



lostsocks

November/December 2009 lostsocks Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 54

www.lostsocks.co.uk

Dyslexia Awareness week 1st- 7th November 2009

Dyslexia Awareness week is running between 1st and 7th November 2009 to raise awareness of dyslexia and the theme this year is Dyslexia Strengths.

The word dyslexia comes from Greek and means "difficulty with words".

A survey by the British Dyslexia Association indicates that dyslexia affects at least 10% of the population in the UK. Dyslexia need not restrict your ambitions in life, and thousands of people with dyslexia have gone on to lead an exceptionally successful life—Keira Knightly, Jamie Oliver, Indiana Jones, aka Harrison Ford and Sir Alan Sugar

Dyslexia is not just difficulty in reading, sometimes it can also mean a lack of concentration, difficulty with maths, or even mood swings.

But having dyslexia can also mean you are an inventive thinker and excellent problem solver. You are more likely to be creative with a vivid imagination and a good communicator.

With almost 500 students here at Chiltern, we can have 50 dyslexic students studying for childcare and management at any one time.

Acting on advice from the BDA, we have made positive changes to our learning environment to make learning as easy we can. For example, we have painted our teaching walls pale blue instead of white, and handouts are available on different coloured papers.

The easiest fonts to read are evenly spaced sans serif font such as Arial and Comic Sans. Other suggestions include Verdana, Tahoma, Century Gothic, Trebuchet. Helvetica and Sassoon are further options.

During dyslexia awareness week, we will be running short workshops at our Reading centre and, if they feel they would like to, all learners will have the opportunity to take a quiz, to identify whether or not they may feel they have dyslexia. Copies of this are freely available on the BDA website—www.bdadyslexia.co.uk.

We will be updating our staff awareness in January with a course run by the dyslexia association. If any assessors or other nursery staff would like to attend, then please contact Sarah on 0118 956 6995.



Dyslexia affects at least 10% of the population



Term dates for Christmas and New Year

Please note that the teaching term ends on Friday 18th December. The office will be closed from the 24th of December and will reopen on Monday 4th January. Teaching will start again the week beginning Monday 11th January.

We hope you enjoy the festive break.

The BDA's National
Helpline is

0845 251 9002

In this issue: Katy's Word, 100% pass rate for Team Leaders, Children in Need events, Dyslexia Awareness Week, E2E course, Firework Facts, Free Management Seminars, Celebrating success, Presentation Evening, Apprentice wages



*A note
from
Katy:*



We are now well into our first term of the academic year and we hope everyone is settling into their new classes, be it at one of our centres or within your own work setting. We have a new Entry 2 Employment course starting in November for those who are not quite ready for full time study or employment but who would like to gain some work experience or qualifications. Should you, or anyone you know, be interested in trying our "pre-apprenticeship" programme, then please contact our admissions team—the course will be running up until the end of February and you can join any time.

We are also currently working on our Self Assessment Report. As part of this process, we look at our performance in the previous year 2008—2009 and identify our strengths and weaknesses. To enable us to do this properly, we need the help of our learners and work settings. Consequently, we may be contacting you in the near future and asking for your feedback and suggestions on how we can improve our service to you as a student or as an employer. Once we have done this, we will then draw up a Quality Improvement Plan to help us focus on how to develop and enhance the whole learning experience.

This process enables you, as our customers, to have an input into how we progress as an organisation. We would, therefore, be really grateful if you could spare the time to give us your feedback and suggestions for improvement.

With many thanks,

Katy Edwards

100% success rate for Team Leaders

CTL is very proud to announce that, at the end of the last academic year, our new Team Leading course had a success rate of 100%. This is fantastic news and we would like to congratulate all learners who completed their qualification. We would also like to thank all the tutors and assessors involved in making this course so successful. Some learners, such as Amanda Polaszewski (pictured), have now successfully gone onto their Level 3 NVQ in Management and there are now 5 Team Leading and Management classes currently running both at our training centre and within nursery settings.



