

Cambourne Children's Centre

Issue 5

Date July/August 2010

Children's Centre News

The summer holiday is now here and with six weeks ahead to fill, perhaps you would like to come along to some of the free Children's Centre activities which are going on over the summer in Cambourne and the surrounding villages. Our summer activities programme is available now to collect from our office or you can look at www.cambridgeshirechildrenscentres.org.uk/ for details. Also, if you are able to travel, you are welcome to come along to our sister Centre Little Footstep's Children's Centres' summer road show activities which will be held outside in playgrounds/parks around Caldecote and neighbouring villages. Details are online or copies can be collected from the office. We hope to see you there!

Children's Centre Ofsted Inspections

All Children's Centres are required to monitor their work, recording how they are making a difference to individuals and their communities. To facilitate this process the Local Authority undertakes regular reviews with the centres, whilst nationally Ofsted are now starting to inspect Children's Centres. Your centre will be due for an Ofsted inspection any time after January 2011 and though this may appear to be some time away, we would like to bring it to your attention. The inspectors will require us to show them evidence of our work and its impact, to enable us to do this we need to be talking to our community asking what difference to the community and individuals the Children's Centre makes. Maybe you have attended one of our first aid sessions and as a result have managed an accident involving your child differently, or you may have found that attending one of our activity sessions has encouraged you to play outside with your children, or even by joining in with simple cooking ideas at one of our groups, now your child is helping you prepare your family meals e.g. laying the table, getting pans out of the cupboard, mixing a cake mixture. If you would like to come and tell us your story we would very much appreciate your support.

You will notice over the next few months that Children's Centre staff will be asking you to fill in evaluation sheet and questionnaires, please if at all possible can you take the time to complete and return to us these forms as they will help us learn from what we have been doing enabling us to strive to meet your needs.

Sarah Dixon, Children's Centre Manager

Parents Forum

I would like to say a big thank you to the parents who were able to attend the 2nd Parent's Forum meeting this year, which took place on the 23rd June and was held at our new room adjacent to Monkfield Care & Learning Centre. **The next meeting for your diaries will take place there on the 31st August 6.30-7.30pm.** All Children Centre's are required to have a Parents Forum. We are trying to establish Cambourne Children's Centre's Parents Forum at the moment and plan to meet four times a year, for about an hour each time. As users of our Children Centre and as parents yourselves we value your opinions, ideas and feedback and coming along to the Parents Forum is one way you can get to meet us and have the opportunity to let us know your needs. Parents that are part of the Forum can also be supportive by helping us with our planning of future provision and initiatives, as well as championing the work the Children's Centre is able to provide.

At the next Parent's Forum meeting, (where light refreshments are served) we will be discussing the role and objectives of the parent's forum in more depth as well as asking parents for their support at our Annual Party which is to be held at the Hub, Cambourne on Friday 17th September. If you are interested

in supporting Cambourne Children's Centre and its development and would like to come to the next Parent's Forum Meeting you are all very welcome.
Donna Balsler, Senior Family Involvement Worker

Children's Centre Activity Room

Earlier in the year we mentioned that our activity room had undergone a transformation and that we would be starting to use it to run events from.

We are pleased to say the room is being well used and that we have received a lot of positive feedback about how user friendly it is, like all these things we have had some teething problems but gradually are getting these resolved.

Currently childminders are meeting at the room on a Monday, Feeding Matters our breast feeding and weaning drop in session now use the room on a Tuesday morning, Wednesday mornings Wendy Thomas the Nursery Nurse is undertaking 2 year developmental checks at the room, and HUGS a support group for parents with children who have additional needs and Space to Talk a referral only parent support group meet alternating Wednesday afternoons. We have also used the room for one off events others are being planned.

However, we would like to bring to your attention that when visiting the room please can you avoid disturbing the Care & Learning Centre, our room though attached to the Care & Learning Centre building has its own independent entrance and operates as a stand alone facility. With the Children's Centre being based in Sackville House, we do not have a 9am to 5pm presence at the room, there is only someone there when it is being used. If you have any general enquires or want to contact us please come to our office at Sackville House or phone or email us.

Shout Out for a Sure Start

There are now more than 3,000 Sure Start Children's Centres across England, with more in Scotland and Wales. They provide families with young children with services, support and information. This means that more families know where to go to get help; parents who are worried about their child don't have to suffer in silence; and mums, dads and grandparents can get together to share the joys and challenges of raising children.

So, if you believe that...

- A sure start sets you up for life
- Every child deserves a sure start
- Investment in children is an investment in our future

... then why not 'shout out for a sure start'!

To find out about the ways you can support the campaign visit <http://shoutoutforasurestart.org.uk/>

Home Access Scheme - free computers for low-income families

Some of you will know about the 'Home Access' scheme, a government drive that helps low-income families who currently lack access to a computer and/or internet to get online at home. It provides a grant to eligible families enabling them to choose from a range of approved packages. The grant is a significant one and can cover a computer, one year's internet access, service and support. Broadly speaking, families are likely to be eligible if they have a child on free school meals in Key Stage 2 or 3. To apply, parents need to phone a call centre and after preliminary screening, an application form is sent to them. The scheme is not intended to place any burdens on schools or local authorities. The website for the scheme is <http://www.homeaccess.org.uk/>

NHS Sleep Clinic (for children six months and over)

Last Tuesday of the month 2:00-3:30pm Melbourn Community Health Centre.

Cambourne Children's Centre (Covering: Caxton, Bourn, Eltisley and Croxton)

Sackville House, Sackville Way, Cambourne, CB23 6HL

Contacts: 01954 284672 email: cambournechildrenscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk