

education otherwise



No. 170 - June 2006

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1ST JULY 2006

Please mark material 'for publication' and include your name, address, phone number and email (if you have it) as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution (though details may be withheld from publication on request). **Email contributions will be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgement please enclose ssae.**

If no acknowledgement is received, or in case of queries, please contact the NL co-ordinator (see inside back cover). *Please also ensure your EO membership is up to date.*

Please send contributions via the most appropriate section editor below:

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DISCLAIMER

The opinions in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors, nor of Education Otherwise as a whole. This newsletter is edited by volunteers and its primary purpose is to provide support and communication between members.

All contributions (including advertisements) have been accepted in good faith and have not been in any way endorsed by Education Otherwise, which cannot be held responsible for the consequences of responding to any of them.

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EO is legally responsible for the material printed in the Newsletter, and sometimes it is necessary to edit letters and articles to ensure that there is no possibility of legal action against EO. We try to consult with authors when this is necessary but we reserve the right not to print anything we consider puts EO at risk.

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OR IF YOUR NEWSLETTER DOES NOT ARRIVE**

please contact the **DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR** *(See inside back cover)*

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Co-ordinatorial

It's me again - I don't really want to be doing this on top of my Council commitments, and in any case it's not good practice for NL Co-ord to be the same person as Publications Sec., but I haven't been able to get in touch with the people who had volunteered earlier. If you are still interested (or if anyone new is interested!) then it would be most helpful if you would contact me again.

Please!

Anne Rix 15.5.6

anne@annerix.demon.co.uk 01237 451535

EO VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

(We Need You!)

Newsletter Co-ordinator

To liaise with other members of NL team, prepare copy and ensure it is delivered to printer on time ... further details of what actually happens in practice and FAQs available from Anne Rix (Publications Secretary - see inside back cover)

Children's Pages

NOTICE FOR CONTRIBUTORS AND EDITORS

Please note that in future issues it will only be possible for children to contribute every other issue and be limited to two entries per person. This is because a few people are beginning to dominate the pages and it makes it hard for the editor.

If you have asked to edit the children's pages in the past, please could you contact Ali Willer on simon.whitehall@tesco.net

to confirm your details as at present there are several people with incorrect details who volunteered in the past.

Your will miss your turn if we cannot contact you in good time.

If you would like to edit the pages in the future contact Ali on the same address.

Media Contacts

As an area media contact, you will agree to be available for interview, or to give support and information to other EO members who have agreed to be interviewed by the media. For more information please contact Claire Turnham, new Media Co-ord (details back pages).

We currently need Media Contacts for: Scotland, Northern Ireland and London

Single Parent Family Contact

To offer information and support to members and non-members in single parent families - contact Rowenna Williams (back page contacts list) for further information about the job.

EO ONLINE - NEWS

New Forums in the Members Area – Northern Ireland, Scotland & Wales

There are now new forums in the members area of the EO website for discussion relevant to Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. They can be used to discuss general HE 'stuff' or to discuss the various submissions that EO makes to government agencies.

To join the Member's Area, send an email to forums@education-otherwise.org giving your preferred User Name, your Full (real) Name, the email address you wish to have associated with the forum and either your full postal address or your EO Membership Number. You will receive an email at your associated email address confirming your Username and giving you a password. You will be able to alter this password to something more memorable yourself. An email will be sent to all EO members in Scotland who have provided the Database Secretary with this information so that they may join if they wish.

New EO Yahoo Email List for Scotland

To coincide with the imminent review process of the Guidelines and requests from some members who also want to talk with the wider HE community in Scotland, an email list has been established. This list will be open to all home educators who are interested in HE in Scotland whether they are members of EO or not and whether they live in Scotland or not.

It is hoped that the list may be used for discussion on the review by the Scottish Executive as well as for general 'chat' about all things to do with HE in Scotland. Input on the Review submitted to this list will be considered by the Scotland Small Group and emails may be forwarded to the forum for Scotland in the Members Area of the website.

This is primarily aimed at being a list for information and support so all members will be asked to abide by the few rules the list has. To join go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EO-Scotland/> and click on Join This Group. You will receive an automated email asking about your interest in the group – this is not to restrict membership but to prevent spam/porn distributors from joining the list via automated programs.

Display material to download or borrow

A collection of articles and posters has been placed in the Members Area of the website for people to download and use on stalls and exhibitions. They include Summary of the Law, History of EO, Socialisation articles, etc.

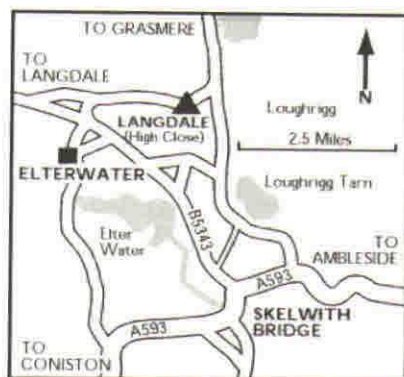
These items can also be loaned to members in laminated form (the loan keeps the cost down). To get a loan set, please contact Jacqui Houlding on jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk or 01925 654856

At the present time, the only pages available are text pages. If anyone has any photographs that you think define home education and which you don't mind a lot of other people seeing, please send them to Jacqui either electronically at the above email address or by snailmail to: Jacqui Houlding, 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington. WA5 8TF. Please note that, by sending them in, you are giving permission for them to be used anywhere in the country at public events. Please remember this if your children are featured in the photographs.

EO National Gathering (Advance Notice!)
Friday 10th - Wednesday 15th November 2006

Langdale Youth Hostel
Ambleside, Cumbria

This Victorian mansion with open fires is owned by the National Trust and stands in its own grounds between Elterwater and Grasmere. Close to the Langdale Pikes, it's an ideal base for anyone wanting to explore the Langdale valleys



Come and join us at this wonderful Youth Hostel situated in a truly magnificent part of the country.

Facilities include: Lounges, TV, dining room, games room, showers, toilets, cycle store, and large grounds to roam.

