



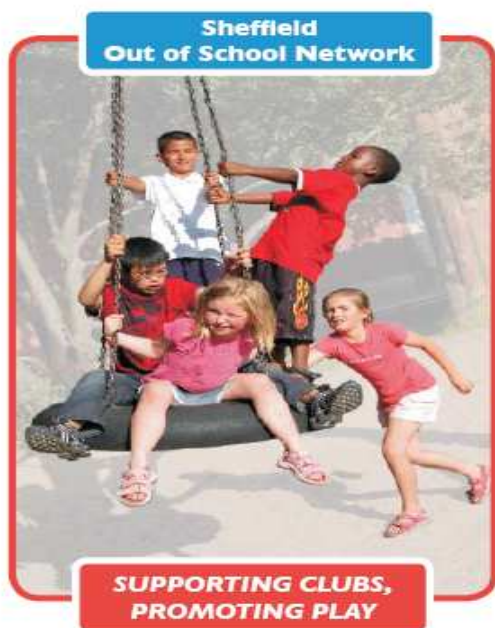
OSN : SUPPORTING CLUBS - PROMOTING PLAY

OSN launches it's 'Open Forum' for Clubs and Playworkers

Welcome to the Spring edition of Network News.

OSN have recently developed the idea of Clubs and Playworkers having a place to air their views, ask questions and share information with each other, by holding regular 'Open Forums'.

We would very much like you to 'own' the group and have asked for suggestions on the content of the sessions and the issues discussed. OSN staff will facilitate the group and be available to offer support or advice.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Ofsted information
Policy updates
Feedback from OSN's AGM
SNIPS article

TRAINING NEWS

EYFS / Skills Active update
Training Course Updates
Dates for National Playday

On Friday 7th March the first 'Open Forum' took place at the OSN offices. 16 people from 11 out of school clubs attended the 2 hour session, along with OSN staff from both the Development and Training teams and an OSN Management Committee member.

The next 'Open Forum' is to be held on **Friday 9th May**, 10.00am to 12.00noon, once again at the OSN offices — please come along, your contribution is important to us.

....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....

Do you need Supply Staff?

Here are some organisations who can supply playwork staff at short notice, these are:-

Activity Sheffield	0114 2736689
Capita	0800 7316871
Select Education	0114 2737747

OSN does not endorse any of these organisations.



Ofsted Update

Update on changes to childcare registration and inspection

Ofsted have recently published a leaflet introducing the new registers and how they plan to transfer providers onto the new registers and how they will keep providers updated.

If you are already registered with Ofsted, until **31st August 2008** they will continue to register and inspect you against the National Standards for under 8s day care. They will use the information that they already hold about you to transfer you to one or more of the new registers on 1st September 2008.

Ofsted plan to write to you in spring 2008 to tell you which register(s) they plan to transfer you to. They will ask you to tell them if you do not think they are planning to transfer you to the right register. They plan to write to you again in **August 2008** to confirm the final arrangements, before the change is made.

In summer 2008 Ofsted will send you a new version of their guidance '*Are you ready for your inspection?*' so you know what to expect when you are inspected under your new registration. OSN will provide you with information when it becomes available.

The New Registers are:-

Early Years Register

All out of school clubs must join this register if they care for children aged five and under (EYFS age group).

Childcare Register - this is in 2 parts

- *Compulsory Part*

Childcare providers must join this part of the register if they care for children who are older than the Early Years Register age group, but who are under eight.

- *Voluntary Part*

Some types of childcare providers are not required to register, but can choose to do so. If providers do choose to register then parents will be able to claim Childcare Working Tax Credit for their place in the provision.

Providers who work with children in the EYFS age group and also with children up to eight must join both registers.



Childcare Sufficiency & Club Information

Earlier this term two forms were sent to every Out of School club. The purpose was to collect information from the clubs that will ensure OSN maintains up to date records.

Some of this information is collected on behalf of Sheffield City Council's Early Years Education & Childcare Service and will contribute to their childcare provider survey. This identifies the current number of childcare

places available in Sheffield and where there may be gaps or not enough childcare to meet parental needs.

Thank you to all those clubs that have completed and returned their forms to OSN, however if you have not yet returned your forms please could you send them to OSN by email, fax or post or ask for another form.



OSN's Sample Policy Updates

Following feedback and information from a number of clubs we have made some amendments and additions to the following sample policies.

Sun protection policy



Following guidelines from Cancer Research UK's national Sunsmart campaign we have rewritten this policy to emphasise the steps a club would take to make sure that children are protected from the harmful effects of the sun.

Also new in our documents toolkit is a checklist for out of school clubs, based on the SunSmart guidelines.

For further information visit www.sunsmart.org.uk



Healthy Snacks

Food and Food

Hygiene

Many playworkers have been asking about healthy eating policies and with the general interest there is about children's diet we are in the process of producing a separate healthy eating policy.

Healthy Snack Ideas

Fruit Kebabs
Smoothies
Frozen Fromage Frais lollies
Chequerboard Sandwiches

Partnership with parents



Following concerns raised about abusive language and behaviour from parents we have amended our sample policy to include the following:

'We expect everyone who comes into contact with the club, members of staff, management committee members, parents, carers and children to treat each other with respect and courtesy'.

