

Free Early Education places for 2 year olds

From September 2009, 2 year olds can be referred for 15 hours per week Free Early Education with a registered and approved provider for a minimum of 38 weeks per year.

Currently the providers are: Acacia Nursery School and Children Centre, Little Green Man Nursery, Redwood Preschool, Higham Children Centre, The Lloyd Park Children Centre, The Cornerstone Preschool, St Andrews Preschool, St Patricks Preschool and Busy Bees Preschool.

Starting from the day after the child's second birthday, it will be provided until the end of the term of the child's third birthday.

There are 128 places across the Borough.

Referrals can be made by:

- Children Centres
- Social Services
- Health workers
- Childcare providers
- Education professionals

Eligibility criteria:

The family of the 2 year old must be in receipt of one or more of the following:

- Income support
- Income based jobseeker's allowance
- Child tax credit at a rate higher than the family element of £545 per annum
- Extra working tax credit relating to a disability or pension credit

Evidence must be supplied with the application.

A professional has to confirm why the child would benefit from Free Early Education.

Please note that an application does not guarantee a place.

For further information please contact the Family Information Service on 020 8496 3000 or email wffis@walthamforest.gov.uk



Every Child A Talker

Did you know that, in some areas of the Borough, up to 50% of children who start Early Years education have delays in their communication skills.

Every Child A Talker (ECAT) is a project started in January 2009 to reduce the number of children who have delays in their communication skills. ECAT Early Language Consultants are working with early years practitioners across

the foundation stage. The aim is to support practitioners to develop their skills in supporting children's language skills through play and empower parents to develop talk at home.

Who's involved?

At present there are 30 settings involved across the sectors.

Feedback so far

"I have learned so much from being involved in this project. I know more about how to help children's language development and am more confident working with parents."
Early Years Practitioner

For more information email ECAT Early Language Consultants amanda.baxter@walthamforest.gov.uk or jo.quinlan@walthamforest.gov.uk

Family Information Service – Surgeries

Come and speak to one of our officers regarding information on services for children, young people and their families in Waltham Forest. If you require an appointment please call the Family Information Service on 020 8496 3000 or you can just pop in.

Dates	Venue	Time
Tuesday 3 November 2009 Tuesday 1 December 2009	Waltham Forest Direct Shop 265 Chingford Mount Road Chingford E4 8LP	10am–12noon

Dates	Venue	Time
Tuesday 3 November 2009 Tuesday 1 December 2009	Waltham Forest Direct Shop 774-776 High Road Leyton E10 6AE	10am–12noon

Dates	Venue	Time
Thursday 5 November 2009 Thursday 3 December 2009	Waltham Forest Direct Shop 137 Hoe Street Walthamstow E17 4RT	10am–12noon

Dates	Venue	Time
Thursday 5 November 2009 Thursday 3 December 2009	Waltham Forest Direct Shop 819 High Road Leytonstone E11 1HQ	10am–12noon

Parent Partnership

Parent Partnership is a confidential service offering impartial information and support to parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs aged 0-19 years within Waltham Forest. The aim is to promote partnership between parents, the Local Authority, schools, early years settings, health, social care and specialist children's services.

Has your child's school told you that your child has special educational needs or are you worried about your child's progress? At Parent Partnership they discuss your concerns and give you information and support to help you.

For further information telephone 020 8496 5230 or 0800 587 2521, e-mail Parent.partnership@walthamforest.gov.uk, or visit our office at Parent Partnership, Queens Road Community Centre, 215 Queens Road, Walthamstow, E17 8PJ or visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/parent-partnership



Parent's Forum

Ridgeway Park Children Centre is working in partnership with families that use the centre to set up a Parent's Forum.

Helen Bigham, Coordinator

'We think it's important to give families the opportunity to influence the decision-making at our centre. We value and welcome feedback and by listening to many different views we've been able to make changes that ensure what we provide is tailor-made for our users'.

As well as representing families, the Parent's Forum is involved in fund raising and promotion of the centre. On 26 September between 12pm-2pm the centre held the sponsored Big Wheel Event to raise money for a special needs bike as well as celebrating National Children Centers Week.

There were a variety of activities; different groups including the local Safer Neighbourhood Team who were bike tagging, Children's Traffic Club, Fire Brigade and Tottenham Hotspur Foundation was providing roller skating tuition.



Harry on bike

Changes to the Early Support Team

The management of the Early Support Programme will be brought together with the Aiming High for Disabled Children within the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Changes to the Early Support Coordinator role

The role of the Early Support Coordinator is to supervise named keyworkers, continue to work in partnership with all Children Centres to encourage inclusion of disabled children and the delivery of integrated services, including being part of the Good Beginnings team and referrals to Toddler Opportunity Parent Support and other Children Centres based activities. The coordinator will sit on the Specialist Children's Service referral panel, ensuring all 0-5 year olds have access to appropriate play opportunities. The coordinator

will also be supporting Early Years practitioners to provide Team Around the Child meetings for Early Support children in their settings.