There will be an Open Council Meeting on the Saturday (11th November)

Provisional prices dependant upon numbers

Over 16 - £15 per night

10 - 16 - £11 per night

under 10 - £8 per night

under 2 - free

This is based on a full board vegan/vegetarian diet

Come for the full gathering or just the weekend, but most of all come and enjoy yourself!

For more details and to register your interest please send S.A.E. to
Tracy Coates, 79 Cumberland Avenue, Cleveleys, Lancashire. FY5 2DS

Or email: tracysolooney@tiscali.co.uk

**GWERSYLL DEWI SANT
E.O. ST.DAVIDS CAMP**

Thurs June 15th to Mon 26th June

EO family camp coastal campsite
(can be VERY windy)

in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

THIS WILL BE THE LAST GDS

New organisers are welcome to come forward

NO CAMP FUND TO PAY and

NO COMMUNAL FACILITIES PROVIDED

PLACES LIMITED

book directly with campsite quoting

EDUCATION OTHERWISE CAMP

per night : 3-15 years £3 ; 16+ £5 ; dogs 50p

10% discount for 7 or more nights pre-paid

Wyn & Christine Evans

Caerfai Farm, Caerfai Road, St Davids,

Pembs, SA62 6QT

01437 720 548

**FANCY THE LAKE DISTRICT
IN SEPTEMBER?**

Cumbria Home Educators Camp

6th to 13th September 2006

This is a week camping for Home Educating families, on a lakeside site in our own separate camping field with toilet and shower block.

Launching is available free for sailing, rowing boats or canoes, so bring them if you have them.

Bookings must be made in advance.

Tents and camper vans only.

Fees per night: Adults £4.50

Children £1.50

Vehicles £3.00 Dogs £1.00

Contact Chris or Kathy

E-mail fgk40@yahoo.co.uk

Tel 019467 21217.

PEAK CAMP 2006

Thursday, 6th July - Thursday, 13th July

The site is the usual one: Barracks Farm, Beresford Dale, nr Hartington (grid ref. 123 586). The site has two large fields for tents and touring caravans; showers, toilets, washing-up facilities.

Charges (per night)

Adults: 2.00 Children 0.80 Cars: 1.50

There will be no camp shop, but provisions are easily available close by.

As Peak Camp regulars will be aware, Rosemary's death means that we need to organise a cleaning rota for the toilet, shower and wash-up facility. It would help if people volunteered beforehand so that we can make things run smoothly. (Because teams of people shared jobs last year, cleaning became a social activity, and was a lot of fun.)

There is no need to book - families can make their stay as long or as short as they wish. Fees are paid direct to the farm, not EO. However, it would be useful if I had an indication of the number of families likely to come that I could pass on to the farm. There are no pre-organised activities. In the past, however, walks, cycle rides, rock climbing, circle dancing, ball games and shared meals have been popular activities. There are cycle hire centres and cycle tracks nearby, as well as riverside walks. Offers of shared activities or workshops are welcome.

Peak Camp is the oldest-established EO camp.

Like National Gatherings, it is a place where relationships between families can be established, developed and strengthened. There is plenty of time to share home-educating experiences, and for families and young people to socialise freely.

Hartington is approached by the A515 either from the north, via Buxton, or from the south, via Ashbourne. From the A515 take the B5054, signed Hartington. Follow the road through and out of the village, and shortly after entering Staffordshire, turn left, following signs for Beresford Dale. Keep following Beresford Dale signs until you near the end of the road; Barracks Farm is on the left.

For more details contact Gary Podmore,

52 Rupert Road, Sheffield S7 1RP.

Tel. (0114) 2585702

LOCAL CONTACT UPDATE

if you want to volunteer

or would like to know more about being a local contact
please contact the Local Contact Co-ordinator (see inside back cover)

AREAS NEEDING A LOCAL CONTACT

OVERSEAS - America

ENGLAND

Derbyshire

Dorset East

Dorset West

Durham

Gloucestershire North

Gloucestershire South

Hampshire West

Kent

Kent South East

London Central
London Enfield
London North West
Somerset
Shropshire

SCOTLAND

Angus, Dundee, Perth &

Kinross

Argyll & Bute

Edinburgh & Lothians

Fife

Glasgow
Inverclyde & The Ayrshires

WALES

Mid Glamorgan

Vale of Glamorgan

West Glamorgan

(excluding City and

County of Swansea)

Gwent

RESIGNING CONTACTS

Karen Bartlett - Hertfordshire

Alex Caldwell - Leicestershire (joint)

NEW ACTING CONTACTS

Jaime Wiles - Barking & Dagenham

Diane Boskma - Europe

Anthony & Leandra Lawler - Isle of Man

Fair Trade Initiative in Thanet

Thanet Home Educating Network has been involved with the Fair Trade Initiative in Thanet supported by the local Co-op stores. Fair Trade helps farmers from developing countries get a fair price for their produce and enable them to put money back into their communities.

The children have made and designed a Fair Trade banner during a workshop, which we organised with The World Education Development Group. Our banner has been displayed in the local Co-op stores and I hope this makes the children very proud that their hard work is helping to promote not only Fair Trade but also home education in our local area, making parents aware that home education is a real option.

We look forward to being involved with the Fair Trade Initiative with their future projects.

I would like to say a big thank you to the Co-op for supporting us.

If you would like to become a member of Thanet Home Educating Network please contact:

Vanda Alexander, Tel: 01843 842629



Letters Pages

Experienced rider wanted

I'm looking for a competent experienced rider to share or loan a 14.2hh 5 year-old Exmoor X gelding, currently in Bradford-on-Avon.

He was professionally broken-in, has a good temperament, is responsive and forward-going. He needs a teenager or small adult to bring him on and realize his considerable potential.

Interested? Please ring 01225 760880
Peggy Thomas, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

Change of address

Please note that as from today our new address is: 6 New Road, Clanfield, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 0NS

Our telephone number (07817393903) and e-mail address (stormydevon@ntlworld.com) remain unchanged. There is no landline number at this address

Bright blessings, *Storm and Ehlana Maton*

'Lessons should be boring'!

