



News Bytes Issue 9 Special Edition ICT in the Early Years

23rd October 2009

News Bytes 9 is a special edition focusing on ICT in the Early Years. The Curriculum ICT team receive many requests to run training events to support ICT in Nursery and Reception settings. As a result of these requests we will be running an "ICT in the Early Years" Conference in November. To get more of an insight into how ICT can support continuous and enhanced provision in the EYFS please read on.

ICT and the Early Years Conference-November 2009

The inclusion of ICT in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum reflects the need to encourage forward looking practice in classrooms and nurseries. ICT can underpin all areas of learning for young children and by planning for integration we ensure that ICT is viewed as a tool to support and enhance learning and teaching and not simply as a skill to be learned.

"Technology is a challenging area in Early Years practice, not least because of the fast pace at which technology moves within our world today. New technologies bring along with them new ways of learning and we need to keep critical but open minds about these transformations. Technology should not be viewed as something discrete, or an 'add-on' to the learning environment, but as part of a relevant and meaningful learning environment reflecting children's worlds today."

Harriet Price, *The Really Useful Book of ICT in the Early Years*.

The Curriculum ICT team are running 2 half day conferences in November with the focus being **"How can ICT support extended provision in the EYFS?"**

The conference is aimed at all Early Years practitioners including teachers, nursery nurses and HLTAs. Delegates will have opportunities to look at, and use a variety of hardware, software, websites and other materials to support the delivery of ICT in the Early Years.

The conference will be held at the following venues:-
Wednesday 11th November 9:15-12:00pm Challenge CLC, Bradford

Thursday 12th November 9:15-12:00pm Greenhead CLC, Keighley

To register for the conference please visit www.curriculumict.com then click on INSET, courses and support and click on the relevant link. If you subscribe to the Curriculum ICT team's 3 star or above support package access to the conference is free. The cost for all other schools/nurseries is £75. Places are limited and therefore registration will be on a first come-first served basis.



Contents

Early Years Conference	1
Photostory and EYFS	2
Essential Early Years websites	2
Focus Fingertips software	3
Education City EYFS	3
TTS resources	4
SCRAN resources	4
Prize Draw	4

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Photostory and EYFS

Many of you have perhaps used PhotoStory 3 or heard of it. It has been widely used within Leeds schools due to the Leeds literacy consultants promoting it as being a practical way of incorporating ICT within literacy lessons. Blenheim Foundation Stage in Leeds found a really useful way of using it to engage parents who speak little English and have little understanding of the kinds of provision that is available for their children.

The Foundation Leader was limited by a small budget but managed to find an old computer and a flat screen monitor. They set it up in the parent's area and placed the computer into a locked cabinet under the screen and speakers. All the foundation staff have been given a digital camera to enable them to record activities in the areas of provision. They have downloaded PhotoStory 3 on to all the computers in the unit and bought 3 very inexpensive microphones. The Foundation Team put the pictures into PhotoStory and used the built in sound recorder within the software to add audio. They then ask the children to come and speak about what they have learnt in the different areas of provision. Most children are encouraged to speak in English but some use their first language. When completed the staff save the PhotoStory with which the software creates a windows media file, so when played it is like a mini film.

PhotoStory runs on a loop and is always switched on at the times parents come to pick up their children. The parents can visually see what the children have been doing and can listen to what they are saying. The foundation leader says the children are really enthusiastic about creating the photo stories and there is much discussion between parent and child. The Headteacher is so pleased with the success it has brought in the Foundation Stage; she has put a screen in the main entrance. The photo stories are changed on a weekly basis and all staff now take turns to make a story so it isn't just the responsibility of one person. Some of the year 5 and six children make their own photo stories too.

PhotoStory 3 is a free piece of software which can be downloaded from the internet. It is so easy to use but if you feel a bit daunted by it all but would like to try using it for yourself, you can ask the ICT team for some in school support or come to the Early Years conference on the 11th and 12th of November where we will be looking at it in more detail.

If you would like more information or training contact the Curriculum ICT Team via tina.housley@educationbradford.com



Essential Early Years websites

There are hundreds of websites on the internet that have some great learning content and teaching resources for use in the Early Years setting. We have listed some of our favourite websites for practitioners below. We have also collated these websites and numerous children's websites in one easy to use area on www.curriculumict.com Simply click on the Web Links link in the left hand menu and then click on Early Years. If you use one of the websites, please take the time to give it a star rating - 5 stars being the best. If you know of any other great Early Years websites that we haven't listed on our website please send an e-mail with the link to james.langley@educationbradford.com

Websites for practitioners:-

- <http://foundation.e2bn.org>
- www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/eyfs/
- <http://ecs.lewisham.gov.uk/talent/pricor/foundation.html>
- www.kented.org.uk
- www.ltscotland.org.uk/earlyyears
- www.hitchams.suffolk.sch.uk/foundation
- www.ioe.ac.uk/cdl/DATEC



Focus Fingertips: Early Years in the Palm of your Hand

This brand new software (for a Mobile Phone or PALM Device) will revolutionise the way foundation stage practitioners' record evidence on a day to day basis. This exciting new system allows you to:-

- 1) take a photo
- 2) capture up to 30 seconds worth of video
- 3) record audio clips
- 4) add text

All of this is done on an easy to use Mobile Phone or PALM Device (**please note:- for e-Safety reasons it is strongly recommended that a member of staff's personal device is not used for collecting and collating pupil information - please check your school's acceptable use policy to confirm this recommendation**).

