



NATIONAL EDUCATION TRUST

# Early Years Matter

Discussion, Debate and Development  
Programme for Children's Centre Professionals



*“It was a genuine pleasure and a useful learning experience... the leap in confidence and enthusiasm since the visit is a little breathtaking.”*

Children's Centre Manager

Five Early Years Matter networks are now established in the UK and a ten day programme of training, debate and discussion events has been planned for each network. Five more networks are planned for 2012/13.

There will be national conferences and a series of seminars at different locations throughout the year to share good practice, discuss and debate what matters to children and families in each community.

- **EARLY YEARS MATTER** will establish learning networks of children's centres across the country where the adults and children are actively engaged in collaborative projects, research and development which will benefit all children 0-5 years and their families.
- **EARLY YEARS MATTER** will celebrate and share outstanding early years provision and practice through networking, training and seminars. Case studies will be shared nationally via the NET website, through the newsletter and at national conferences.
- **EARLY YEARS MATTER** will create an online database of high quality early intervention/family engagement programmes used in children's centres. All programmes will be piloted and evaluated in EYM centres with links to relevant training. A robust quality assurance process carried out by NET will ensure that only those programmes that will impact on the intergenerational cycle of deprivation are included.
- **EARLY YEARS MATTER** will establish a team of NET Early Years Associates and Advisors, who will contribute to national debate, deliver training and seminars on behalf of NET.



- **EARLY YEARS MATTER** will work to strengthen the links between early education and university research and development. Where possible, each Early Years Matter Network will be linked to a local university who will support future research, discussion, workforce development and debate.
- **EARLY YEARS MATTER** will work in partnership to publish a range of resources to support the delivery of outstanding children's centre services to young children and families.



## Why get involved in Early Years Matter?

This professional development programme for children's centre professionals will strengthen local links and partnerships. The programme will provide opportunities to share innovative and outstanding practice through visits, talks and peer to peer support. There will be presentations and workshops on leadership and management, impact and outcomes, including a choice of family engagement activities and early interventions.

The course is currently offered in ten hubs across the UK but can be adapted and commissioned by Local Authorities, Federations and Cooperatives to promote partnership working and the development of learning networks.

The programme is delivered through ten training days which can be tailored to meet the needs of each network.

## A typical programme might include...

- 1** Collecting, interpreting and using data to achieve local and national key performance indicators for leaders and managers.
- 2** Visit to a Children's Centre in a neighbouring LA.
- 3** Effective communication of impact and outcomes for leaders and managers.
- 4** Family Engagement Module – Arts and Creativity.
- 5** Visit to an outstanding Children's Centre.
- 6** Family Engagement Module – Social and emotional well-being.
- 7** Visit to an Interactive Learning and Resources Centre.
- 8** Family Engagement Module – Early Language Groups: Numeracy/Literacy.
- 9** Leading your Centre's Ofsted Inspection.
- 10** Planning for change: Planning for the future.

The National Education Trust has an excellent record working with schools and early years settings across the country and is at the forefront of shaping educational policy.

*“The team was supported to reflect in such a positive and professional manner that they are already talking about the changes and things they are going to try out tomorrow!”*

Children’s Centre Manager

*“A good mix of formal input with opportunities to discuss issues impacting on us and our future.”*

Nursery School Headteacher

*“An opportunity to find out what’s happening nationally.”*

Family Engagement Manager

*“Great to network and make time to reflect on our current practice.”*

Children’s Centre Teacher



Each training day can be attended by any member of the centre team so that the programme will benefit the whole team and centre rather than an individual. Leaders and Managers can use the programme as evidence of partnership working, change management and research to support further qualifications and studies.

At the end of the programme each centre will receive an Early Years

Matter plaque and membership of the Early Years Matter Regional Network.

Once the ten day programme has finished the Early Years Matter Regional Network will offer a varied programme of free seminars, workshops and visits which can be booked via the NET website [www.nationaleducationtrust.net](http://www.nationaleducationtrust.net)

All members of the Early Years Matter Regional Network will receive updated information about other NET early years improvement services, publications and training events including the new Early Years Blink, Maths Counts, Sunbeams and Sparkling Classrooms.

**To find out more contact National Project Leader for Early Years Matter, Louise Jackson at [earlyyearsmatter@nationaleducationtrust.net](mailto:earlyyearsmatter@nationaleducationtrust.net) or telephone 0207 702 0707.**

[www.nationaleducationtrust.net](http://www.nationaleducationtrust.net)