I thought this might be of interest to home educators. I read an article entitled 'Lessons should be boring' in our regional paper this week, and thought other HERS would like to remind themselves of why we home educate and of how we (strangely) believe learning should be fun, enjoyable and interesting!

Extract from the Eastern Daily Press, Friday 14th April 2006

"Teachers, yesterday admitted children should expect their lessons to be boring. Delegates at the Association of Teachers and Lecturers were told students should buckle down to some mind-numbing long division. Maths teacher Zoe Fail told the conference "I don't have the energy to do all singing all dancing lessons five days a week. I feel today's children aren't bored enough. I remember being bored, but I am not bored now because I know how to deal with it."

Miss Fail received a round of applause. Colleague Michael Boakes who backed her, said pupils would realize that learning how to deal with boredom was a necessary part of life. "Life is not going to be a Disney ride 100% of the time," he said."

The article went on to reinforce the idea that learning was a boring, unpleasant task similar to that of swallowing bad tasting medicine, but children better get used to it as that's what life is like! It reads as an excellent promotion of reasons why to home educate!

Hilary Woolf, Bungay, Suffolk

New group in London

There are a few of us in Central/West London who are starting a new weekly group that is more local to us - Notting Hill Gate, Kensal Rise, Queen's Park, Kensington, Chelsea etc. This is because proximity is everything and most groups are a good car/train journey away.

There are quite a few under-5s and we would like to get a social group going for them by the time their other friends start school. Toddlers and babies are welcome, as are all ages.

If you are in the area and interested in coming to a gathering please call me on 07816 872841 or e-mail sarahdaukes@mac.com

Sarah Daukes, Ladbroke Grove, London.

Update from New Zealand

In the last newsletter I wrote about my 12 year old daughter, Sophie, and her unconventional lifestyle. I would like to add that having taken the time to think deeply and express my feelings about what was happening with her, by some strange coincidence (or not) it started to change. She has been spending more time out of her room with us, joining in conversations, joking and laughing, and getting involved in community activities. I have also met people who have assured me that they were like this in their teens, wanting only to read and be solitary, and they have turned out all right, so I feel quite relaxed about it now.

I have been interested to read how many other parents felt relieved and inspired by Ian Wild's article on organic structure. Ian, you obviously hit a deep chord. Thank you again.

Lastly, contrary to how it read in the article, we DO have Internet access, and would love to hear from any families visiting NZ or simply sharing the dilemmas of home educating teenagers.

Lori Forsyth, Waiheke Island, NZ
E-mail: lori@quest13.co.nz

Request for information

Over the past 5 months I have been making a lot of enquiries into the way hospitals treat children who are injured at school and the way they treat children who are injured at home.

The situation has long been clear that where a child receives an injury at home and is taken to A & E if the injury may be non accidental and the parent does not give a satisfactory explanation, then the Social Services would be informed. However if a child receives an injury at school which may be non accidental, it seems to be taken for granted that this is acceptable and it is left to the parent to take up the problem with the school. No outside organisation investigates incidents of bullying, but when the parent takes the child away from school for its own protection, the parent is the one who is viewed with suspicion.

I have raised questions as to who is responsible for all this but the DfES says the Dept of Health is responsible and they say the DfES is responsible. I have had contact now with my own MP and this is being thoroughly investigated [so I am told] with both these organisations but I fear they may still try to blame parents in some way.

Has anyone had any experience of taking a child from school to A & E who may be able to tell me first hand of the way bullying or non-accidental injuries were handled? Anything at all, which may be helpful, would be much appreciated.

Please telephone or email me as soon as possible.

Kathleen Thompson Tel: 01942 795 975
E-mail: ktmusic59@yahoo.co.uk

A cure for dry skin

If anyone in your family has dry skin problems, I really recommend a product I found for my 7-month old son. Now we all use the oils and creams.

The ingredients in Elena's Nature collection really do soothe and calm down red itchy skin. The website is:
<http://www.elenascollection.co.uk/indexjs.html>

The Illumination Cream is her new product and I think it is magic. It has made such a big difference knowing we can help my baby when he has flare-ups.

Vitamin D from the sun and a moist climate made him look radiant after our recent holiday. I also think squeezing Omega 3 oils into his mouth is beneficial. The 'Detox your World' website: http://www.detoxyourworld.com/acatalog/omega_zen.html is brilliant and has supplements like hemp protein powder or a Vitamin C powder that are non-toxic at any dose and very suitable for disguising in your kids drinks and food!

Justine Kinney-Graham Tel: 020 7328 6433
E-mail: justinekinney71@hotmail.com

BOOKSTART

My local librarian asked me to contact you to spread news of a new scheme.

It is the BOOKSTART scheme and all libraries in the country have book bags to give away – one for babies, one for toddlers (2) and one for 3 year olds.

The clinics, nurseries and playgroups would usually get them, but we HE would not necessarily be in those places!

In Suffolk the person to contact is Jo Dixon - Early Years Librarian on 01473 264735

In all other parts of the country, parents should contact their library service.

Information about the scheme can be found on www.bookstart.org.uk

Sharon Head <theheads@btopenworld.com>

Withdrawing Children from School in Scotland

The summary below about the withdrawal issue is given at this time to clarify 1) the current legal background to withdrawing a child from school in Scotland, 2) withdrawal in practice and 3) how EO handles enquiries about withdrawal.

Home educators in Scotland need to consider this issue with regard to the amendment currently before parliament and whether they have anything to feed back into the imminent review of the Statutory Guidance.

The Statutory Guidance was issued in 2004 to guide local authorities in interpreting the law concerning home education. It does not have the power to change the law but education authorities "shall have regard to any such guidance."

