Welcome to Playwork Partnerships' Newsletter – Issue 10

Dear Colleagues,

‘Mud, mud, glorious mud, nothing quite like it for cooling the blood’.... I’ve been thinking about mud this week which in the blazing heat of June may seem a bit strange -even if it does cool the blood. On Sunday 29th June it will be International Mud Day which is apt as recently I was reminiscing about our Wild and Away conference a few years ago, where a massive mud pit was dug and the kids and adults got in up to their necks. Back in 2004 we undertook a really big research project in the SW of England via the ‘Wild about Play’ project to find out where kids played and what they’d like to do more of and we also undertook training needs research with playworkers and environmental practitioners. Overwhelmingly kids said they wanted more play with water, fire and mud- the staff conversely said this was the only thing they didn’t want training in and we realised that the culture of litigation had taken this off the agenda for many settings. On the back of this we developed our ‘playing with the elements’ course. I’m interested to know, 10 years on where things stand now, schools have taken big steps forward with the expansion of forest schools and there is a great project currently operating via the University of Plymouth called the Natural Connections Demonstration Project.

You’ll see further on that we currently have a sale on our outdoor play courses including ‘Playing with the Elements’ - do get in touch if you would like any more information and please send me any reflections on mud, the elements and any pictures out playing!

Enjoy the weather and for those heading to Glastonbury Festival - I hope International Mud Day will be successful!

Get out there and get muddy!

With best wishes, Leonie and Team

Gone but not forgotten

We have said goodbye recently to two people, Perry Else and Pete White, who have made a huge difference to playwork in their own unique ways. It is worth remembering that we all play our part in supporting the playwork approach, whether challenging theory, implementing it in practice or reflecting upon what we do.

ViPER Update

Following a successful trip to Sicily the second VIPER partners meeting hosted by Italian partners CESIE the new course for Europe is now being written. We hope that it will also be suitable for delivery in the UK for anyone wanting to understand more about children’s freely chosen play and how to support it in a range of environments. PPATs will be able to attend a Tutor Training day for the course in Spring 2015. Watch this space!

As a little extra update on ViPER Karen Benjamin has written her first Blog to share her thoughts and experiences from the trip. Take a look at it on our blog page http://playworkpartnerships.wordpress.com/
Outdoor Play Summer Special Offer Extended!

Our Outdoor Play Training offer for 10 FREE Learner Packs for every course booked in June has been extended to include July as well. Are you interested in running one of our Playing on the Range, Playing with the Elements or the new One Day Playing Out with the Elements courses? If you are then get in touch with us and we can arrange for one of our associate trainers to deliver one for you. This offer includes all course booked between now and the end of July (must be completed by the end of September 2014). Click the link to the right to find out more or email us at team@playwork.co.uk

Next Training Day for PPATs and new PPATs

We will be running our next PPAT Training Day in October. The date and venue are still to be confirmed but if you are a current PPAT and wish to attend or would like to become a new PPAT let us know. Register your interest and get more information by emailing team@playwork.co.uk

Childcare Regulations Update FREE Event

Playwork Partnerships are hosting a FREE event for those affected by the change in the regulations to Childcare qualifications and ratios on Tuesday 8th July at the University of Gloucestershire. Joining the event will be Lesli Godfrey from SkillsActive, Chris Martin the Playwork Convenor for UNITE and representatives from OOSC, along with Karen Benjamin our Training and Development Officer who will discuss the impact of these changes with those attending. The event is FREE but booking is essential to find out more details and to book a place click the link to the right or email kconibere@glos.ac.uk

New Vehicle for Playwork

Discussions are still taking place around the development of a new vehicle for Playwork. A steering group is being formed which will meet in September for a planning session that will lead to a document outlining a proposed structure, funding sources and overall aim and objectives. This will be delivered at the National Playwork Conference in Eastbourne in March 2015 where we will seek a vote to endorse taking this forward. There is still an opportunity to join the steering group and anyone interested should contact kbenjamin@glos.ac.uk

IPA Conference

The 19th IPA World Conference was held in Istanbul from 20 - 23 May 2014. Leonie attended on behalf of Playwork Partnerships and the ViPER project and had a great experience. Read her blog at http://playworkpartnerships.wordpress.com/ by clicking the link to the right. For further details on IPA visit their website www.ipa2014.org

YViP in Torbay

Young Volunteers from Play Torbay recently undertook the YViP course led by Karen Benjamin. They were an amazing bunch of young people who all passed their assessments with flying colours and who will receive their certificates from the Lord Mayor next week. They will all be supporting Play Torbay deliver play opportunities around Torbay and on the adventure playgrounds over the summer and beyond. Play Torbay can be very proud of the work it is doing and the people that are supporting them in that creative work. Read more and see pictures from the training by clicking the link to the right.
National Play Day 2014

National Play Day 2014 is on Wednesday 6th August. It's only 7 weeks away so if you're planning on hosting an event or attending any, simply visit http://www.playday.org.uk/home.aspx to get all the info you need to run a successful event. We would love to know about your plans for Play Day. Please post your information on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

International Mud Day 2014

International Mud Day is children and early childhood professionals all over the world celebrating nature, outdoors, and mess by getting really muddy. Visit www.worldforumfoundation.org/ to find out more.

PEYTU Courses

PEYTU have a number of courses on their training programme open for bookings including: Child Protection; Paediatric First Aid; Paediatric First Aid for Working Outdoors and Essential Counselling Skills. To find out more about these courses click on the link to the right or visit www.peytu.co.uk

Have you got something to shout about or a date to advertise?

Our e-newsletter will be sent out termly and will be jam packed with useful and up to date articles and dates for your diaries. If you have anything to promote, celebrate or advertise then let us know. We are happy to help promote good news stories about play and playwork in England and particularly the South West. Please send any information to kconibere@glos.ac.uk by Friday 29th August 2014 for inclusion in our next edition due to be published in September 2014.

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