



NCMA News

Information and news about home-based childcaring

Welcome

This newsletter is sent to you by the National Childminding Association (NCMA), a charity and professional association. We believe every child should reach their full potential. Since 1977 we have worked with registered childminders and nannies, as well as other individuals and organisations such as local and national government, to ensure families in every community in England and Wales have access to high-quality, home-based childcare, play, learning and family support. This newsletter is supported by The Children, Young People and Families Grant.

National Childminding Week 2011

National Childminding Week is taking place this year from 4 to 11 June 2011. This year's theme is "aspiration," reflecting the fact that registered childminders and nannies are uniquely placed to nurture interests and build on the future aspirations of the children in their care.

NCMA will be asking its members to incorporate the theme of aspiration into any events they hold during the week, and members will be able to read more in the April/May issue of Who Minds?

Did you do something completely different before becoming a childminder, or do you work with someone that did? Do you know of any minded children that went on to do something interesting or unexpected? We would like to hear your stories. Please get in touch at ncma.media@ncma.org.uk

Children Come First Network Seminar

It's not too late to book your place for the next Children Come First (CCF) seminar, which takes place in London on Thursday, 24 March 2011.

In addition to hearing from Ofsted and The Fatherhood Institute, NCMA has just confirmed that the Department for Education will be speaking about its new vision for early years and childcare.

This seminar has been specifically developed to deliver a comprehensive look at the work of networks. It will be your chance to learn about key issues including:

- the Department for Education's new vision for early years and childcare
- update from Ofsted with a question and answer session
- the role of men within childcare and the benefits of male childminders
- childminder training and continuing professional development.

To book your place, email Julie.fennelly@ncma.org.uk

World Book Day 2011

World Book Day is a celebration of books and reading, which is marked in over 100 countries around the world. World Book Day 2011 will take place on Thursday, 3 March in the UK.

Specially produced £1 books will be published on World Book Day, and a range of activities and events will be organised across the UK to celebrate the day.

To find out more, visit www.worldbookday.com or email wbd@education.co.uk
For information about events in England, call 01634 729810.
For information on events and activities in Wales, call 01970 624151.

I CAN's Chatterbox Challenge

I CAN, the children's communication charity, is gearing up for the 2011 Chatterbox Challenge and calling on as many people as possible to register for their Guinness World Record™ attempt on 1 March 2011.

The Chatterbox Challenge is the first event of the recently launched "Hello" campaign. "Hello", the national year of communication, is a campaign to increase understanding of how important it is for children and young people to develop good communication skills.

Sponsored by Openreach, the Chatterbox Challenge encourages children and young people to practise their communication skills, whilst raising money for the many children in the UK who struggle to communicate. Children aged 0-5 years across the UK can practise rhymes and songs to develop their communication skills.

This year, the Challenge is hoping to break a Guinness World Record™ on 1 March 2011 for the largest number of children singing "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" simultaneously across the UK in multiple venues. Jean Gross, Communication Champion said, "Through learning simple songs, rhymes and taking part in language activities linked to the rhymes, Chatterbox Challenge will help thousands of young children to develop their ability to talk and understand. I hope that every family, pre-school setting and school all want to join in. And I'm really looking forward to singing 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' myself on 1 March."

I CAN's speech and language therapists have created the Chatterbox Challenge pack, filled with fun and entertaining educational songs and activities, which all help support and develop children's speech and language skills.

If you are a registered childminder and NCMA member, why not send your stories and photos of your Chatterbox Challenge to Who Minds? and we will publish a selection of them in Who Minds? magazine.

Write to Who Minds?, NCMA, Royal Court, 81 Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 1TG, or email whominds@ncma.org.uk. Please ensure that you have parental permission before sending photos to Who Minds?

NCMA is the National Childminding Association of England and Wales. NCMA is a membership organisation and national charity which promotes quality home-based childcare for the benefit of children, families and communities. Charity Number 295981.

For more information about NCMA and its work, visit www.ncma.org.uk or call 0845 880 0044.

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