The current situation:

The Law

The Law itself was unchanged by the Statutory Guidance issued in March 2004. The existing anomaly that the responsibility for the provision of education of a child lies squarely with the parent (all children, all parents) remains incongruously alongside the requirement for the parent of a child already attending school to seek the consent of the local authority to withdraw the child from school in order to make a different provision (home education). The local authority in turn is required not to 'unreasonably withhold' such consent. So, on the one hand the law places a responsibility on the parent and then on the other hand in certain circumstances requires the parent to seek consent for the means (child withdrawn from school) to exercise this responsibility in the chosen way (home education).

The Statutory Guidance did however say that if there was no existing evidence indicating good reason for refusing consent that it can be granted *immediately*. It also says 'parents should write to the education authority as early as possible and, where *reasonably practical*, in advance of the date that they wish to withdraw their child from school.' and 'Previous irregular attendance is not of itself a sufficient reason for refusing consent.' The implication is that it may *not always* be necessary to obtain consent *in advance* of withdrawal but that a letter requesting consent should be sent as soon as possible once the choice to withdraw in order to home educate is made. Where '*reasonably practical*' this *should be* in advance of the child being withdrawn. Where not '*reasonably practical*' (this is not defined but possibly could be a situation where school has become intolerable for a child and he or she is refusing to go) it should be sent simultaneously or right on the heels of the actual withdrawal. Parents should avoid a gap between last attendance at school and the request for consent to withdraw wherever possible.

Prior to the Statutory Guidance, parents who chose to withdraw their child before receiving consent to withdraw, if then faced with repercussions from the education authority, could choose to rely on the fact that they were already providing an actual home education and therefore had what they could argue was a 'reasonable excuse' for non attendance at school i.e. that compulsory education provision (the responsibility of the parent) was being made at home instead. This has challenged the anomaly effectively in the past but was never tested in court. It could still be argued in present times but the need for relying on this rational but untested argument in practice has been largely superseded by the Statutory Guidance providing the "where reasonably practical in advance" rider as outlined above.

Ideally from the point of view of the authorities a parent writes to the local authority, receives consent to withdraw and *then* removes the child. Ideally from the individual parent's point of view they want to remove the child with the minimum of delay or upset and what this means to each family is dictated by the individual urgency of the situation. It is essential for the parent to weigh up the situation around the local authority history with home educators, the family's history with the authority, the family's current capacity for dealing with possible protracted difficulties and, not least, the needs of the child.

In Practice

Most home educators who enquire of EO about withdrawing a child from school are not just fancying a change. There is usually a problem big or small, specific or general. It may be bullying or mismatched provision for the child, or it may be a growing dissatisfaction with the school or system. Whatever the problem, it is often urgent and when given the legal and practical information parents quite often choose to withdraw a child immediately or indeed have effectively already done so by non-attendance in the recent past. These are instances where it can be argued to be 'reasonably practical' not to seek consent in advance of withdrawing the child but at the same time. In such circumstances the parents must actually begin home education immediately (thus fulfilling their primary legal responsibility) and write immediately to the local authority requesting formal consent before non-attendance procedures kick in, or to try to stop such procedures if they already have kicked in.

Withdrawing a child prior to obtaining consent will inevitably be breaking a local authority's procedural steps. Breaking procedures is not in itself tantamount to breaking the law. Furthermore some local authorities still have procedures which are not compliant with statute. However, all parents should be aware that where a local authority actually begins **non attendance procedures** (these are **statutory procedures** not just administrative ones) these can lead to prosecution and this is more likely where they are not addressed promptly by the parents. This is rare but is at highest risk of happening in the few LAs* still resistant to home education or when the local authority believes there is existing evidence giving good reason for withholding consent.

*A few local authorities remain entrenched in bad practice and poor behaviour usually rooted in a lack of information and understanding about home education, which manifests as a blatant prejudice against it. Prejudice is not a valid reason for withholding consent to withdraw, no matter how much they wish it were. There is less and less excuse for such ignorance in the light of the 'training opportunities' (see below), abundant information on the web and the Statutory Guidance itself. No doubt the practices of these authorities will be the main subject of the forthcoming Guidance Review.

Where there is no undue prejudice against home education, local authorities generally have two main concerns in connection with withdrawal: that a child does not become a "child missing education" (CME) and disappear from their view (even more so if they already have any concerns over the child) and secondly that the child is actually receiving an education provision. If a parent addresses these issues with the local authority the chances of any difficulties arising between family and authority are greatly reduced.

A few local authorities have undertaken specific training courses which are available and have benefited from this. They respond well to this format which is familiar to them. Others have had a lot of input from home education organisations connected with specific family cases as well as more generally and have benefited from that, but in many local authority areas it has been the clarity of home educators about the guidance and the law and home education itself which has guided the local authority to improve their practice. Generally speaking home educators acting correctly (by writing promptly etc.), with strength and with the support of others is the best 'training' local authorities get in how to deal with home education. It is a drip-by-drip method but is most effective and very empowering for parents. Over the long term, it also builds respectful relationships between authorities and parents, which is what many home educators want and one of the stated aims of the guidance.

Dealing with enquiries to EO

The essence of home education is around parents taking up their legal responsibility. It is about self-empowerment. Of course it is also about peer support amongst parents but this support should never replace the parent taking their own responsibility for their choices or their actions. The strength of home education in practice lies in the heart of the law which recognises this natural parental responsibility and as such informs how we do things, including handling enquiries. EO is very clear that 'advice' is not given. Information is given. At the very least legal information is given. Usually also local and practical information is given and, very importantly on the support side, listening is given. Done well, this listening, along with the information given, usually allows a variety of courses of action and the possible benefits and risks involved for the particular parent to be distilled out. Then the parent is in a better position to choose their next actions. It is usually important to encourage them to digest this information and the options available before they make big decisions. Often there are several calls before individual parents feel informed enough to make the choices best for them.

It is worth remembering also that these decisions are often about relieving the suffering of a child as soon as possible. It is important to outline all the options (benefits and risks), including withdrawal prior to consent if appropriate, to a parent in this position.

