

Lostsocks Newsletter

May/ June 2010 lostsocks Newsletter

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Supporting Teaching and Learning takes off in Spalding

Chiltern and Riverside Training are delighted with the success of the Supporting Teaching and Learning qualification which is enabling classroom assistants in the Lincolnshire area to achieve the NVQ Levels 2 and 3 in Teaching and Learning. This programme is being offered under the Chiltern Train 2 Gain programme. Sue Bulbeck, Director of Riverside Training said "The Train 2 Gain funding has enabled us to train a full class of Level 2 learners and several Level 3 learners. The local schools are delighted to be able participate in this pilot for Chiltern. We also have apprenticeships available for those aged 16—24 who feel they would like to work as a classroom assistant or perhaps get a taste for teacher training." Riverside also delivers programmes in Management and Childcare qualifications.

If you are interested in pursuing an apprenticeship in ST&L, please contact Sarah or Josie on **0118 956 6995**.



Sue Bulbeck of Riverside Training

Inside this issue: Katy's word, Achievers, New courses, Gap Year Diary, Learner Support, Male workers in Childcare Feedback - we listened to what you had to say. Professional Development

Excellent Apprentices looking for placements in Swindon

Are you an employer based in the Swindon area?

We currently have a number of extremely high quality apprentices looking to start their training now. They will need a placement in a childcare setting in order to get started. If you are interested in employing a new member of staff to join your team at just £95 per week, contact Sarah Darsley and Josie Ballard to arrange trials with these prospective learners. For more information and to register your requirements, please call us on **0118 956 6995**. Apprenticeships start throughout the year

Employers in the Thames Valley are now able to access grants of £1,500 for employing new apprentices aged 16-24 years.

The Grant can be claimed for:

16 to 18 year olds who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) and are seeking an Apprenticeship vacancy.

It can also be claimed for 19 to 24 year olds who are enrolling on an Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3) and are unemployed and have been claiming Job Seekers Allowance for six months or more, or have completed a Pre-Employment Training Programme.

Apprentices will need to be employed by you and be in place by the 31st of October 2010. The grants are available now and are released on a first come, first served basis, so we can not guarantee that you will receive the grant towards the end of the year.

If you are interested in employing new apprentices and would like to take advantage of the grant payments you will need to register your interest with the admissions team. We will then advertise your vacancy on the Apprenticeship Vacancies Online service. We have already found this to be extremely successful with employers in Lincolnshire and Berkshire where employers have successfully employed a high calibre of learners with a previous grant scheme.

For more information and to register your interest, please contact Sarah Darsley or Josie Ballard on **0118 956 6995** or email sarah.darsley@chilterntraining.org.

A Word from Katy.....



We are now entering the busiest term of the year. For the majority of our Apprentices, this is the last term of their course and targets have been set to achieve by July. It is also the busiest term for admissions as we currently have hundreds of applicants all searching for a training placement or employment upon leaving school. To encourage employers to consider apprentices, the South East are currently offering a grant of £1500 to take on an unemployed person up to the age of 18. Unfortunately, this grant is not available for our Lincolnshire or Wiltshire nurseries at the moment. We are confident, however, that no matter who gains power on the 6th May, helping to ensure young people gain employment under the apprenticeship programmes will be top of their agenda. We will keep you up to date as soon as any new initiatives are brought out in your area, but should you have any enquiries about what is happening in training for our sector, please call me direct on 0118 956 6995. In order to improve our assessment centre procedures and the turn around time of work logged into the centre, we have moved the assessment centre back down to the second floor. We have also arranged for an extra EV visit for Team leading, which will take place at the end of this month. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and best wishes during my son's recent illness. I am delighted to say he's well on the way to a full recovery!

Katy

Staff Training— 17th and 18th June

Please note that our Reading and Swindon centres will be closed for staff training on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th June. We will respond to any enquiries when the centres re-open on Monday 21st June. Should your enquiry need urgent attention please contact Sarah on 07896 257050. Riverside Training in Spalding will be open as usual.

Changes to apprenticeship wages from October 2010

We would like to bring to your attention that from October 2010, there will be changes to apprenticeship wages. The minimum weekly wage for apprentices is currently £95. From 1st October this year, apprentices will be paid a minimum hourly wage of £2:50. You will need to ensure that any apprentices you employ will be paid appropriately to meet this minimum standard. The new rate will apply to:

- apprentices under 19
- apprentices aged 19 and over, but in the first year of their apprenticeship.

LPC Chairman David Norgrove said: "We are pleased that the government has again accepted the Commission's recommendations. The introduction of an apprentice rate marks an important extension to minimum wage protection across the UK."

Need advice on the minimum wage?

The Pay and Work Rights Helpline number is 0800 917 2368.

Learner Feedback

In recent learner feedback, you felt that the 4th floor classroom was darker than those on the 3rd floor. To improve this, we have arranged to have the whole floor refurbished with a new ceiling and new lighting. Please bear with us during the renovation.



You also asked for more laptops in the classroom and we have since purchased 16 new laptops with a charging trolley.

We listen to your feedback and will do our best to act upon it, but sorry, the escalator is out!

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Male Learners in Childcare

Lee

Lee came to Chiltern after completing a course in Leisure and Tourism with little idea of what

he wanted to do. He had been volunteering at a local youth club in Berkshire and found he really enjoyed working with young people. Lee started his Level 2 Apprenticeship in 1997 and then progressed to his level 3 in childcare and play work. Lee started to do extra work outside of his placement - he worked for the Berkshire Association for Young People as an events coordinator, where he was working with youth clubs in Berkshire to integrate them in country wide events.