BBC

Friday 20 November

Children in Need

Children in Need Events

On 20th November, it will be Children in Need and some of our employers are busy raising money for this excellent cause.

Just Learning Nursery in Basingstoke are collecting for the shoe box appeal, which is going quite well at the minute. Parents and staff put a shoe box together with some toys and gifts in, wrap it in Christmas paper and then it gets sent out to third world countries.

Jack in the Box Nursery in Slough are filling a Pudsey bear with coins and the children are all decorating Pudsey to encourage this! They are hoping to raise £100 for Children in Need.

Little Rainbows Nursery in Hungerford are having a fancy dress day with the theme of "What's in your toy box?", a cake sale and other bits and pieces- it's usually a fun day!!

Bramleywood Day Nursery in Bracknell are holding an X Factor Friday on Friday 20th November. This will involve dressing up as a diva or a pop star and taking part in a singing and dancing discothon.

Woodlands Day Nursery in Newbury's baby unit is having a pyjamas day, the toddlers are going to be having great fun cooking and the older children will be making their own spotty bandanas, so a great fun packed time for all!

Forbury Garden Nursery are drawing a chalk Pudsey Bear in the playground and getting their children to put their coppers around the outline of the bear to see how much they can raise.

If you are interested in getting involved at your nursery and would like some tips or a fundraising pack, go to www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey. All donations are of course more than welcome. Chiltern will be raising money with a variety of events that week so if you're in college look out for poster with more details.

We wish all of you the best of luck in your fundraising events, let us know how they go. If anyone else is doing something unusual or fun for a charity event we would love to know about it.

Email your stories and pictures to sarah.darsley@chilterntraining.org.

Coming soon

Improved website for Chiltern learners and employers.

Chiltern Training will soon be launching its brand new website. There will be a new learner zone for those who are training which will enable trainees to look at the standards, recommended reading lists, and units they need to complete for their specific level. There is also an employer zone so managers and learner mentors can also see what units and standards their staff need to cover so they can offer support and guidance whilst at placement.

There will be an on line mentor tool so that anyone who has a query about anything from training or funding advice to health and safety questions or support queries, can log on and get advice and guidance from the support team.

There will be a live news feed so you can see what is happening and what events are coming up. Employers will be able to log onto an employer's network as well as a forum where you can share ideas and ask each other advice. The website will still have the newsletter uploaded to it but you will be able to request for it to be emailed to you so can download it. There will also be online application forms, profiles of all the courses at CTL and policies and procedures that you may find useful.

This website is for you, so if there is anything in particular that you would like to see on there, please let us know and we will endeavour to include it in the new design.

Please contact Sarah Darsley on 01189 566 995 or e-mail Sarah.darsley@chilterntraining.org with any requests/suggestions.

New E2E course starts 17th November

CTL will be running its 9th cohort of Entry to Employment (E2E) course starting on Tuesday 17th November. This ten week course is suited to learners age 16-18 and who are not currently in education or employment. It gives them a flavour of the childcare apprenticeship as well as looking at professionalism, interviews and CV writing skills. Learners attend a variety of work experience placements that give them a great idea of what is involved in working in the childcare industry.

60% of learners on this course go onto apprenticeships with CTL or training or employment in other industries. Some successful applicants are now completing their advanced apprenticeships with us and are now employed as room leaders in local settings.

If you know anyone who might be interested in starting this course, please ask them to contact the admissions team on 0118 956 6995 or email sarah.darsley@chilterntraining.org.

For those employers who will be accommodating learners whilst on their work experience, we would like to thank you for your continued support.

Facts on Fire Works: Did you Know?.....

