

Children in Scotland 'Turning the Page' - Clydebank, 29 January 2013

Reading the

Small print

Early years literacy work of
public libraries in West Dunbartonshire

Are you sitting comfortably?

Then I'll begin.

➤ *Getting It Right For Every Child*

➤ *The Early Years Framework*

➤ *Joining the Dots.*

✓ Child centred

✓ Solihull Approach

✓ Children & families

✓ Facilitating

communication

between children and parents

• Libraries and Cultural Services offers Early Years activities informed by *Getting It Right For Every Child*, *The Early Years Framework* and the Deacon Report, *Joining the Dots*.

• Our activities offer a child centred approach to promote the development of children and young people. Members of the Learning Development Team are trained in the Solihull Approach to working with children and their families, facilitating communication between children and parents in a variety of ways.

• The *Early Years Framework* and UK research shows that that home learning environment in the early years has a major impact on children's later social, emotional and intellectual development . It is also widely accepted that strong relationships between parents and children during early years reduces the impact of socio-economic factors on a child's future outcomes. Our early interventionist approach ensures that the foundations for literacy are developed from an early age, promoting learning techniques in collaboration with parents which can be practised in the home.



What do we offer?

0-3yrs

- Mellow Bumps
- Bookbug Sessions
- Bookbug Library Challenge

3-5yrs

- Storytelling Sessions
- Tales for Tots

Pre school

- Arty Types

Image from the book HARRIS FINDS HIS FEET by Catherine Rayner



Illustration © Catherine Rayner 2009



West Dunbartonshire Libraries

It's never too early.....

- Ante-natal yoga
 - Baby yoga
- Mellow Bumps

Our programmes begin before birth, linking with the Community Arts team to work on ante-natal yoga, working on relaxation of mothers to be, improving on the physical and mental health of expectant mothers and increasing the caring nature of the parent/child bond, shown in many scientific studies to increase healthy child development.

Baby yoga is another area of development for our Learning Team, facilitating the relationships between parent and child and fostering communication and positive interaction forming positive emotional connections and channels of communication.

Our 6 week parenting course, based on the Mellow Bumps programme, and informed by the Solihull approach, aims to encourage parents to communicate with their children and understand behaviour, fostering positive communication and relationships.



Bookbug Sessions

Ages 0-3

Bookbug sessions run term time and are fun, FREE 30-40 minute sessions for babies, toddlers and their Parents & Carers. They include songs, action rhymes and sharing stories. They help to develop a lifelong love of reading.

Our work to put the child at the centre of our programmes encourages the development of communication channels and skills, fostering a stable home learning environment. Our Bookbug programme, 45 minute sessions of rhyme for children aged 0-3 puts words in a broad context, proven to be more effective at developing literacy than learning words in isolation, also helping to develop neural pathways.

To take part in the 10 weekly sessions across West Dunbartonshire, children must be a registered library user. Social time is programmed into the session so that parents develop informal support networks and book choosing time is also integrated into the session, which last about an hour in total.

- FREE 30-40 minute sessions for babies, toddlers and their Parents & Carers.

- Songs, action rhymes and sharing stories.

- They help to develop a lifelong love of reading.

- Words in a broad context developing literacy

Catch the reading bug!





Bookbug has run in West Dunbartonshire for 6 years and in 2011/2012 we held over 450 sessions in libraries and other community venue's generating a footfall of over 12,700 participants.

This placed us in 7th place out of the 32 local authorities in Scotland

Bookbug Outreach

Ages 0-3

- Pilot project with Scottish Book Trust
- Partnerships with Health Visitors and Social Workers
- Bookbug for the Home

Bookbug Library Challenge

Ages 0-4

- Free programme
- Discover and enjoy their local library
- Children receive stickers for every visit to the library
- Exchange these for limited edition certificates.

Bookbug Outreach

Over the next 12 months we are working with the Scottish Book Trust on an Assertive Outreach project aimed at more difficult to reach families often with more chaotic lives.

We have developed partnerships with Health Visitors and Social Workers, training them in Bookbug for the Home, demonstrating how parents with chaotic lives can develop their relationship with their child through stories and rhymes, improving literacy, increasing channels of communication and improving the future outcomes for their child.

Bookbug Library Challenge

In addition for the last 6 years we have promoted Bookbug Library Challenge. This is a free programme that encourages children aged birth to four to discover and enjoy their local library and is a fun, exciting way to help give children a love of reading for life.

Children receive stickers for every visit to the library and exchange these for limited edition certificates.

Storytelling Sessions

Ages 3-5

- New programme of storytelling & drama
- Links Bookbug to school
- Free 30-40 minute sessions
- Sharing stories using drama, song, percussion & play
- Advancing children's communication and reading skills



In autumn we carried out a review of Early years provision in libraries and identified a gap in our literacy provision for 3-5 year olds.

