



Childrens Playlink

SUPPORTING PLAY AND CHILDCARE IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

❖ Autumn 2009

Services

Criminal Record Bureau (CRB)
Registered Body

Development Workers
Providing support & advice to childcare organisations in South Gloucestershire

Inclusion Adviser

Membership
Toy Library
Bouncy Castle Use

Mobile Crèche Services

Payroll Services

Play Schemes
Play 4 All
Play Rangers
Disabled Children Buddies

Roving Administrator

Termly Newsletter

Training Courses

Inside this issue:

ISA Vetting & Barring Scheme **2**

Membership 6 month renewals **3**

Early Years Inspections **4**

National Play Day **5**

National Minimum Wage **6**

Training Updates **7**

Childrens Playlink Summer Playschemes

With the addition of the Aiming High funding, 123 children and young people with disabilities were able to participate in 7 play schemes in various locations across the county.

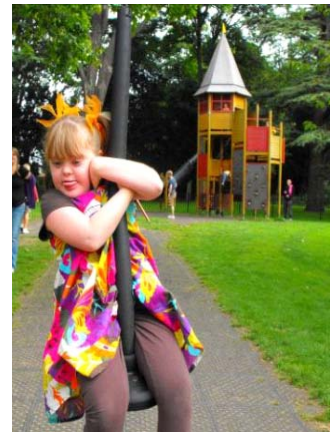


Activities included archery, climbing wall,

jewellery making, drum club, canoe club. workshops, fire-building, swimming, bowling, trips to Horse World, Blaise Castle and Grimsbury Farm as well as the usual activities offered such as painting, crafts, stories, singing, pool, snooker, outside play.....the list goes on.

The funding has also enabled us to extend the Buddy Scheme and disabled children can now be supported to attend community groups e.g. Brownies, Beavers, drama

If you would like further information on future schemes please contact Tracy Brooker or Nicky Owen on 01454 865637.



Local MP Visits Summer Playschemes

Steve Webb, Northavon MP, visited a Childrens Playlink play scheme for disabled children, where he enjoyed joining in with the activities.



He is pictured toasting marshmallows during a fire-building activity and shortly afterwards was beaten at table tennis. The seven schemes offered disabled young people a wide choice of activities in addition to the usual arts, crafts and construction activities associated with a play scheme. Steve later reported on his Twitter profile that he'd enjoyed his day with us.



Childrens Playlink members receive a discounted rate for our CRB services

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Checks

Childrens Playlink is your local authorised body, providing a comprehensive CRB checking service for anyone who works with children, young people or vulnerable adults. The disclosure contains details of all convictions held on the Police National Computer including current and 'spent' convictions, as well as details of any cautions, reprimands or final warnings.

As an umbrella body, Childrens Playlink issue CRB application forms and perform the checking service.

Charges for Enhanced Disclosures (inclusive of CRB's fees)

	<u>Non Members</u>	<u>Members</u>
Paid employees:	£48.00	£50.00
Volunteers:	£12.00	£15.00
Volunteers working with vulnerable adults:	£18.00	£20.00

Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS)

The first phase of the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) was launched on 12 October 2009. This will provide increased safeguards that will further enhance the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

What changed on 12 October?

The three current barred lists (POCA, POVA and List 99) will be replaced by two new barred lists administered by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), the 'Children's List' and the 'Vulnerable Adults List'

Employers, social services and professional regulators will have a **duty to refer information about individuals who may pose a risk** to children and vulnerable adults to the ISA. This will ensure that any potential threats to vulnerable groups can be identified and dealt

with effectively. Information on how to refer can be found on the ISA website.

There will be criminal penalties introduced for barred individuals who seek to undertake work with vulnerable groups and for any employers who knowingly take them on.

The eligibility criteria for Enhanced CRB checks will be extended to include anyone working in a regulated activity.

From July 2010, the CRB will introduce a new application form which will incorporate applications for ISA-registration.

You should ensure that anyone applying to work in regulated activity under the new eligibility criteria applies for an Enhanced CRB check.

In the past five years CRB checks have prevented around 98,000 unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults and recent research suggests that employers recognise the importance of CRB checks to the protection of children and vulnerable adults. The new Vetting and Barring Scheme will build upon this success and further enhance the protection afforded to these vulnerable groups.

