



# Foundation Phase News

## THE PUBLICATION FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION IN SWANSEA

City & County of Swansea  
Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Welcome to the summer edition of Foundation Phase News.

As we approach the end of a very eventful academic year, it is a time when we reflect on the effectiveness of our current practice and provision.

We, as a team, have seen a widespread positive impact in schools following the module training this year. Similarly, the numbers of staff attending relevant courses have increased as the momentum towards a shift in philosophy grows. We have seen significant changes in our schools and settings across Swansea as schools prepare for the Foundation Phase. Many thanks to those of you who have given us such a warm welcome into your classes and have contributed to the dissemination of such good practice.

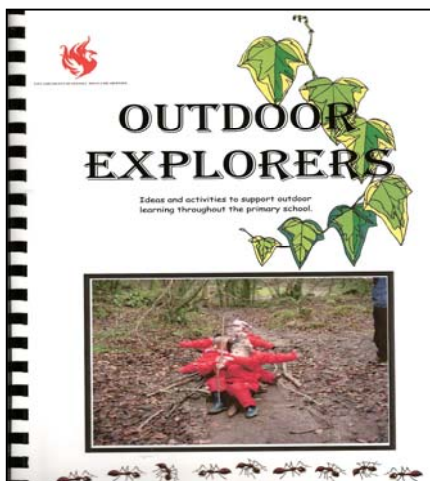


SUMMER TERM 2008



## RESOURCES PROVIDED FOR SCHOOLS

These resources should be in your school...



As a result of Forest School Training, a network group of teachers have written this document to support and disseminate good practice in outdoor learning.

These materials should be in your schools.....

**Multicultural Understanding - ideas to support this in Nursery and Reception.**

Making Provision for the Foundation Phase - ideas to support your continuous provision.

**Making Provision for Outdoor Learning - ideas to support this**

Powerpoint presentation for parents about the Foundation Phase.

**An introduction to the Foundation Phase - a CD produced by Swansea LEA.**

Examples of completed continuous and enhanced provision planning.

**If you do not have these materials please contact the Foundation Team.**

# FOUNDATION PHASE NATIONAL TRAINING



Many staff across Swansea have expressed an interest in learning more about *Write Dance* following the Child Development module training this term. We brought this to the attention of our Literacy Team colleagues who, as a result, will be providing further opportunities for staff to access training next year. Watch this space for further details.

Details of next year's Foundation Phase National Module Training Programme will be sent out to schools next term.

Nursery & Reception- Modules 1-5 for staff that have missed the training.

Year One - Modules 1-5

New Modules are currently being developed by working parties working with DCELLS and WAG to produce the training materials.

## Websites of interest....

[www.swanseagfl.gov.uk](http://www.swanseagfl.gov.uk) Education Effectiveness website which contains relevant local information and details of courses and training.

[www.awenmedia.com](http://www.awenmedia.com) Learning through play - software, books and games in English and Welsh. This includes many free downloads for the interactive whiteboard and ideas for outdoor games.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/schools/>

Every term the BBC and PSPB are providing schools with a simple "Do one thing" activity for you and your children to enjoy.

The Welsh Assembly Government's website:

[www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk) has made available documentation relating to The Foundation Phase for download.

Some of the most current documentation, such as Mathematical development, is not easily accessible through the website; however, copies can be obtained by telephoning: 0800 083 6003



## Flying Start Training News.....

Emma Amirat is working with the Flying Start child care settings and looking at the training requirements of staff, and advising them on all aspects relating to the activities they will offer children in their care.

Work has been completed in conjunction with other FS Link Teachers and a training package that consists of 5 modules has been produced. This is currently being translated into Welsh and will be ready for distribution in CD format by June, when it will be delivered to staff over the following 12 months. This will compliment The Foundation Phase National Training Modules. Links are also made with the FS Team as a whole and will involve co- working on related issues.



EARLY EDUCATION

## THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Following the success of her visit to Swansea last year, Marion Dowling provided further insights into 'Thinking skills in Young Children' at a conference held at the Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine. The conference was well attended by teachers from both Swansea and Neath Port Talbot in June.

Marion is the author of many books on Early Years, but the focus of the conference was to explore young children's thinking through their self- chosen activities, which is the subject of her most recent research. Marion has produced support and training materials which are available through Sage publishers.

For full details of the Early Education training programme, including day conferences, day courses and Saturday workshops visit [www.earlyeducation.org.uk](http://www.earlyeducation.org.uk)

Details of next year's local Early Education training events and seminars will be sent to schools and posted on the Education Effectiveness website in the autumn.

The BAECE National Training Conference 2009 will be held in Swansea on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The key note speakers will be Iram- Siraj Blatchford and Tina Bruce.

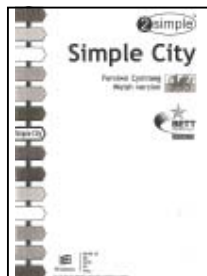
Further details will be sent to schools and posted on the Education Effectiveness website.

## NETWORK GROUP WORKING

**This year we have seen many teachers working in network groups. It has clearly demonstrated that working in clusters or teams has been very effective in the sharing of expertise, the dissemination of good practice and the finding of solutions to similar issues facing schools across Swansea.**

**Education Effectiveness has facilitated the work of many network groups. For example, The Outdoor Explorer group produced materials for the County following Forest School Training. Five network groups were formed to facilitate action research into effective pedagogy in The Foundation Phase by delegates who attended the three day course, ' Teaching and Learning in the Foundation Phase '. Delegates worked together to explore issues such as 'Well-being', 'Developing children's choices' and 'The use of specific observations to explore levels of involvement in a variety of situations'. The work was shared by the group as a whole and will be further circulated on the Education Effectiveness website.**

## New products and resources...



Simple City winner of a BETT award is now available in Welsh. This product has proved successful in stimulating Language Development, Independence, Collaboration and Creative Play in the Foundation Phase. Further details and a 30 second overview of the programme is available from [www.2simple.com](http://www.2simple.com)

Featherstone publications continues to produce more books in the Little Book series. New titles include 'The Little Book of Games with Sounds' and 'The Little Book of Mark Making.'

A new series of books written by Ros Bayley, Lynn Broadbent and Sally Featherstone has been produced for developing experiences in sand, water and construction for year one teachers. The series is called '*Carrying on in Key Stage 1*'.

TTS has increased its range of products that enable children to communicate their thoughts, feelings and experiences. Most noteworthy is the Easy Listener multiport CD player which is reasonably priced and comes with 6 headphone sockets. Also, the 'I-Memo', a hand held recording device which holds up to 2 hours of messages.

More information about these products and more are available from [www.tts-shopping.com](http://www.tts-shopping.com)

Details of more useful products can be found at [www.learn-ict.org.uk](http://www.learn-ict.org.uk) in the spring 2008 Newsletter under the heading Foundation Phase and ICT

Please note :

We cannot recommend the content of all publications & websites listed. They are for information only for individual schools to select appropriately.

### Education Effectiveness Service

### Contact details...

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**YGG Bryn Tawe**

**Heol Gwrosydd**

**Penlan**

**Swansea SA5**

I will be returning to School at the conclusion of a two year secondment.

The secondment has been a wonderful experience, and I would like to thank everyone who has given me such a warm welcome into their schools and have participated so energetically in training .

June Clifton will be joining the Foundation Phase team as Teacher Advisor in September. I know you will all give her a warm welcome.

Kind Regards to all

Sian Williams

We would welcome any comments or contributions for following editions of this newsletter.