Links and feedback

The guidance can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/gcech-00.asp.
Feedback on review to governmentpolicy@education-otherwise.org **marked Scotland**
or on the new EO yahoo group :EO-Scotland
or direct to Scottish Executive at Home.education@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

EO Scotland Group

#####

School bullying

I have taken my seven year old out of school due to two years of bullying. At first my complaints were ignored; then I was told I was over protective; next came 'he needs to experience the rough and tumble so that he'll be able to cope with the real world; finally the teacher picked on him, gleefully writing in his report that 'he is unable to focus and now sits on his own!!!' She kept him in at break times and told him he was a 'tell tale' and has him believing that he has a problem.

He has been too frightened to go outside on his own for 18 months; needed to sleep with me for over a year and, due to being attacked in the school toilet by a big boy when he was just 5 years old, he drinks as little as possible to avoid needing to pee.

After the first year he stopped telling me what was going on. Things got worse, not better, when I went to the school. My child learnt that 'it hurts less to hurt in silence'.

The governors felt that the school had addressed my concerns and did not uphold my complaint. The LEA was, and still is, hostile and aggressive. Although I removed my child from school (for his own safety) the LEA did not once advise me of my legal right to home educate my child. They made threats; they demanded sick notes by the dozen and proof that my child was being taught at home, but they forgot to inform me of that very important fact. After Kidscape told me that I did have a legal right to home educate my child I kicked up a real stink and demanded to know why the LEA had not told me. They didn't reply to the question; instead they offered me 3 hours a week home tutoring for 6 weeks IF I de-registered my child. (In writing) I was also told that if I decided to de-register my child the LEA would send an advisor to my home every year to check the education being provided.

Parents in Wales please get a copy of the 'Inclusion and pupil support consultation document, 2005' (the National Association in Cardiff will send you one). See page 105, Para 3.6 'otherwise the LEA should assume that efficient educational provision is taking place, which is suitable

for the child, unless there is evidence to the contrary. There is NO express requirement in the 1996 Act for LEAs to investigate actively whether parents are complying with their duties under Section 7.' Section 7 is mainly concerned with children who have special educational needs.

All children have special educational needs: the most important is the right to an education in an abuse-free environment. HOME EDUCATION!

I felt such a huge weight lifted when I decided that I was not sending my child back to school. I wish I had known sooner that I could educate him at home. Perhaps he wouldn't need to see a psychologist to undo the damage caused at school. Like many parents with similar problems I was even afraid to change schools in case it was 'out of the fat, into the fire'.

I hate to say this, I feel very sad saying it, but schools destroy our children. They crush independence, intelligence, self-worth, confidence and happiness. Eventually the excuse I was given for the bullying (that amazingly is still being denied) is that we don't have TV. Another mother was blamed for her 6 year old being bullied because she didn't send her daughter to school until she was 5, and another set of parents were told that their teenage daughter was attacked by ten others because 'she provoked them'. The list is endless ...

Are there any other parents out there who would like to join in making a book about "schools' excuses for bullying"?

Christine Jones, Penierfyn, Pontfaen, Fishguard SA65 9TS



Why Choose an Alternative to Home Visits ?

One of my major concerns in my role as a Helpline volunteer for EO is the way many families are given misleading information as to what they must do to satisfy the Local Authority (LA) Education Department that their child is receiving an education "otherwise" than in school. Not only is this completely unnecessary, but it can also amount to harassment and, in many cases, causes a lot of stress, which could so easily be avoided if Education Officers knew their role and didn't overstep their "authority".

After discussing this on an Internet group recently I did get some flack because it was felt, by some people, that if families are happy to invite representatives of the LA into their home at regular intervals, then I have no business suggesting they should not. Of course, many families do comply with requests for home visits, and of course it isn't for me to tell them they shouldn't do so. However, even parents who have been perfectly willing to have a visitor, perhaps thinking their organised approach and pre-planning etc. will satisfy them, have found that the Advisor picks their provision to bits, demands more written work, tells them to "push" their child. So, I stand by what I say about home visits not being a legal requirement, and about thinking very carefully before accepting this form of "evidence".

There are many reasons for this. The first of which being, of course that LAs have absolutely *no right* to insist on home visits and no right of entry to your home. The Education Department is surely the only "service provider" in the UK which is viewed as an Authority and whose clients - children - have no real choices. What would happen if your GP suddenly started writing to you asking to visit your home to check if your child was healthy? It is exactly the same situation: children have a right to healthcare, and their parents a duty to ensure that they receive it, but unless a child is unwell you would not dream of undertaking regular visits to the doctor. If your GP did wish to start coming out just to check then I'm sure there would be a big protest. Rightly so, because this sort of invasive checking up is not only ridiculous but also an infringement of several of our rights, particularly under the Human Rights Act, which gives us the right to a private family life.

My main concern is for parents who don't want visits but are nervous of refusing them. I often hear parents talking about "the next visit" as something to be feared, because rather than accepting that the child is receiving an education and subsequently leaving the family alone, the LA allows the family to believe that these visits must be regular. This is despite LAs having no duty to monitor education provision at all. I am also *very* concerned about the damaging effect on children who are pushed by stressed-out parents into doing things that they do not want to do, for no good reason other than this is what the parents feel will be required. They believe that if they refuse any demand by the LA, they

could find themselves at the beginning of court proceedings which could end in their child being sent back to school. LAs know very well that they aren't supposed to insist on home visits, but they take advantage of this very real *fear* parents have in order to manipulate them into toeing the line.