When used together, a CRB and ISA-registration check will provide employers with the most comprehensive vetting and checking service on offer in the world today.

More information on ISA and VBS can be obtained by calling 0300 123 1111 or by visiting the ISA website at www.isa.gov.org.uk

Further information and fact sheets on regulated and controlled activities

www.isa.gov.org

Tel: 0300 123 1111

Payroll Services

Childrens Playlink provides a comprehensive payroll service to both members and non-members.

If you would like us to administer your payroll, we will send you a New Client Starter Pack containing information about the service we offer, and also the relevant forms needed to start the process. For details please contact:

Rachel Evans

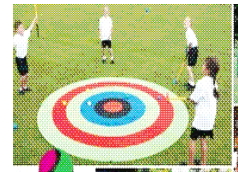
Tel: 01454 865631

**E-mail:
payrollcpl@dsl.pipex.com**

Mobile Crèche Services

Childrens Playlink provide Mobile Crèches within South Gloucestershire, at your provision, to enable parents and carers to attend short courses, seminars, functions etc. We supply the staff and play equipment, providing activities to keep the children entertained. All of our Crèche workers are required to have a childcare qualification and an Enhanced CRB check.

Each crèche request is assessed individually so we can provide a tailor-made service to suit your requirements. Bookings can be taken for a one-off or long term assignment.



TOY LIBRARY

Fundraising

Christmas Parties

Pre-Schools

Out of School Clubs

Holiday Clubs

Membership Reminder

Membership of Childrens Playlink is open to anyone providing play opportunities for children in South Gloucestershire. Current members include pre-schools, out of school clubs, holiday clubs, school PTAs, childminders, libraries, children's centres and more.

Membership includes:

Free equipment loan from our Toy Library, including special needs equipment

Free Bouncy Castle use for groups (conditions apply)

Free termly newsletter

Preferential rates for our CRB disclosure service

Training relevant to childcare organisations

The right to attend general meetings, making decisions and vote on policies.

If you have not already renewed, we are offering a 6 month membership from October 2009 to March 2010, rates available on request.



Membership Type	2009/10
Non-profit making Playschemes/Pre-Schools/Out of School	£31.00
Commercial Nurseries/Playschemes	£46.00
Parish/Town Councils	£46.00
Individual Members (eg. Childminder)	£16.00

The toy library is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 2.30pm Fridays.



Heather.McDonald
@childrensplaylink.org.uk



Locality 1

Jane.Kettlewell
@childrensplaylink.org.uk



Locality 2

Catherine.Stargatt
@childrensplaylink.org.uk



Locality 3

All pre-school development workers can be contacted on their direct line

01454 865645

Liz.Howes
@childrensplaylink.org.uk



Out of School Clubs

Out of School Clubs direct line

01454 865636

Changes to Early Years Inspections Ofsted

Changes to the early years inspection framework came into place on 1 September 2009 to coincide with a new school inspection framework which was also introduced in September.

The changes will help Ofsted consistently inspect the Early Years Foundation Stage across all schools and registered childcare settings. The changes are not major and do not involve providing inspectors with additional evidence, or inspectors spending any longer on inspection. The new inspection reports also look very similar to the reports Ofsted have been producing.

In summary, the main changes are:

one combined judgement on the quality of provision, which brings together 'how effectively a setting promotes children's welfare' with 'how effectively it promotes children's learning and development'

one additional judgement about outcomes for children.

some further judgements that contribute to the existing judgement on the effectiveness of leadership and management. These include two separate questions on how well the setting engages with parents and children and how well it works in partnership with others.

The judgement on inclusion has also moved to this section and will look at the effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity.

Two additional judgements for which Ofsted already collect evidence. These are the effectiveness with which the setting uses resources and how leadership and management embed ambition and drive improvement.....

The full article can be found on the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Your New Out of School Club Development Worker

Following the departure of the previous development worker, we are pleased to introduce Liz Howes who is in post from Monday 12th October 2009. Liz helps to run an out of school club in Bristol and is also a school governor. She is keen to share her knowledge with others and is looking forward to meeting all the groups in her area. She is a keen dog walker and loves to write children's stories and short plays.

