



NCMA News

Information and news about home-based childcaring

9 August 2010

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.

NCMA Annual Conference 2010

Book your place now at the [NCMA Annual Conference](http://www.ncma.org.uk/conference). Booking forms are available in the current August/September issue of Who Minds? magazine. Alternatively, you can download a booking form from the NCMA website at www.ncma.org.uk/conference.

This year's NCMA conference takes place on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 November, at the Royal Marriott Hotel in Bristol. The conference will feature a fantastic range of workshops as well as lively discussions. Attendees will hear from NCMA's President Dame Gillian Pugh and keynote speaker Dave Benson Phillips.

To find out more about the conference and to download your booking form, visit www.ncma.org.uk/conference.

NCMA Regional Forums

NCMA Regional Forums are held three times a year, in the 10 NCMA regions. They give NCMA members the chance to discuss important topics and share their views with NCMA. The next round of Regional Forums will begin in September.

If you are an NCMA member and live in England, the Forums will be your chance to discuss the forthcoming EYFS review. NCMA will use feedback from members to develop its response to the review.

In Wales, the Forum will be looking at the recent changes to law affecting childminders; have an opportunity to discuss the development of a new quality assurance scheme that will help to formulate NCMA's consultation response; and discuss what NCMA should be lobbying for during the Welsh Assembly elections in 2011.

Find out more about your [nearest Regional Forum](http://www.ncma.org.uk/conference) on NCMA's website. Members will be able to download Regional Forum booking forms by logging into their exclusive members' area, My NCMA.

EYFS review - have your say

The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a "call for evidence" which gives early years providers and parents the opportunity to have their say on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This is part of the EYFS review which is being led by Dame Clare Tickell, chief executive of the children's charity, Action for Children.

NCMA will be submitting a response to the Government and is encouraging all registered childminders to respond and also highlight the consultation to the parents whose children attend their setting, to ensure the home-based childcare workforce is well represented in the discussion.

Comments can be submitted until 30 September 2010 and a final report on the EYFS review will be provided in spring 2011. The Government will then consult on any proposed changes before they take effect from September 2012.

Access the [consultation questions](#) and [respond online](#).

Ofsted inquiry

The Education Select Committee has launched an inquiry into Ofsted. The cross-party group of MPs is asking for the views of professionals, schools and organisations to give their thoughts on what the purpose of investigations should be, the impact of the inspection process and the performance of Ofsted when they carry out inspections.

NCMA will be submitting evidence to the Committee. Individuals are able to submit evidence for consideration, although individual cases will not be investigated.

If you would like to submit evidence please [read about the format](#) which evidence needs to be in.

For any advice, please contact the Communications department at NCMA on 0845 880 0044 or email info@ncma.org.uk. The deadline for submissions is **8 October 2010**.

Membership survey results

NCMA's membership survey for 2010 has just been released. The survey helps NCMA to understand our members and their childminding practice, allowing us to ensure that our work best supports our members and their day-to-day experiences of working as a childminder.

The survey provides information on the composition of NCMA's membership, the types of services offered, information about fees and earnings, and details about qualification levels and training among childminders.

The [NCMA membership survey](#) and other NCMA research into home-based childcare is published at www.ncma.org.uk.

Renew your NCMA membership online

Until recently, NCMA members have been able to renew their membership by phone or by post. Now, members can also renew their membership or insurance by logging on to the [My NCMA members' area](#) at www.ncma.org.uk.

All you need is your membership number and postcode to get started. If you have already registered, but have forgotten your password, you can [request a password reminder](#) through the NCMA website.

Engaging fathers

Engaging Fathers as Partners is a one-day conference from the Fatherhood Institute, which takes place on 11 November 2010. The conference offers families and those working in the childcare sector the opportunity to explore their thinking and practice in engaging fathers and male caregivers.

Find out more about the conference and [download a booking form](#).

Working with children's centres in Kent

Deborah Ashton is a childminder and NCMA member from Whitstable, Kent. She is closely involved in working with children's centres and has found them an invaluable resource both for herself and her minded children.

"We are very lucky in Whitstable as we have two children's centres: Joy Lane and Swalecliffe. When our local childminding group started using the children's centres both myself, as Treasurer of Whitstable Childminding Group, and Chair Tracey Capelett were invited to be on the senior management committee, so the centre consults us on any proposals going through.

The children's centres offer children a well-equipped and safe place to play. The children feel very at home at both centres and enjoy being in a large group. We also stay for lunch, which gives the children the experience of eating lunch in a large group. I visit the centres each week; it's great to visit both centres as they offer different resources and experiences for the children to take part in.

The children's centres have provided some great workshops, including a messy play training workshop, and a letters and sounds workshop run by Sarah Kehoe at the Joy Lane Children's Centre. Sarah showed us a production show about letters and sounds, and we went through a National Strategies book and CD together. She also gave us pointers on how to incorporate things like rhyming books and rhyming pairs into playing with the children. It was especially helpful as Sarah linked it to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and encouraged us to think about how to incorporate everything we had learned at the workshop into our planning and everyday work.

We're also invited to other events at the children's centres, such as adult education workshops, so they help me to gain knowledge in a welcoming environment. We were asked to attend and offer a craft activity at an open day at the Swalecliffe Children's Centre, giving us the opportunity to raise our profiles and let parents know more about us.

Working with children's centres definitely improves my practice as we're allowed to use any of the resources and are always made to feel welcome. They also ask our opinion about the resources and which are most helpful to us. For example, when the local council closed a children's toy library, the children's centre at Joy Lane asked us if we would benefit if they were to open one, and we said that we would.

The children's centres advertise our childminding group on their notice boards and provide parents with information to take away. We also have a folder at both centres, which displays our profiles for parents to access. Being an accredited network childminder, I am in the position to offer the free entitlement for 3- 4-year-olds and at present I am taking part in the pilot scheme, which allows me to offer the free early years entitlement for 2-year-olds, and the children's centres refer parents to me for this scheme."

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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