You could also reinforce this message in your agreement with parents and/or your parents handbook.

Please note that OSN sample policies are to be used as a *guide* to help clubs develop their own policies of their own that work in their own specific setting. They may need to be amended or even completely rewritten to suit a club's particular needs.

We always recommend that you review your policies on a regular basis to ensure that they still work for your club and are up to date and reflect any legislative changes.

Over the next few months we will be reviewing all our sample policies to bring them in line with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage standards.



OSN working in partnership with SNIPS

The Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS), working in partnership with OSN, aim to aid Out of School clubs, children and their families who need additional support.

SNIPS work with Out of School providers to help and support them to provide places for children with disabilities that may require additional support.

SNIPS can provide a member of staff (a Mentor) to work alongside the clubs own staff team to help the club staff gain the awareness, knowledge, confidence and skills to include all children.

Feedback from clubs using the SNIPS service is extremely positive, this is a quote from one club: *"having a named mentor is really beneficial if you have any concerns about a child's individual needs as they provide a vital link between the club parent and child/ren"*.

SNIPS take referrals from parents and carers of children with disabilities and help them find an appropriate service to enable them to take a short break from caring, or for childcare when they are working.

Lots of Out of School clubs are currently providing a valuable service to families.

A parent whose child attends an Out of School club that SNIPS is supporting, recently told SNIPS that her child *"loves going to X club and this has really helped his development. The staff has a great attitude and are very welcoming, support him well and meet all his needs"*.

Other parents have commented that the service is; *"really valued"*, *"has improved relationships"* *"mentors are knowledgeable and friendly"* and *"is a much needed service"*.

SNIPS are keen to expand their work with more playcare providers so that more children with additional needs can participate in the activities that you provide.

SNIPS may also be able to provide you with some funding to assist you financially to provide an inclusive service. If you like more information about the service and would like a member of staff to visit you at your club please contact Gemma Watson, Playcare Mentor at SNIPS, on 0114 273 4017.

Child Protection On-line Learning Courses

Endorsed by Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board

Free training for community & voluntary organisations

(Independent sector, for profit organisations may incur a £30 fee)

Awareness of Child Abuse & Neglect

A *Short Foundation* course or a *Core Introduction* course are available

Ideal for management committee members, playworkers and volunteers at your Out of School club. More information and an on-line application form are available on the Sheffield City Council website www.sheffield.gov.uk and enter child protection online learning in the search box.

Why not take up this **Free** opportunity now!!!



Updates from OSN's Annual General Meeting

Changes to OSN's Memorandum & Articles of Association

At our Annual General Meeting in February members voted to accept changes to our governing document.

OSN's Board of Trustees wanted to update our *Memorandum and Articles by adopting the plain English version provided by the Charity Law Association and also make some changes, which are as follows

- **Widen our area of benefit to enable us to work outside Sheffield.**

We are now able to respond to other organisations that would like to buy in our services and or expertise. This will enable us to broaden our income base. however work in Sheffield remains our core business.

- **Reduce the minimum and maximum size of the Board, remove the restrictions on places and remove trustees who do not attend meetings.**

We can be more flexible about who is able to join the Board and make it much easier to remain *quorate. The effect of these changes will ensure the Board of Trustees is made up of active and committed people guiding and steering the workforce so that we remain a strong and sustainable organisation.

*** Memorandum and Articles of Association:**

The 'constitution' of a limited company, stating the organisation's aims, powers, members liabilities and the company's rules, including procedures for electing the board and keeping accounts.

*** Quorate/Quorum:** The minimum number of board members required to be present at a meeting in order that decisions can be made.

This year we introduced 'New Awards' to our Annual Celebration of Achievement evening, along with the traditional awards to Playworkers.

These new 'Awards' were for clubs who:-

- achieved an outstanding or good judgement in their Ofsted inspection
- have worked through and completed OSN's Self Assessment in relation to the national day care standards

Our Congratulations go to the following organisations:-

Outstanding / Good Ofsted Judgements

Appletree – Grenoside ASC
Broomhill ASC
Chancet Wood Kids Club
Clifford Kids Club
Ecclesall (J) Kids Club
Greystones ASC
Holt House School Extended Services
Lydgate ASC
Nether Green (J) ASC
Rascals
St Ann's Happy Hands OSC
St Mary's OSC
Springfield Play Partnership
University of Sheffield Holiday Play-scheme
Wizz Kids

OSN Self-Assessment Recognition

BOSC



Skills Active statement on Playwork and the EYFS

SkillsActive has been meeting with representatives from the Department of Children Schools and Families on the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage, which is due to be introduced in September 2008.

There have been a number of concerns expressed by people in the Playwork sector about how the introduction of the EYFS will affect the delivery of Playwork.

In Playwork settings only a small part of the user group will be 4 or 5 years of age and the ethos of Playwork is to facilitate play opportunities that are chosen freely by the children. There is also no formal recording of children at play or written assessment of children using the play space.