Feedback Questionnaires - Development Workers

All feedback questionnaires completed by groups that we support are reviewed by our management committee annually.

The overall comments this year were positive. Both staff and committees using Childrens Playlink confirmed they had received excellent

guidance, support and advice from the development workers.

One committee wrote "*she helps at the drop of a hat, and it hasn't gone unrecognised*".

Most users were satisfied with the amount of contact, although there were a small number who

had not received visits or had contact since late 2008.

All development workers have an office day and are contactable by telephone (direct lines listed). Should you require a visit, in addition to the annual visit, please telephone to make an appointment.



Play Rangers

The Play Rangers scheme is continuing to be a great success especially in the new schools attended this term. Children at St. Augustines of Canterbury Primary School in Downend have enjoyed putting up rope and net swings on the playground and participating in new

and different types of risky play. Children in Horton Primary School have been dressing up in some really silly clothes and participating in mastery play including building dens and shelters.

In the parks the children have been collecting resources for preparing

and lighting fires and have experienced cooking various food types including chips and chicken burgers by wrapping them in tin foil and placing them within the embers. They have also been playing many wide games with 'manhunt' becoming a particular favourite.

Play 4 All and National Play Day - A Great Success



Wednesday 5 August 2009 was Playday, the annual celebration of children's right to play. Childrens Playlink combined this event with one of our Play 4 All events at Kingsgate Park in Yate. Over 200 local children attended and were joined by Councillor Ian Blair, Mayor of Yate.

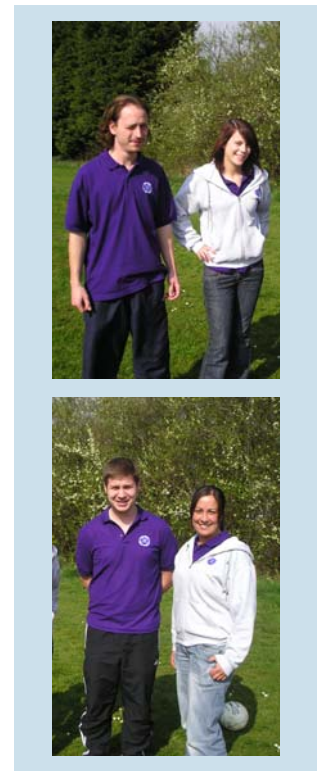
What's it all about?

This year's Playday campaign theme was *Make time!* The *Make time!* campaign highlights that all children have the right to play and need time and space to play. The campaign recognises that, in our busy and overscheduled lives, it's easy to prioritise other things over play and to

think that play is something children just do. Everyone should make time to support children's right to play - from parents, carers and teachers, to policy makers and planners. We all need to make time and space to enable children to play freely, not just on Playday but everyday.

Key messages

- All children need time and space to play
- Adults should prioritise the time children have to play
- Everyone should make time to support children's right to play



PRIZE DRAW

Congratulations to Hawkesbury After School Club who were successfully selected by the management committee from all the Feedback Questionnaires returned.

The after school club will receive one year's free membership for the 2010/11 year.



Feedback Questionnaires - General Services

All members of Childrens Playlink are issued with annual satisfaction questionnaires regarding our general services, in addition to the development worker services.

The management committee review all of the responses received, with a view to improving and adapting services where it is felt necessary.

The overall feedback for this year was positive. One area highlighted for improvement was the website, which we are currently in the

process of reviewing. Amongst our aims we will:

- make the website easier to use
- provide a useful resource base for groups.
- regularly update current topics
- Incorporate the Play Rangers website

National Minimum Wage

Rates from 1st October 2009:-

£5.80 per hour for workers aged 22 years and older

£4.83 per hour for workers aged 18-21 inclusive

£3.57 per hour for workers aged 16 to 17

HMRC enforces the national minimum wage. Under a new system from 6th April 2009, if HMRC finds you have underpaid the national minimum wage it will issue a notice of underpayment. This will show the arrears you must pay to your workers and the penalty you must pay to HMRC.

The penalty is 50% of the total underpayment that has occurred from 6th April 2009. This figure will be shown separately on the notice of underpayment. There is a minimum penalty of £100 and a maximum of £5,000. If you pay the arrears and the penalty within 14 days of the date on which the notice of underpayment is served (this date will be shown on the notice), you only need to pay half of the penalty.

