



Lostsocks Newsletter



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The Pre-Apprentices take on a challenge

This years' Pre Apprenticeship group have been undertaking a variety of tasks and activities whilst on their ten week course. They recently enjoyed a day out at Oakwood Youth Challenge in Wokingham where they took part in team building exercises as well as a high ropes course and archery. The aim of the day was to get the group outside of their normal daily routines and working together as a team. For most of them it was the first time they had the opportunity to tackle climbing walls and the dreaded 'Leap of Faith' high ropes activities. The learners had to climb 30 metres into the air before tight rope walking and walking across small wooden beams. Leah Smith said, 'I didn't just confront my fear of heights, I was absolutely terrified. I can't believe I climbed the wall'.

This is the 6th cohort of E2E learners at Chiltern Training. The course lasts for ten weeks and gives learners a taster of the childcare apprenticeship. Learners go out on work experience once a week to build up their skills and confidence in a childcare setting. Chiltern Training would like to take this opportunity to thank all employers who have given learners placements whilst on their course. Sarah Darsley says 'The experience learners get on this course is so valuable. It teaches them not only the sort of duties they would have to carry out as a nursery assistant but also the importance of professionalism and communication in the work place. We really appreciate the support employers give these learners. For some of them it presents a really positive opportunity to gain some qualifications and start their career in childcare'.

CTL is currently working on a new generic E2E work preparation course. This will give young people the opportunity to gain qualifications in professionalism and build their confidence in working with others. If you would like more information about the Pre Apprenticeship or new E2E course or are happy to offer a work experience placement for the next cohort starting in May, please contact Sarah Darsley on 0118 956 6995.



Laura Goswell attempts the tyre challenge

Above Right: Leah Smith faces her fear of heights on the climbing wall

Right: Sarah Derman takes aim at archery

In this issue: Katy's Word, Achievers in January and February, Grow a Spring Garden, Open Day at CTL, Team Leading Update, Changes to Apprenticeship Training Allowance, Jobs Vacancies, Male Learners in Childcare

A note from Katy:



As always, things are particularly hectic here at Chiltern as we run up to the Easter break. We would like to say a huge thank you to all our learners who took part in our recent LSC survey. We were tasked with achieving 259 on line responses to the questionnaires and thanks to your cooperation and the incredible hard work of the admin staff, we have achieved 264 - so many thanks once again for such fantastic support.

We have also been really busy with our new Train 2 Gain programme for Team Leaders which is off to a flying start!

We currently have one full course running in our Reading centre and one full course at our Training Centre in Woodlands Day Nursery in Greenham Common.

Another is already full to start in Reading in March, and we are hoping to start another in April in Bracknell. Should anyone from the Bracknell area wish further details, then please contact Sarah on 0118 956 6995.

We have also started recruiting for next years students and many nurseries have already booked in work experience over the Easter holidays. Again, if you are in the position of being able to offer an apprenticeship either now or after the summer, we would really like to hear from you as soon as possible.

Katy Edwards

NVQ in Team Leading– Sign up for your place now

Places are filling up for the next Team Leading course which will start after Easter. We currently have two courses running, one in Reading and one in Newbury. The course is suited to those who are leading a room or a team of two or more people. The qualification is an NVQ level 2 in Team leading and is free of charge. Eligible learners will already hold their level 3 in CCLD and be aged 19+.

The next course will start in Reading and if there is enough interest, we will run a fourth in Bracknell. If you would like some more information about the Team Leading or would like to request an application pack, please contact Sarah Darsley on 0118 956 6995.

Growing a Garden

Seasonal Affective Disorder is a mood disorder in which people and children who have normal mental health throughout most of the year experience depressive symptoms in the winter or, less frequently, in the summer months. Symptoms in children can include sleeping too much, having little energy, craving sweet or starchy foods or having mood swings.

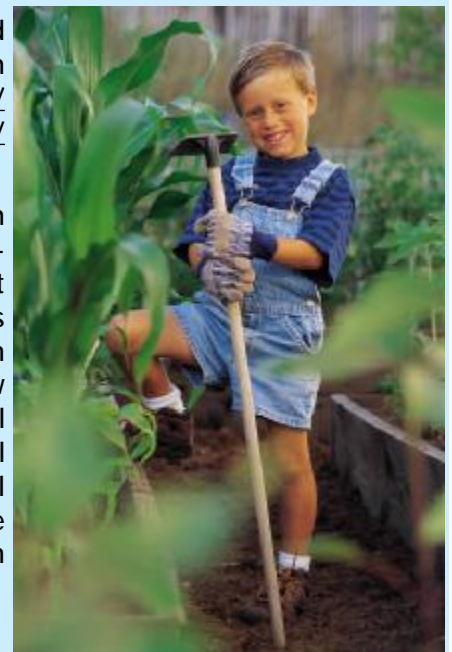
Now that Spring has finally arrived a great way to engage with and inspire young children is to get them involved in growing a garden. Gardens can provide an environment in which children can learn to work with each other while growing plants and learning the relationship between people, plants and wildlife. You may want to choose a specific theme to increase children's interest.

Child sized tools that look just like yours will make them feel like real gardeners. Don't worry if you cannot provide them, using good old-fashioned spoons, forks, and shovels work just as well. Demonstrate how to prepare the soil for planting by tilling and adding compost. Have you ever gone on an earthworm hunt? Lay old sheets on the ground and wet them. Wait a couple of hours then lift the sheets. The earthworms will have come to the surface because of the moisture. Give your gardeners paper cups and have them collect as many earthworms as they can find. Add the worms to their garden, they help aerate the soil.

For tips and ideas on what to plant and when there are lots of useful websites such as: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/kindergarden> or www.gardenguides.com/how-to/tipstechniques.