1. The first fireworks were probably made in China, around 2,000 years ago.
2. Over 130 million fireworks were sold in Britain in 1995.
3. Last year over 900 people required hospital treatment from accidents involving fireworks.
4. At family back-garden displays, sparklers cause more injuries than air-bombs, bangers, rockets and roman candles combined.
5. Half of all firework accidents happen to children under the age of 16.
6. More than 60 under 5s went to hospital in 1997 following a firework accident.
7. Three sparklers burning together generate the same heat as a blow-torch.
8. Hands and eyes are most at risk in firework accidents
9. Most firework accidents are caused at family back-garden displays closely followed by incidents in the street.
10. Throwing a firework in a street or public place is a criminal offence, with a maximum fine of £5000.



For tips on firework safety, visit www.fireworksafety.co.uk

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to the Achievers for September and October 2009

Apprenticeships

Megan Molyneux– Pine Rivers
Jordan Leighton– Greyfriars
Robyn Vickers– Dickory Docks
Zoe Wild– Little Jogs
Tara Wilson– Our Lady's
Peter Langton– Acorns
Julie Baggs– Wigwam

Advanced Apprenticeships

Sarah Trussler– Greyfriars
Emma Cross– Tigers
Amy Bolton– Fledglings
Samantha Millard– The Children's House
Cheryl White– Our Lady's
Cassie Smith– Dingley
Nicola Leahy– Bright Horizons
Bethany Callan– Angel Faces
Marie Kearney– English Martyr's
Danielle Carlyon– Woodlands
Hannah Wood– Toad Hall
Hollie James– Mary Hare
Jennifer Evans– Dickory Docks
Emma Smith– Dickory Docks
Hayley Kirby– St Mary & All Saints
Sita Lazaroo– Busy Bees
Claire Butler– Little Rainbows
Rebecca Layley– Pine Rivers

NVQ Level 2 Team Leading

Victoria Shoesmith– Woodlands
Petra Drymlova– Headstarts

Hayley Scott– Denefield School
Claire Morley– Bishopswood
Debbie Cook– Wigwam
Sarah Grinter– Fledglings
Lauren Annetts– Headstarts

NVQ Level 3 CLD

Eleanor Hunt– Brightstarts
Nazmeen Mahmood– Abbeymore
Silke Bellrich– Bearwood
Fiona Bennett– Christ the King
Julia Pratt– Teddies
Charlotte Brierly– Bearwood
Lubaba Tameni– Honey Bees
Chris Hughes– Quackers
Lisa Clark– Pine Rivers

NVQ Level 4 CCLD

Victoria Attard– Brightstarts

Congratulations

Presentation Evening



The next Presentation Evening is taking place on **Monday 7th December 2009**. Letters will be going out to all learners who have completed their qualification since June this year to invite them along with family, friends and nursery managers. The evening is always a great way to celebrate learners' achievements and takes place at Reading Town Hall starting at 6:30pm with a buffet. There will be a raffle on the evening to raise money for a local charity with some lovely prizes to be won. We look forward to seeing you there. Please contact us on 0118 956 6995 if you have any queries.

Payments for Part Time Apprentices

The LSC has recently received a number of queries in relation to payment of the £95 for employed apprentices and in particular how it applies to those learners undertaking part-time work.

The LSC Funding Guidance states '*From 1st August 2009 this becomes a minimum of at least £95 per week based on 30 to 35 hours per week. Pro-rata applies to part-time apprentices below 30 hours per week.*'

Any apprentice employed in an organisation where the normal working week is between 30 and 35 hours is required to be paid £95. How the days are worked does not really matter but any off the job training must not reduce the overall hours to be paid.

Any apprentice employed in an organisation working less than 30 hours per week, or indeed more than 37 hours per week could be paid pro-rata.

The Low Pay Commission are currently undertaking a review of wages for apprentices and the are due to report later in the year.

If you have any queries regarding apprenticeship pay, please contact Sarah Darsley on 0118 956 6995.

Management Seminars

All managers are cordially invited to join us at our next **free** Management Seminar. The third in our series of Breakfast management seminars is by request, and will cover **Time and Stress Management** at 8:45am-10:30am, Friday 12th February 2010. Call the admin team on 0118 956 6995 if you would like to reserve a place. If you have any requests for further seminars, please let us know.