The fact is, however, that LA are only supposed to "act" if there is the appearance that education is *not* taking place, rather than, as is usually the case, when they are told that it *is* (in the form of home education). Sure, they have a duty to perform. They must satisfy themselves that education is taking place (otherwise it *could* be construed as an appearance that it is *not*) but parents can easily provide evidence by other means. In theory, a letter in reply to the LA's initial enquiry should be enough. A simple statement that their child is being home educated in accordance with Section 7, and with Section 9 (type of education to be chosen by the parent), of the 1996 Education Act Part 1, and maybe a brief outline of the education being provided/facilitated, is sufficient, legally. Once provided with this, any attempt by a LA to take action against parents for refusing to provide examples of written work (not required by law), timetables or curricula (ditto) or even for failing to reply to subsequent correspondence demanding that the parents comply with their demands, would fail, since there would be no grounds to allege that it appears no education is taking place. For example, Mrs. Twitchy-Curtains reports that the new family next door's children don't go to school. (Failing to inform the LA you are home educating is not an offence; neither is not informing the LA you have moved to a new area.) Until they have established what the parents are doing to fulfill their duty "*to cause their child to receive an efficient full-time education.....*" then no appearance can exist or not exist, and if the parents ignored *all* correspondence, how would the LA know the children were being educated? In such a case, they *could* take steps to have a School Attendance Order issued, but the family would still be given a period of time in which to provide evidence of any education taking place. In reality it is very rare for home educating parents to even end up in court, unless there are other (e.g. child protection) concerns.

There are many ways to provide evidence, for example, a letter, as already mentioned. Or the parents could meet at the Education Department's office, without their children present (since it is the parents' educational provision, and not what the child actually does, which is in question). You could ask a third party to write to them; although this does not have to be a "professional", some parents do ask family GPs, tutors (if the child has one) or other home educating parents to "vouch" for them.

You *could* send a few examples of your child's drawings/writing, but many parents are against doing this, since not only are these the child's property, but it is impossible to select a "good" example, educationally, since this would imply that the finished product is more important than the process. A good example of this is the "Busy Road" drawing. My sons were drawing; my eldest drew lots of cars, lorries etc., all in great detail, meticulously coloured in, complete with traffic lights. Youngest decided he too would draw a busy road. Being almost 6 years younger than his brother, and at the time only 4, he got his crayon, and "drove" it round the paper, as if it were a car on a busy road, making all the "brrrrring" noises associated with cars. When they had finished the eldest had a beautiful picture of what was obviously a road scene; the youngest had a piece of paper with what looked like a lot of scribbling. Which, though, was the better example? Both were equally valid; but in a school situation, it's obvious which one would have been selected to go on the classroom wall. My point is, how can we, as parents, decide which pieces best represent the learning going on? In fact, why should we think that times when they have been writing/reading etc. have been the "best" and most productive days, educationally?

Many parents do not ask their children to do anything resembling formal work. There are no lessons, no text books, no coercion to "just come and do this." These children are left free to learn from whatever they do from day to day, and providing they have something to do with all this freedom (even if they choose not to do it), it is likely that they will learn a vast amount, even when it appears they are doing absolutely nothing.

It has been shown many times that free children are just as likely to "do well" in later life as formally educated children, and, in addition, seem more self-reliant and able to work on their own initiative; perhaps because they have been allowed to learn *how* to learn in the most effective way for them. Often, success is judged on exams passed, money earned etc. but not everyone has this view and many people are happy in their lives just doing what it is they enjoy doing.

One parent wrote about his son walking round the table "like a monk"; my youngest used to sit for ages on the step in the garden, or up a tree. We cannot possibly know what is going on in their heads, and why should we? Children need their meditation time just as much as adults. And besides, why do we need to know what they are learning? Who decides what children "should" learn about? If you sit and think about it, it makes no sense at all, this narrowing down of children's expectations to a selected set of facts and figures.

Compulsory *schooling* is a relatively new thing; in this country. The Education Act was passed because it was believed to be wrong that only the children of the ruling classes should be educated. But traditionally, children have always been educated at home, with schools a recent answer to the demand for a free education provided by the State. Somewhere along the line, we've got mixed up. School is mistakenly thought to be compulsory, with home education seen as second best. Despite the fact that nearly all the major contributors to 20th Century advances in medicine, technology etc. as well as famous literary and philosophical figures, were home educated. Home education allows children to find out what they really like doing, and then lets them explore it as much as they want to.

LAs have a certain idea of what a home educating family "should" be doing. In most cases, this will not be allowing their children to do their own thing without any interference. LA officers are often ex-teachers, and in any case they work for a system that believes that teaching children, and getting them to write everything down, is the best way to educate. This brings me to my other reason why everyone should refuse home visits. So long as people comply with what they are told to do with *their* children, the belief that home visits, and indeed other unwanted interference by LAs, are necessary and legally required is perpetuated. If a home visit has been "successful" it is because the parents are fitting into the LA's stereotyped image of what home education should entail. And this means that parents who do not educate formally, and have no written "evidence", or who do not want any involvement with the LA are seen as not educating efficiently, and thus receive more threats etc. I'm not making judgements on what education is right or wrong; all families are different and each family gets into a rhythm which best suits their lifestyle and the parents' philosophy, if they have one, but this is not taken into account by many LAs.

The main reason for refusing home visits, then, is because, while people continue to agree to them, they continue to be expected, and families who refuse them are unnecessarily pressured. If you are new to home education, take into account the fact that if they know you are aware of your rights, they are far less likely to hassle you. Most families who get pressure are either new home educators who believe the LA to be legally entitled to monitor what they are doing, or families who have been doing this longer but who have always complied with their demands. If they have accepted you are educating, then their duty is done. Why continue to give them power they don't actually have?

These are your children we're talking about, not theirs. Their future is in your hands, and you should not be coerced into changing your approach. Remember why you are home educating, and why you are doing it the way you are. Everyone is just educating their children the way they believe to be the best for them, so by saying "no" to home visits, you are indirectly helping future home educators.

Incidentally, there is plenty of information in your EO handbook, on the website and in "School is Not Compulsory", in case you need to check particular information at certain times. You can also download sample letters to send the LA. If you need help legally because you are receiving threats from your LA you can get help from the Helpline, or from your local CAB.

I hope this has reassured parents who do have trouble; and I'd like to thank everyone who phoned/sent replies to my piece in the last newsletter - I wasn't expecting so much appreciation, although I'm always happy to help.

Cal Bailes, 23 Belsay Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE45NX



Diary Of A Home-Educating Nobody

Did you realise that Home Educating gives your children one of the greatest opportunities for learning that they can possibly have? I guess you probably did, but perhaps not for the reasons I'm about to suggest!