Storytime is a new programme of storytelling and drama linking the Bookbug programme to pre-school.

Story telling, along with rhyme and reading, has been linked to the development of higher cognitive and social development at the beginning of pre-school.

These are free 30-40 minute sessions. Led by trained library and learning staff. These sessions involve sharing stories using drama, song, percussion & play.

We will be monitoring this programme over the next year to evaluate its impact.

Tales for Tots

Age 3-5

- Pre-school author & illustrator festival
- 3-5 year olds & their parents/carers
- Meet an author
- Listen to tales
- Learn about the magic of stories.
- Working with EECs
- 2012 Festival = 225 participants

Another of our pre school programmes aimed at 3-5 year olds is 'Tales for Tots'. Now in its 4th year this is our pre-school author and illustrator festival.

The festival is organised Libraries and Cultural Services and is part funded through The Scottish Book Trust Live Literature scheme.

The concept for 'Tales for Tots' is to bring 3-5 year olds and their parents/carers from West Dunbartonshire's Early Education and Childcare Centres to their local library to meet an author, listen to fabulous tales and learn about the magic of stories.

2012 Festival – 129 children, 96 adults



Literacy is just for Schools & Libraries?

Arty Types

pre-school

- Based in Clydebank Museum & Gallery
- Storytelling & Reading
- Arts and crafts
- Listening & Communication skills
- Eye to hand coordination



Arty types has run for 18 months.

Aimed at pre-school children Arty Types is based in Clydebank Museum and involves listening to stories and then taking part in arts and crafts activities related to the story.

Arty types Experiences and Outcomes – relating to literacy include:

Listening and talking -Children participate in the story telling. Children question and talk abt characters.
Reading - Repeating words , action games, pointing out characters.

The art on display is also used to inspire children to imagine their own stories, is shown in the artwork they produce.

Hand to eye coordination is developed by moving onto an Arts and Crafts session using a variety of materials – felt tip pens, wax crayons, pencils, colouring pencils, paint brushes and finger painting.

Early Years Resources

Topic boxes for use in EEC's:

'Little Blue, Little Yellow'

- Literacy and Expressive Arts
- Movement and dance
- Storytelling

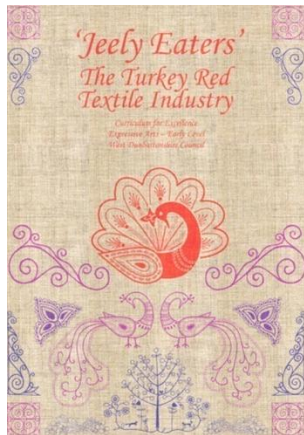
'Jeely Eaters'

- Heritage and literacy
- Religious and moral education
- Turkey Red dyeing industry, and links to Hinduism

We are keen to ensure partnerships with educational establishments and educators and Libraries and Cultural Services have developed strong relationships in early years. Utilising our collections we have developed two heritage related topic boxes for use in Early Education Centres.

Our Literacy and Expressive Arts *Little Blue, Little Yellow* kit is inspired by the eponymous book and explores movement and storytelling.

Whilst *Jeely Eaters is* our heritage, literacy and religious education kit, explores the heritage of the Turkey Red dyeing industry, and its links to Hinduism.



A love of reading.....

- Book Explorers – P1 pupils introductory library visit, involving storytelling and crafts
- Library Explorers – P4 pupils, involving storytelling, drama and book selection
- Information Literacy - P7 pupils, exploring reference library, cataloguing and research



All our programme aims not only to develop and support literacy skills but to establish a love of reading. This continues from early years to primary children through 3 new programmes.

Book Explorers

Our library visits are equally popular, *Book Explorers*, is an introductory library visit aimed at P1 children, involving storytelling and crafts,

In P4, children return for the *Library Explorers* session, involving storytelling, drama and choosing books and P7s return again for *Information Literacy*, exploring the reference library, library cataloguing and research.

Homework clubs have begun in 3 main libraries and study groups for secondary pupils begin in the next few weeks.

We are one of the first authorities to offer a dedicated mobile library for primary schools.

And... We are piloting schools book groups this year in two local primaries and working with a local primary to establish and school library lending collection.



In summary whilst I have focussed today on our early years programme Libraries and Cultural Services take a lifelong approach to literacy development, recognising that schools are only one of the places that children learn and the best results are achieved by library and cultural services working strategically and in partnership with educators, the CHCP, and the third sector.

In this way we can contribute to supporting the curriculum, empowering families, and fostering the communication that forms the basis of sound relationships, leading to improved achievement and attainment.