many members had accessed our new website www.early-years.org, 36% of respondents had access the site but the majority of respondents had not. Of those who had accessed the site 92% found it useful.

This year we also introduced a 'members only' section to the website, designed specifically with the needs and interests of our members in mind. It includes downloadable forms and information for members, and a noticeboard where members can publicise events. 92% of those who had accessed the members area had found it useful and we would encourage all our members to visit the website and use the members-only section.

Thank you to all members who completed the survey, it is a key way in which Early Years reviews and develops its services to members and we would strongly encourage all members to complete the survey.

PEOPLE'S MILLIONS

The results are now all in and two Early Years members have been announced as winners of a £50,000 slice of good cause cash from the Big Lottery Fund's People's Millions TV contest, screened on Thursday 27 November's UTV Life. Gran Tots in Swatragh and Belmont Playgroup in Belfast were both lucky enough to get the funding.



NES ARNOLD AND EARLY YEARS - WORKING TOGETHER



NES Arnold are delighted to be working alongside such a well renowned and successful organisation as Early Years. We have enjoyed a successful relationship since 2004, and we look forward to many more years working with Early Years and its members.

As market leader within both the Early Years and Primary sectors NES offers an innovative, curriculum-based product range with many of our products having been recommended by early years and teaching professionals.

Early Years Member Offer

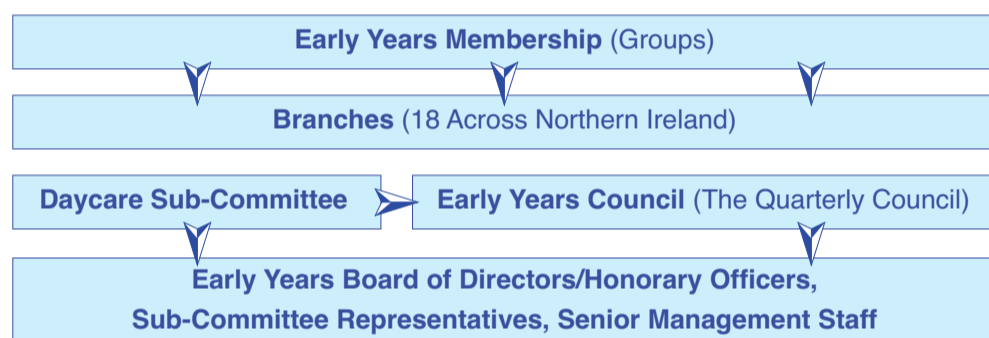
Early Years members are entitled to an exclusive 10% OFF all orders. Simply quote NESM100 when placing your order by phone, freefax or online at www.nesarnold.co.uk. New Early Years members can also benefit from 20% OFF their order, by simply quoting NESM101.

To request your FREE comprehensive Early Years or Primary catalogue please call our Contact Centre Team on 0845 120 4525 or visit www.nesarnold.co.uk for further details. You can also register online at www.nesarnold.co.uk for exclusive offers including sale previews and new product news.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL EARLY YEARS BRANCH

Early Years Branch structure provides a great opportunity for members to work together and learn from each other

Each of the 17 Branches represents a geographic area and welcomes representatives from Early Years members in the area. The branches are constituted, have office bearers and separate bank accounts and as such can make applications to funding bodies. The branch will also have a representative who is invited to attend the Early Years Quarterly Conference. This process generates a democratic dialogue between Early Years board members, senior management staff and the grass roots membership as illustrated below:



Members who wish to find information on their local branches can access the Membership section of the Early Years website at www.early-years.org. Members can email the contact directly for details of the branch activities, dates and venues.

Branch meetings offer a range of activities and may include:

- Advice on practice in settings
- Information and news from Early Years
- Changes in legislation affecting the sector
- An opportunity to debate pertinent topics
- Information on funding
- Information on relevant training
- Peer learning from experiences shared between branch members
- Social evenings

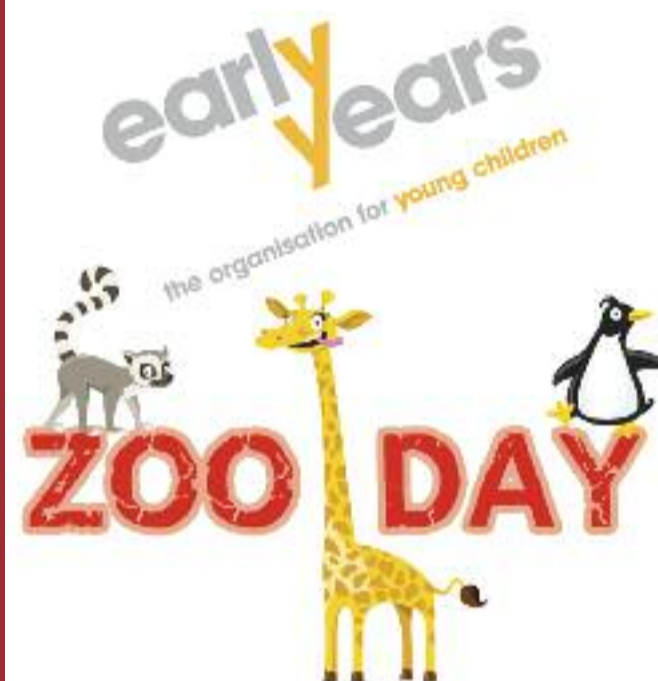
The branch members not only have the opportunity to raise issues of concern at the Early Years quarterly council meeting but may also raise topics for discussion at the Annual General Meeting through resolutions and proposals. Members are encouraged to engage in debate at the AGM to ensure that resolutions are not simply seconded and voted on. Training for members of the quarterly council and Early Years staff to encourage greater debate and strengthen the democratic process will be introduced.

In the Western area a consortium of 5 branches have been successful under an EYDF small grants scheme to deliver committee training and the IMMPACT in the 5 areas. Training will be provided for committees in the remaining areas and will be facilitated through the branch structure.

The branch meetings planned for the coming year, although subject to change, are listed below:

	Date of meeting	Branch	Early Years Specialist
Jan.	27th Jan	Fermanagh	Joan Jackman
	27th Jan	Newtonabbey, Larne and Carrickfergus	Isobel McClean
Feb.	9th Feb.	Craigavon and Banbridge	Diane Baxter
	9th Feb.	Down and Lisburn	Diane Baxter
	24th March	Fermanagh	Joan Jackman
March	25th March	Newtonabbey, Larne and Carrickfergus	Isobel McClean
April	-	-	-
May	11th May	Craigavon and Banbridge	Diane Baxter
	11th May	Down and Lisburn	Diane Baxter
	26th May	Newtonabbey, Larne and Carrickfergus	Isobel McClean
	26th May	Fermanagh	Joan Jackman
June	-	-	-

ZOO DAY 2009



Zoo Day 2009 will be held on Wednesday 13th May 2009 so please add the date to your diary. As you will have seen in the June edition of Early Years, our 2008 Zoo Day was a great success. For 2009 we intend to run two sessions for admission to the zoo on the day: 10am-12 noon and 1pm-3pm. We anticipate that this will allow more of our members to come along and join in the fun. Further details will follow in due course.

LOCKTON REMINDER



LOCKTON®

Lockton, the recommended insurer for Early Years groups, is reminding groups that they need to ensure their content insurance coverage is adequate. We recently had a report of a member whose premises were destroyed, only to find their contents insurance covered only half the value of the contents. For more information about the Early Years insurance please contact Karen Wray at Lockton on 028 9024 8989.