However, the DCSF have reassured Skills Active, that as long as Playworkers are adhering to the Playwork Principles they will be in a good position to meet the EYFS requirements.

Given this context the following should be noted:

- Given that play settings operate only before and after school and/or during the holidays, they are **not** going to be the primary setting.
- In respect of holiday playschemes, although for a number of weeks children may be spending a large proportion of their time there, if one looks across the whole year, they still wouldn't be classed as the primary setting.
- There is no requirement for registration on the Early Years' Register for open access provision such as adventure playgrounds.



Playwork Principles

These Principles establish the professional and ethical framework for playwork and as such must be regarded as a whole. They describe what is unique about play and playwork, and provide the playwork perspective for working with children and young people. They are based on the recognition that children and young people's capacity for positive development will be enhanced if given access to the broadest range of environments and play opportunities.

1. All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and well being of individuals and communities.
2. Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.
3. The prime focus and essence of playwork is to support and facilitate the play process and this should inform the development of play policy, strategy, training and education.
4. For playworkers, the play process takes precedence and playworkers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.
5. The role of the playworker is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play.
6. The playworker's response to children and young people playing is based on a sound up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice.
7. Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people's play on the playworker.
8. Playworkers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All playworker intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and well being of children.



Highlighted Training Courses at OSN

Child Protection

Mondays 16, 23 and 30 June 2008
Exactly what it says on the tin!

First Aid

Saturdays 7, 14 & 21 June 2008

Food Hygiene

Tuesdays 8 & 15 June 2008

Update on the Level 3 Diploma in Playwork

We ran the Diploma for the first time this year and it has been a great success. There was a lot of interest initially as the diploma is an alternative to the NVQ level 3.

Instead of students having practice observed, the diploma assesses knowledge and understanding by written assignments, and is enjoyed by people who thrive on research.

The September cohort has had three completers already, our congratulations go to Pat Bannister, Elizabeth Birks and Jo Buckley.

OSN would like to acknowledge their efforts and dedication to achieving this award.

News about the Level 3 Transition Award from Childcare to Playwork

The Transition course that began in September 07 has also had its successes and all of the students that started the course have handed in their final assignments this month.

Once again, playworkers showing what they're made of.

Another remarkable result as both the Diploma Award Level 3 and Transition Award Level 3 students have 1 year to complete the award, yet most of the students will complete within 7 months.

Another set of hardworking playworkers representing clubs from across the city.

GO FOR IT NATIONAL PLAYDAY 2008

WEDNESDAY 6th AUGUST

10 am – 4pm

Hillsborough Park

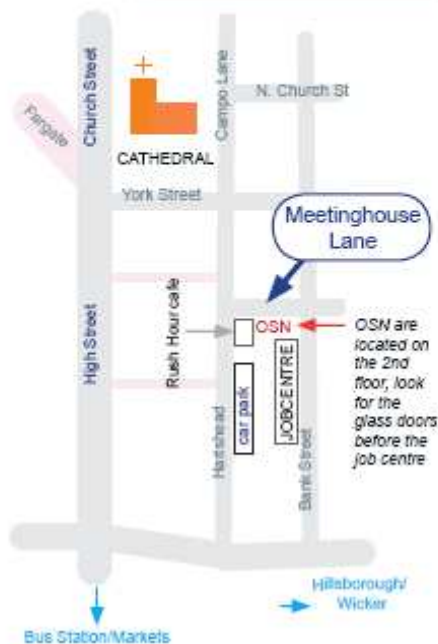
This years National Playday is themed around risk and play. There will be numerous activities for children of all ages (including parents!) around the theme. These will include den building, and drama and dressing up as well as sporty activities.

Make a note of the date – More info will be in the next edition of Network News



Map

Address: **6-8 Meetinghouse Lane
Sheffield S1 2DP**



Disclaimer

No representation is being made as to the timeliness of the information contained within this newsletter, nor that it will be error free.

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Credits

OSN is supported by:



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Sheffield Information Link	www.sheffinfolink.org.uk	0114 275 6699
Creating More Balance	www.cmb.org.uk	
Voluntary Action Sheffield (VAS)	www.vas.org.uk	0114 249 3360
Special Needs Inclusion Project (SNIP)		0114 273 4017
Activity Sheffield (casual staff cover)	www.sheffield.gov.uk	0114 273 5314
South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau (SYFAB)	www.syfab.org.uk	0114 249 4343
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Charity Commission	www.charity-commission.gov.uk	0845 300 0218
Companies House Contact Centre	www.companieshouse.gov.uk	0870 333 3636
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Children's Hospital	www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk	0114 271 7000
Royal Hallamshire Hospital	www.sth.nhs.uk	0114 271 1900
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Jessop Wing	www.sth.nhs.uk	0114 271 1900
Charles Clifford Dental Hospital	www.sth.nhs.uk	0114 271 7800
ChildLine	www.childline.org.uk	0800 1111
NSPCC	www.nspcc.org.uk	0808 800 5000
Social Services & Child Protection Referrals	www.sheffield.gov.uk	0114 273 4855
Safety Net	www.sheffieldsafetynet.gov.uk	0114 273 5029