The information is then transferred automatically to your laptop/computer (while you have a cup of coffee). The software will allocate this information for each child into their personal electronic record. This information can then be saved to CD for parents and could be ideal in helping you meet the 2012 requirements for parental access to children's records on-line. Each child will have an automatically created 'Learning Diary' which will detail progress and photographs. This can be edited by the practitioner and is ideal for parents evening, reporting to parents or downloading for hard copies.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Teachers will be required to firstly set up the academic year, teachers name and classes. All children for that class will need to be entered in and assigned to the correct class. Once your device is synced with your laptop/computer (done automatically simply by connecting it with a cable), you can then start collecting evidence. You do this by using your mobile phone or PDA device to take a photograph, record audio or a short video clip or input text on your device. When you sync your computer, this evidence plus notes and assessment levels will all transfer over to the pupil(s) record(s). You can then produce reports from this data and an individual 'learning diary'.

PUPILS LEARNING DIARY

Every time you collect photographs and input text for a pupil this is also being stored in a learning diary. You can print this off at any time for any pupils and it will provide you with a report, ideal for reporting to parents. It will contain photographs and comments of progress and achievement. This can be reviewed and edited, and even exported to word or another format, allowing you to customise this with your school logo.

The Focus Fingertips software will be demonstrated at the Early Years conferences on the 11th and 12th November.

Using EducationCity in the EYFS

Access to EducationCity is **FREE** for all **Bradford Learning Network** schools. The early years activities are ideal for 3-5 year olds as they offer a rich resource of engaging, motivating and objective-focused contexts that support both the child and teacher. Mapped to the early learning goals set out in the EYFS Framework, the pre-school activities are displayed as themed topics which relate to children's everyday experiences and interests providing a bank of cross-curricular linked activities that support a broad and rich language curriculum. It uses intuitive and age appropriate icons with animation and audio stimuli when the child answer correctly. Young children love the colourful and interactive sing-a-long nursery rhymes and the make and do type activities, making learning memorable and fun.



Each themed topic consists of five activities that link to pre-school objectives relating to language, literacy, maths, science and social studies. One of the really special features in EducationCity is the award winning Letters and Sounds area which can be found in the F2 section on the front screen. In this area there are 45 activities each offering a sequence of reading tasks. Each task roughly follows the same sequence – scene setter, explore the screen, blend or segment practice from a wide range of fun activities, letter formation and reinforcement using alliteration or game play.

If you are a teacher in the Foundation Stage then EducationCity has lots of resources to offer you and your children. Well worth a visit!



TTS Group Ltd.



TTS supply high quality educational resources to schools and parents across the UK. Basically, TTS is your one-stop shop for innovative ICT equipment in the Early Years setting. The majority of the equipment we will be demonstrating in context at the Education Bradford EYFS conference has been purchased from TTS. Not only can you order individual items to support ICT in the Early Years, you can order a number of Early Year ICT collections as well. The collection pictured on the left costs £279.95 ex VAT. Before investing in any equipment the Curriculum ICT team suggest that you loan the equipment on a short term basis from one of Bradford's 3 CLCs. www.tts-group.co.uk

SCRAN

Scran is a great resource for early years teaching and learning materials. Available for **free** in all **Bradford Learning Network** schools, the Scran website includes pictures, videos and sounds on a variety of early years topics including numbers, shapes, sounds, food, weather and more. All materials on the site can be freely downloaded, printed and copied for educational use. Go to www.scran.ac.uk from your school's computer to find out more.



Prize Draw

Congratulations to Woodside Primary, East Morton Primary and St Luke's Primary who entered last issue's prize draw and each won a webcam. If you have read this newsletter you are eligible to enter a free prize draw. This half term News Bytes has been sponsored by Challenge CLC. To enter the free prize draw all you have to do is reply to the newsletter by e-mail:- (james.langley@educationbradford.com) with the text - Prize Draw please - Your School Name. Only one entry will be accepted per school. We will e-mail you to confirm if your school is a winner.



The prizes this issue include 2 Beebots. News Bytes Issue 10 will be published on Friday 8th January 2010. The focus will be "10 ways to ..."

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Newsletter

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Our Curriculum ICT Team is committed to supporting schools to help pupils reach their potential in all the National Curriculum subjects which they study and in which they use ICT. The services we can provide are:-

- in-service training sessions for schools on a variety of issues including:- effective use of interactive whiteboards, digital animation, creative use of ICT across the curriculum, effective use of new online content, podcasting etc
- work in schools modelling effective ICT teaching both in their own and other's classrooms
- work with ICT co-ordinators and help them develop their role effectively
- liaise with Curriculum co-ordinators within schools to promote the development of ICT across the curriculum