What did you do after gaining your Level 2 and Level 3 apprenticeships from Chiltern?

After finishing my Level 3 it gave me the inspiration to go to university to study for a youth work qualification for three years. After doing this I joined Connexions where I became a project worker. I was involved in a project to create positive activities for young people who are at the risk of exclusion and offending in Slough.

What are you doing now?

I now manage this project and I also work on The Princes Trust Team Programme, which is allowing me to reach out into all areas of the community and help those in most need of guidance in their lives.

How has your training at Chiltern been of benefit to you?

I have never been a very academic person and doing an apprenticeship has helped me learn on the job, while also gaining the qualifications to back it up, which has helped me to get to where I am today in my career.

What advice would you give young people who are considering a career in childcare?

If you have ever wanted to work with young people then experience is key. Volunteer at local youth centres and after school clubs as this will be your gateway in, as experience is vital in this environment.

What are your plans for the future?

I want to carry on working with young people and helping those who really need it and just keep on doing what I am doing!

"If you've ever wanted to work with young people then the experience you get doing an apprenticeship is key"

Congratulations to our Achievers in March and April

Apprentices

H. Goff- Little Ducklings
S. Francis- Goldilocks
J. Annetts- Audlen House
S. Smith- Northumberland
F. Khan- Jack in the Box
A. Yad- Forbury
S. Burke- Tigers
S. Neate- Fledglings
N. Lewis- Natural Steps
L. Le-Marinel- Little Ducklings
R. Mills- Pine Rivers
Z. Langford- Bluebird

Advanced Apprentices

A. Tucker- Bramley-wood
K. Nash- Audlen House
E. Shimizu- Happitots
S. Lambert- Bracken Bears
A-M. Berridge- Abacus
M. Richards- Abacus
S. Nobbs- Norcot
J. Radbourne- Abacus
C. King- Merrydale
J. Loffhagen- Acorns
R. Cardrick- Our Lady's
J. Staniforth- Forbury Gardens
S. Taylor- The Daisy

Level 3 Customer Services

N. Noakes- Chiltern Training
S. Edwards- Chiltern Training
S. Hannah- Chiltern Training

Level 2 NVQ

D. Horwood- Newberry Lodge
D. Hopton- Bracken Bears
N. Arthur- Beansheaf
D. Cooper- Newberry Lodge

Level 3 NVQ

H. Wheeler- Little Dragons
A. Rafiq- Abbermore
K. Wallis- Teddies
L. Gooch- Our Lady's
W. Carrington- Christ the King
T. Scicluna- Blagdon Road
M. Smith- Beansheaf
S. Kulkarni- Earley Montessori

Level 2 Team Leading

M. Williams- Acres of Fun
A. Gill- Acres of Fun
E. Gray Slater- Acres of Fun
A. Keefe- Acres of Fun
R. Boswell- Acres of Fun

Level 3 Management

A Lucker- Orchard
D. Shipsey- The Children's House
E. Pattison- Just Learning
D. Alli- Orchard

LEARNER SUPPORT

Do you need support or advice on something?

text our text wall
07786204949

Start your text with the number '01189'
We will get back to you the same day



Professional Development Courses

The following courses will be running at our training centre in Reading.

The costs of the training is £50 per head. For any learners currently enrolled on a training programme at CTL, the cost is just £25.

If you would like to find out more or to book places, email us at enquiries@chilterntraining.org or call us on 0118 956 6995.

Behaviour Management

Date: Friday 14th May
Time: 9:30am-12:30pm

Facilitating Effective Outdoor Learning and Play

Date: 24th June
Time: 9:30am-12:30pm

Free Management Seminar Reminder

The next free management breakfast seminar will be taking place on Thursday 13th May at 9am. Please call the admin team on 0118 956 6995 to book your place.

The seminar will cover 'HR for Nursery Managers' and will run at the Station

We can offer bespoke in-house courses to suit the needs of your setting. For further details, contact Katy Edwards on 0118 9566995 or e-mail katy.edwards@chilterntraining.org

The Diary of a Chiltern GAP Student

Christine Lowrie, our sponsored Gap Year learner has begun her adventures in Japan. Christine has been keeping in touch and updating us on all her stories since leaving the grey skies of Britain and joining her new colleagues in sunny Japan.

Christine is working in Leonard Chester Homes in Osaka, working with special needs adults and children. Christine says, 'I am having a great time here in Japan. It was very cold to start with but now the weather is getting really nice and warm. I am working very hard at the care home and am



living with my room mate Olivia in an apartment in the grounds. I do a variety of activities like changing the sheets, cleaning and helping with feeding the residents. We also talk to the residents about our homes in England and share stories with them. I have been trying a lot of different types of food. I eat mainly white fish and rice with different soups. I can't remember the names of all of the dishes we have eaten but one dish had jellyfish in. I won a voucher at a charity raffle to have lunch in an expensive hotel so I am looking forward to that.'

'I can now write and read Hiragana which is one type of Japanese writing. I would like to learn to write Katakana next but that is a lot harder and I don't think I will learn Kanji which is very difficult. We have been on some excursions including trips to Himaji Castle and we went to Kyoto to see the golden temple which is actually made from gold. Tokyo was not as bright and busy as I thought it was going to be but it was good fun.'

If you are interested in applying for the Gap Sponsorship next year, please contact Sarah Darsley in the Admissions team at Chiltern Training. You can email her at sarah.darsley@chilterntraining.org or call 0118 956 6995.