I guess you'll see them happier, healthier, more motivated and alive than if they were in school, and maybe working more! But still, you might not have realised that the greatest learning potential can be found in something that is not usually associated with education at all. Something that some HEers can become quite guilty about if they feel their children are doing too much of it! Something we don't talk about much because we think it's not 'work'.

If you're HEing your children you have an exclusive educational opportunity so often missed. An opportunity that arises even if you don't have a curriculum. Even if you don't sit them down from nine till four every day and study. Even if you don't take them through graded workbooks, do tests, and slave away at enormous amount of academic stuff daily.

What I'm talking about is the opportunity to play!

According to the paper the other day there is something else parents now need to schedule into their busy children's lives. The children's lives described, being those who went to school; whose evenings and weekends were taken up with homework, after school clubs, extra lessons and skills practice like music or languages. Apparently our children are so busy these days that there is no room left for them to play. And it's play that the parenting gurus now feel we have to schedule in!

Have you ever heard anything so ludicrous? Not ludicrous because children need to play. But ludicrous because nowadays children's lives are such that they don't do it naturally, hence the suggestions we need to timetable it in.

I don't know about you but play happens naturally in our house! Always has, from the moment the children were born, and no doubt always will. It's not something that we would ever have to schedule in. And if we led lives that required us to do so I would seriously wonder if we were getting it right! The idea is abhorrent. The idea that children's lives have become so far removed from a childish life in some cases that the opportunity to play does not arise naturally disheartens me desperately. It is mind-bogglingly sad. Next thing we know it will be on the national curriculum and awarded graded stages and probably the kids will even end up being tested on it. That's after all what's happened to science.

Science has become some mysterious subject that is so far removed from real life nowadays and so confusing that us lay-people have been made to feel that only scientists can do it. And perhaps for the more complicated stuff that is the case. But although we may not be able to do advanced science, we all have a basic understanding of scientific principles. If we didn't we wouldn't be able to lead our lives. It's just that we're not aware of it and we've been led to think otherwise.

Science is around us all the time, in everything we do. We're all involved in important scientific concepts simply in the course of living our lives, it's just we don't realise it. For

example, you may not fully understand gravity but you probably know why the apple falls down and not up!

And this is where play comes in. The opportunity to learn through play is around us all the time just like science, if only we'd notice it. For whenever your children are playing - at whatever age - they will be learning.

Take for example all the stuff in the national curriculum for key stage one science. If you look through a relevant workbook you will see that all the subjects covered are quite often the things children would be experiencing anyway if they were just left to play: play with water; play with various substances and materials; play with musical instruments; curiosity about their bodies and nature, and coming to understand about themselves. Science on the curriculum is really nothing more than jargonised play! The children learn an enormous amount if they are left alone to play and discover things for themselves. Even as they get older.

By play I do not mean sit mindlessly in front of the telly, as much as that is useful some of the time. By play I mean play activities that engage them, not passively sitting in a disengaged way. It's not that they cannot be still when they are playing, they just need to be interactive. Doing things that activate their brain, their imagination, their limbs and skills. Imaginative play, role play, innovative and improvised play with toys, building sets, models, dolls, animals, boxes, cartons or other materials and mediums. Improvising with the space under the table, or behind the settee, or under the bed, or in a bush! Might look peculiar to you but their little brains will be working things out and problem solving, (Problem solving being another strand to the curriculum that's had to be scheduled in only because children's lives don't seem to naturally incorporate it any more). Playing with tools, utensils, gadgets, furniture, materials. Using the things around the house that you use: ingredients, food, pastry, water, fabrics, paint, wood, bricks, sand, mud, shells, sticks, bottles, cutlery, pans; freezing and melting things; cooking things. All exposure to all these things will give them a basic understanding of materials and their properties - the groundwork for their academic work later on!

But for goodness' sake, don't make it academic - just let them play! They'll be learning all time.

Take them out into natural spaces and sit somewhere while they den-make, explore, build, discover, find things, construct, dismantle, observe, get their hands dirty! So many great discoveries were made in this way. Let them play as much as they can.

Whatever you do, don't ever let your children's lives become so academic that they never have the opportunity to play. Play is so important. It initiates the groundwork to all learning. Whenever they are engaged in play their brains are active and they will be learning something from their experiences. You only have to sit and listen undetected to children chatting away to themselves to hear how play stimulates their imagination. It is their imagination that takes them beyond just having information, towards actually being able to use it. And that is what being educated truly is. Our children at home have a wonderful opportunity for learning because they have loads of time to play. Don't ever worry that they're doing too much of it. Play is an education in itself. Whatever age they are!

Skills will be acquired, experiences stored, curiosity aroused, information gathered, understanding assimilated, and learning of all kinds will certainly be taking place! Play is the best route to an education a child could possibly have. Save the more serious academic stuff for later. Establish good play habits that will last a lifetime. And let's allow them to enjoy a playful education while they can.

Ross Mountney - New email address: ross.mountney@tiscali.co.uk



Thank you from a home-educating nobody

I am a home educating nobody who feels the need to write and say 'thank you' to EO for keeping me focused and moving forward. Ross Mountney, you are wonderful and always put into words what I often feel and think. I have taken a lot but have never given back, not because I didn't want to, it is just writing and computers do not come naturally to me. I am still learning just the basics of how to work a computer (but I can give a wicked massage!). I am now home educating my two boys, Max (10) and Joe (14). It was the hardest decision I have ever made but, as it has turned out, the best.

My eldest has tutors for Maths and English. My youngest hates being taught and likes to find his own way with learning, even if it means the longer route. I took him out of school after the Infants. He hated every minute of it and was not learning; he did not seem to understand what learning even meant. I fought for two years to get a statement but finally decided on home learning after reading 'Free Range Education'. I knew if I did not do something for Max his lovely personality was going to be crushed because he did not fit into the curriculum boxes of school education.

