

Early Years Network Invitation

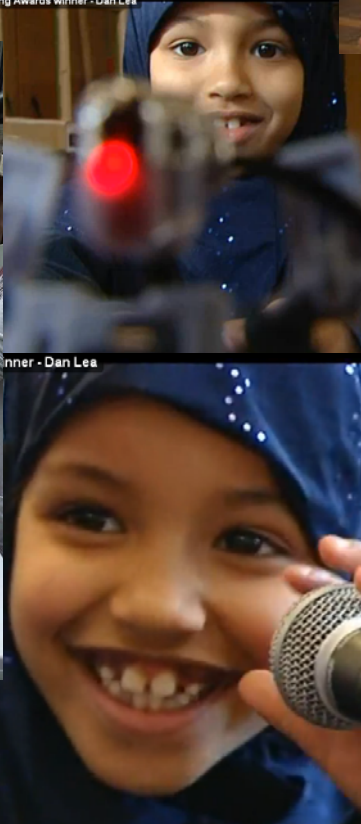
This year we really want to get to grips with identifying a core set of schools that are motivated in exploring best Early Years practice, creating a learning dialogue over the year and then sharing these discoveries with other schools.

For those engaging in this journey there will be funding to support release time, cover costs and one or two special reward events

Attached is a flyer that outlines events already planned for our Early Years Network for 2010/2011.

Please note that our first event is on the 20th of October 2010;

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our network, please forward this flyer, stick it up on your staff notice boards or just email
Dan Lea, AST, Gearies Infant leafamily2005@aol.com or
Maureen Hart, Senior School Improvement Advisor Maureen.Hart@redbridge.gov.uk



The Redbridge Early Years Network 2010/2011

The Redbridge Early Years Network. 2010/2011.

Events already planned for 2010/2011:

A Launch Learning Event: Wednesday 20th October. Tea at the Mansion, followed by a learning walk around Gearies Infants.

To launch this year events I thought it would be nice if we spent a day out of our schools, finding a space where we can talk, identify what we want to achieve and be stimulated by a location here in Redbridge. In the morning we will be meeting at The Valentines Mansion house, have a tour round, enjoy the learning spaces it provides and then have tea and coffee in the garden café. In this time we can informally talk about what's currently going on in our schools and also begin to form a shared idea of the learning our network will be focusing on this year.

It was mentioned last year that members of the network really enjoyed participating in learning walks, so the afternoon has been set aside for those interested to come on a learning walk tour of Gearies Infants, to see how the children's centre has developed and to view our new transition learning environments crated to support reception moving to year one.

Cover costs for you to attend this event will be paid by the network.

Autumn Term: My City.

This is an opportunity for network schools to join together in exploring our fantastic city. Over the Autumn Term we will be looking to visit some of the fantastic buildings, museums, galleries and spaces that can be found in our City. For Free. This project will look to offer Network schools an opportunity to support the learning experiences of our most disadvantaged children by simply taking these children and family members on one off visits to venues such as The Tate Modern, The National Gallery, You View, venues that are totaling inspiring and free to visit. (To engage with this project adult family members joining us on our trips will need a list 99.)

The key concept of this project is to use our city as a resource to inspire our thoughts, using the city to stimulate innovative learning experiences for our children.

Cover costs for you to attend this event will be paid by the network.



Wednesday 24th November: Learning Event.

The One Mile Radius Project: A sharing of the learning journey experienced by those creating The Gearies Archive of Sound (GAS).

“ That was the first time I have sung to anyone...I normally only sing in my head...when walking down the street or in the playground...I only sing quietly because I was worried about what people would say...When I needed to sing I closed my eyes and just pretended that no one was there...then when I was singing I got more confidence and liked hearing my voice...singing in front of someone else was amazing...because it made me show my feelings...it makes you not shy ...When you are in GAS you learn about not being shy...about being confident...This is important because when you are shy you are shy and you don't share your voice...no one knows what you think because you are to shy to tell them...when I am singing I learnt not to be shy...I learnt to be confident, to stand up and share my ideas. This was my voice”

Nabeela, aged 7

This is a learning event in which you can meet Jon Owen, the artist in residence at Gearies and co founder of GAS. In this event you will be able explore the learning discoveries we made during or creative enquiry, practically experience the project by collectively creating an archive piece and also spend time discussing with Jon how the learning and implications of this project can influence and support the celebration of cultural identity, voice and languages found within your own school community. Places will be limited, for more information email:

Leafamily2005@aol.com.

Cover costs for you to attend this event will be paid by the network.

Spring Term:

The Biggest Learning Opportunity on Earth: Feast of Stories.

This project will be based at Gearies Infants with an open invite for Network schools to come and share the learning enquiry.

The Concept

More than 200 countries will compete in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Each of these countries and their teams of athletes and visitors will have different stories and cultural experiences to share. What stories do adults and children living in London have to share? How are these stories passed on from generation to generation? How do stories reflect our own experiences and cultural values?

What the project involves

Feast of Stories will celebrate and explore the cultural identity of families living in London by sharing stories, songs and memories Children, parents and school staff will become story collectors. Using London 2012 as a starting point and the fact that over 200 countries compete in the Games, they will work with artists to share stories from their childhood and how they have been passed down from generation to generation. Participants will be encouraged to talk about stories from their childhood or stories they tell their children. This will lead to talking about cultural heritage and values, where their stories came from, and how their experiences are different from their parents or grandparents. Stories will be recorded and available as MP3 files for schools to use on their websites. They will also be on a dedicated project website so that all schools can download each other's stories. This will provide access to a fantastic resource of stories in different languages and from a range of cultures. Each school can also develop a Feast of Stories where families can share stories and food with each other. This could be developed into shared feasts between schools and culminate in a bigger event as part of the build up to the Games in 2012.

Cover costs for you to attend this event will be paid by the network.

Summer Term: Paradise Playgrounds.

A music festival, that celebrates our school communities, with families sharing food, music and stories.

Cover costs for you to attend this event will be paid by the network.

Creating a learning dialogue.

It is the intention of the network to publish a learning dialogue this year. A record of our learning experiences, which can be published and shared with other schools. In the summer term Network schools will join together in exploring how our recollections and memories of the year can be successfully documented and shared.

The Early Years Network should be a group of schools that all want to share in a year long learning journey. A collection of schools that want to creatively explore how we can celebrate our schools rich and diverse communities while supporting the needs of our multi lingual learners. The above collection of planned events is just the beginning; the network has the long term vision of providing a professional learning community for like minded schools. A learning space I which a collection of schools can innovate, share knowledge and explore what makes outstanding early years practice. If you are interested in joining the network and sharing in this journey please contact either Maureen Hart or Dan Lea.

(Please remember, that with our new budget, your school can claim funds back for supply cover needed to release any practitioner from school.)

Cover costs for you to attend this event will be paid by the network.