Changes to accessing the service

There is no longer a need for a referral/request for Early Support, the approach and principles are embedded across the service for 0-5 year olds. Keyworkers are non-designated but a request for a keyworker can still be made through referral to Specialist Children's Service or directly to the Early Support Coordinator.

For further information on the Early Support Programme contact Zoe Hale on **020 8430 7909** or **07971 071 034**

FIS New Opening Hours

The Family Information Service is available Monday to Friday 9am to 5.15pm and will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays till 6.30pm and Wednesday from 8am to 5.15pm.

Change of Email Address

The Family Information Service has changed their email address to wffis@walthamforest.gov.uk

Fundraising at Children Centre

The Higham Hill Children Centre raised £295.97 from the 'Picnic Day' event held on Friday 10th July '09. The money will be used to improve the services at the Toy Library, held every Friday at the Play Hut in Hecham Close.



Celebrations of National Children Centres Week

To celebrate National Children Centres Week, Higham Hill Children Centre held an Open Day to celebrate its achievements and promote services offered to the local community. This culminated at The Lloyd Park Centre's open day consultation event regarding the development of the outdoor areas on Saturday 26th September.

15-Minute Questionnaire

with Chris Kelly and Janice Bryden Project Co-ordinator for Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Team



1. What did you do today?

During the morning we attended a meeting with VT, the school's improvement group. We are currently designing an induction-training program for newly qualified teachers. The aim is that all new teachers have a basic understanding of information sharing between agencies, the common assessment framework and lead professional.

We then had to go to London Bridge for a monthly pan-London Integrated working meeting. It's a great forum in which we can discuss difficulties and solutions to problems concerning information sharing the CAF and Lead Professional.

2. What is the most challenging thing about your job?

We find that professionals get confused about what CAF is, there are a lot of rumours about the CAF and Lead Professional, and a lot of professionals that we have met have preconceived ideas about what the CAF is. The biggest challenge is enabling people to understand it and to get people to complete it.

3. What do you do to improve the outcomes for children?

Both of us are "old hat" social workers, and have worked for many years in Children's Services. The CAF can make a really positive difference to the outcomes of children and young people in the borough by meeting their needs far earlier than previously, this can really affect outcomes for children and prevent things from getting worse. As we have both experienced this in our previous role, we know the impact it has on children and young people if additional needs are not met at the earlier stage. So being responsible for facilitating this throughout the Borough is a great feeling.

4. What are your priorities for the borough?

Our main priority is to truly embed information sharing, Common Assessment Framework and lead professional in the Borough. It needs to be common language across all agencies, and if professionals are identifying needs they are talking CAF!

5. What was the last book you read?

Chris "How To Be Good" by Nick Hornby, which was pretty funny, although I was flat on my back at the time, after pulling it whilst on holiday.

Janice "From Dark to Light" a true story by Fiona Lynch who I know personally...very inspirational.

6. What is the best thing about Waltham Forest?

The diversity and culture, the community has so much to offer. There is also opportunity for professional and personal development.

Janice: I was seconded by Waltham Forest to complete the Social Work training and found the support I received from my colleagues and service users was second to none and very encouraging.

Chris: I have been working for Waltham Forest for just over a year as a locum, and I feel that the staff that I have met are really focused on the needs of children and young people. I think that Waltham Forest definitely has a great "buzz" to it and it is definitely an exciting place to work in.

7. What is not so good about Waltham Forest?

Janice: Being close to one of the biggest street markets in Europe can have an impact on your budget!

Chris: The road works are unbelievable! I live in a tiny little market town in the north of Essex

and I could not believe that to drive 3 miles down the road in Waltham Forest can take 45 minutes, maybe I need to bring a bike in!

8. If you won the lottery what would you spend the money on?

Janice: I would give a percentage to charity, then divide some of it between close friends and family... and of course we will have a massive party for all our colleagues!

Chris: I like Janice would give a percentage to charity, friends and family. I would buy a little cottage in the middle of nowhere with a little land and become as self-sufficient as I could! I would also have a paddock of sports cars!

9. What message do you have for the Prime Minister?

We would say come to Waltham Forest, meet the community and staff and listen to what we have to say... And what we've achieved.

10. Who is your hero and what would you say to them if you could meet?

Janice: I have a few, but mainly people who have overcome so many injustices and are able to forgive and find peace within themselves, I admire so much.

Chris: I think anyone who is selfless, challenges oppression and discrimination are my heroes.