Childrens Playlink AGM

Childrens Playlink held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 8th October 2009.

We were pleased to have Michael Follett, South Gloucestershire Council's Play Development Officer speaking about the council's Play Policy and its impact on play areas in

the borough, including in schools.

Childrens Playlink is run by a Management Committee, like many of our groups. We are pleased that most of our committee members were re-elected this year but we are currently looking for new committee

members, particularly in the role of Treasurer.

Please contact our chief executive, in the first instance, Jane Spence to register your interest.

2009/10 Programme

FIRST AID

These are two day paediatric courses and candidates **MUST** attend on both dates to achieve the required certificate. **The cost is £84.00**

Saturday 21st November & Saturday 28th November 2009	FULL	09.30 – 16.30 09.30 – 16.00	PC
Saturday 9th January & Saturday 16th January 2010		09.30 – 16.30 09.30 – 16.00	GC
Saturday 6th March & Saturday 13th March 2010		09.30 – 16.30 09.30 – 16.00	PC

THE ESSENTIALS OF FOOD HYGIENE

This course is designed to introduce people who have any dealings with food during their working day to the basic principles of food hygiene. **The cost is £23.50.**

Wednesday 9th December 2009		09.30 - 12.30	PC
Tuesday 9th March 2010		09.30 - 12.30	GC

The target audience is pre-schools, nurseries, out of school clubs, holiday clubs, playschemes.

Learning outcomes (in order to work with children):

Participants will be able to update their knowledge of infections, their control and what to do if there is an outbreak.

Ofsted Outcomes: Standards 7 & 8 Helping Children to be Healthy

Common Core: Competency 3 - Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child

For the latest updates and course availability please see our website www.childrensplaylink.org.uk



Child Protection

For further information on child protection issues, view www.swcpp.org.uk

All staff should undertake Child Protection Awareness training every 3 years

GC Greenfield Centre, Park Avenue, Winterbourne BS36 1NJ

PC The Park Centre, High Street, Kingswood BS15 4AR

TL Unit 2, Tower Lane Business Park, Tower Lane, Warmley BS30 8XF



Fromside Youth Centre
Watleys End Road
Winterbourne
South Gloucestershire
BS36 1QG

Tel: 01454 865631
Fax: 01454 777628



Charity No. 1085949
Company No. 4180296

Childrens Playlink is a charitable organisation that promotes and improves play and childcare opportunities across South Gloucestershire.

Vision

To provide a Centre of Excellence, delivering a high quality service to equip our clients with effective information on play and childcare.

Aims

To initiate exceptional play provision promoting equal opportunities for all children and young people.
To initiate and promote childcare provisions, expanding capabilities and encompassing our range of services.
To maintain, expand and excel our range of services to meet our clients needs.

www.childrensplaylink.org.uk

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Main Switchboard Laura Bradley	01454 865631
Chief Executive Jane Spence	01454 865629
Finance & Office Mgr Sarah Tisdall	01454 865751
Admin Assistant Karen Harris	01454 865638
Pre-School Development Workers Catherine Stargatt Heather McDonald Jane Kettlewell	01454 865645
Out of School Clubs Development Worker Liz Howes	01454 865636
Inclusive Play Nicky Owen Tracy Thornton	01454 865637
Play Rangers Emma Payne Hayley Edwards Richard Inman Ian Masters	01454 865630
Payroll Officer Rachel Evans	01454 865631

Office Opening Hours:

Monday to Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Fridays 9:00am to 3:00pm

Welcome to Laura



Laura Bradley is 22 years old and joined Childrens Playlink in September of this year, as a General Assistant. You will meet her if you are coming into the office to complete CRB checks, or if you are booking out items in the Toy Library.

Laura is new to this field, but is very much looking forward to learning new things and keeping busy. She is very excited about helping out in the crèches and with the Play Rangers when needed.

**The office will be closed for the
Christmas period from
Thursday 24th December 2009 and will
re-open on Monday 4th January 2010**

Deadline for the next issue: 31st January 2010

A copy of this newsletter can be downloaded from our website.

Information contained in this newsletter is for general guidance only and should not be regarded as a complete or authoritative statement of law.