What if you do not have a large enough outside area for a garden? A garden program does not necessarily have to start out using any outdoor land. Garden programmes can be started right in the classroom on windowsill, cabinet, or table near a window or artificial light source. If your own school garden is out of the question, you could still visit someone else's garden. Some botanical gardens have specific programmes that are developed especially for schools or children or visit a virtual garden instead.

Send us pictures of your gardens as they grow– email them to sarah.darsley@chilterntraining.org.



Open Day At Chiltern Training



Potential learners discuss their ambitions with Sarah at Open Day

Chiltern Training held their annual Open Day on February 11th and welcomed many potential learners through their doors. After an informative presentation they were able to enjoy a tour of the training centre as well as a variety of activities. Many of these learners are now out on work experience and will hope to start in August or September as apprentices. We had learners from across Berkshire and will soon be contacting employers who will be offering apprenticeship placements later in the year.

Sarah Darsley says 'our open event allows anyone who wants to find out about Chiltern Training the chance to have a really good look at what we do and how we deliver. I

would like to stress that if employers want to send staff along to meet us and get information on training and qualifications, our doors are always open for information events.

Sarah is currently out and about at many open events and Connexions meetings so if you would like her to meet with you or your staff at your setting to discuss training needs, please feel free to contact her on 0118 956 6995.

If you are looking to take on apprentices now or in the summer, please email Sarah at sarah.darsley@chilterntraining.org and she will be in touch about the type of learner you are looking for.



Achievers for January and February

Apprentices

Sophia Cameron– Little Ducklings
Lizzie Poole– Farm View
Natasha Rubio– Dickory Docks

Advanced Apprentices

Carla Da Baptista– Western Elms
Samantha Britt– Oak Tree
Claire Cooper– Acorns
Claire Eastman– Farm View
Katie Grant– Pangbourne
Danica Hall– Acorns
Alexandra Heath– Little Ducklings
Kimberliegh Neblett– Golidilocks
Leanna Obbard– Teepee

Claire Sayer– Acorns

Victoria Tombs– Rainbows
Kerry Tucker– Brightstarts
Vanessa Culverhouse– Pangbourne Day Nursery
Abbie Mandrell– Brightstarts
Louise Mugridge– Brightstarts
Emma Webb– Bright Horizons

Level 3 NVO

Rebecca Kirkham– Merrydale
Lisa Onabanjo– Christ the King
Joanne Walsh– Christ the King

Congratulations

Don't Forget:

The minimum weekly wage for apprentices goes up to £95 from August 2009.

Childcare vacancies for qualified practitioners

If you are looking for a change of role, you may be interested in the following positions. Please contact the placements directly. If you are an employer that is looking for a new member of staff, email your requirements to sarah.darsley@chilterntraining.org:

1. Level 3 CCLD required at Foxley Row Nursery £13,000. Call Sharon Trayling on 0118 934 3578
2. Level 3 CCLD required at Brightstarts Nursery, Theale starting at £12,500. Call Debbie Mortimore on 0118 930 3000
3. Level 3 CCLD required at Edith Rose Day Nursery, Bracknell. Call 01344 873 140
4. Nursery assistant or practitioner required at Little Bears Day Nursery, Newbury. Call Becca Bennet on 01635 523998
5. Level 3 CCL at Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery, Sonning. Call Caroline on 0118 969 5545.
6. Level 3 CCLD at Our Lady's Prep School. Contact Helene Robinson on 01344 773394.
7. Variety of positions at The Children's House, Binfield. Contact 01344 301277
8. 3rd in Charge needed at Wigwam Day Nursery, Reading. Contact Emma Tennant on 0118 958 1800.

Childcare vacancies for trainees

The following nurseries are looking for learners. If you are interested in a position or if you are a nursery that is looking for learners, please contact Sarah Darsley on 0118 956 6995:

1. Park Day Nursery, Reading: Level 2 or 3
2. Whitley Sure Start, Whitley: Level 2
3. RUSU, Reading: Level 2
4. Forbury, Reading: Level 2
5. Western Elms, Reading: Level 2
6. Norcot, Tilehurst: Level 2 or 3
7. Little Rainbows, Hungerford: Level 2 or 3
8. Acorns, Winnersh: Level 2
9. Kingsclere, Wokingham: Level 2

Male Learners in Childcare

Name: Ben Kendrew **Course:** Train to Gain, Level 3 **Age:** 22 **Nursery:** Braken Bears Day Nursery, Bracknell

In the Beginning: Ben started working at Braken Bears nursery as a part time cleaner at the age of 16. He continued to work there whilst doing his A-Levels. The children at the nursery got to know Ben and used to call his name when he walked through the door. Ben was offered cover work at the nursery during the summer and used to work as an assistant while he was on holiday from university. When Ben completed his degree in 2008 he applied for jobs as a teaching assistant in local schools. Whilst looking for a new role, he was offered a full time position at Bracken Bears and happily accepted.

What do you like about working in Childcare? I really like helping the children to progress and give them knowledge before going to school which is completely different. Learning can be enjoyable and its good to prepare the children for their future.

Is there anything you do not like about working in childcare? I don't like seeing that children are in the nursery from 8am-6pm. I think nursery staff spend more time with the children than parents which must be hard for them. Sometimes the work can be repetitive but its important to create a routine for the children

What would you say to other men considering a career in childcare? Definitely give it a shot. Don't feel under pressure to do a more masculine job. I came into childcare for my own personal reasons and some people find it strange when I tell them what I do. Childcare is a stereotypically a female role and there is low pay but I really love my job.

What are your plans for the future? I had planned to teach primary school children after my degree and I think that is the path I would like to take as it is challenging.



Ben Kendrew is doing his Level 3 NVQ course at Braken Bears Day Nursery