Reading books and stories of other people's experiences really help you feel you are not alone and that other people feel the same way. I always had that feeling of thinking there must be a better way. I am not the type of person who, in her wildest dreams, would have thought I would be doing this; I am not academic or gifted to any degree as far as teaching. I have had great advice and support from a friend and tutor, Fran, who home educated her son years ago. If it had not been for people like Fran and members of EO, I would not have had the courage to do this. I would like to say 'thank you' to all the people who have written about their ideas and experiences - it has been invaluable.

So I hope this story has given someone some hope and courage to say, "Well if she can do it, so can I" because that is so true. I think I have learnt more in the last three years than at any other time of my life. So my advice would be to have faith in yourself, find what works for you and your family, seek advice, but ultimately do it your way and it will be right. No two families will work the same, which is why having the choice is such a good thing.

So listen to yourself and your gut feelings - and GOOD LUCK. "From little acorns, big trees grow"!

Vicky, Mike, Joe and Max Craven, Bucks Tel: 01753 892887 E-mail: cravenf.c@hotmail.com

EDUCATION OTHERWISE MERCHANDISE

Where to Find Resources

A list of information

on National Curriculum materials and resources and where you can get them is available free from

henrietta.turnbull@btinternet.com

(rtf or wpd or doc file);

or by post (please send a stamped SAE plus £1 for printing costs) from

H. Turnbull, Hadlow House, 2 Hadlow Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 4AF

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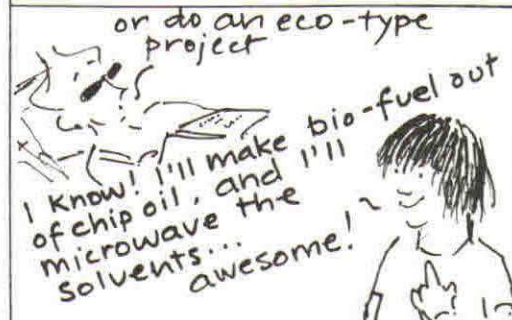
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A5 SAE to Sarah Cook, The Old Cottage,

Croglin, Carlisle, CA4 8RZ

(quoting EO membership number)

or **sarah@croggies.freeseve.co.uk**



Survival Exercise

Scenario - It is 3.00 pm on 10th November. You are taking part in an expedition and positioning to base camp in a light aircraft.

You have crashed onto a lake in a sub-arctic region. Both the pilots were killed on impact but you & the rest of the team have survived.

Prior to impact the pilots were unable to alert any air traffic service. No flight plan has been filed and there is no radio beacon on board. During the flight the transponder became unserviceable. The weather had also deteriorated and the pilots had become uncertain of their position.

Shortly after impact the aircraft sank deep into the lake.

The team believes that they are approximately 30 miles off the intended course and the nearest village is over 50 miles to the north.

Items

The area is surrounded with mountains covered in small pine trees with rocky barren summits & there are many lakes between the mountains with interconnecting rivers & streams.

You are dressed in cold weather clothing, but this is not waterproof & you are wet. Between you & the other survivors you have a pocket-knife, a lead pencil & an air navigation chart. Before abandoning the aircraft you were also able to salvage a number of items listed below.

Task - Rank the items according to their importance for your survival from 1 – 12, labelling 1 as the most important and so on.

Assumptions

1. You & the other survivors agree to stick together.
2. All items are in good condition.

	Ranking		Ranking
Magnetic compass		100m of Braided nylon rope	
2.5 ltr Can of syrup		1 ltr of whisky	
Arctic sleeping bag each		Safety razor and mirror	
Purification tablets		Watch	
Large square of waterproof canvas		Axe	
Matches in a waterproof container		Large punctured inner tube	

What the Experts Say

Item	Ranking	Reason
Matches in a waterproof container	1	Matches can be used to light fires providing heat, light & ability to ignite a signal beacon
Axe	2	Axe can be used to chop trees/branches to help ford streams & rivers; can chop branches for walking sticks & splints.
Large square of waterproof canvas	3	Can be used to protect sleeping bags while crossing rivers/streams & can be fixed to use as a shelter from rain.
Arctic sleeping bag each	4	Keep you warm at night when you stop through tiredness and save you from hypothermia.
2.5 ltr Can of syrup	5	Provides you with energy as syrup is high in calories.
100m of Braided nylon rope	6	Rope can tie the canvas round the sleeping bags & help people climb the steep slopes (apart from the first person who must be a good climber). Can be used to fix a splint in place.
Large punctured inner tube	7	Can be used to store water. Can be used to help pull someone up a cliff side in conjunction with the rope.
Safety razor and mirror	8	Razor can be used to cut rope & mirror for signalling.
1 ltr of whisky	9	Whisky would be used as an antiseptic.
Watch	10	Watch helps you tell the time, especially important if one of your number has had a tourniquet applied.
Magnetic compass	11	You could use the natural world to maintain your progress in the right direction (moss only grows on the lee side of trees; the time of day & position of the sun/stars), the magnetic compass ensures you go the right way & not in circles.
Purification tablets	12	Can be used to purify the water stored in the inner tube either for drinking or cleaning wounds.

So how did you do compared with the experts? Can you come up with other uses for the items listed?



June Competition – Issue 170




Hi all

Nearly half way through the year already! Where does the time go?
Camping season is truly upon us now – and hopefully we're having nice weather to go with it ☺

The answers and winner of April's competition is on the next page, along with an example of how to do this issue's competition and address for entries.

This time we have a new competition – based on the Da Vinci Game, which was devised by Home Educators ☺

	<p>Can you solve these four original challenges?</p> <p>The competition winner receives a free copy of The Da Vinci Game</p>	
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 <p>Codex <i>A cryptic riddle (6 letter answer)</i></p> <p>It arrives in pieces, must be made whole, To see the complete picture is the goal.</p>	 <p>Logic Key <i>Code with a numeric answer (3 digits).</i></p> <p>Cone alone flour <i>minus</i> call</p>
 <p>Rose <i>Reveals a country or place.</i></p> <p>A square in London is nestled between Canada, South Africa and the Queen.</p>	 <p>Vitruvian Man <i>Anagram of an author.</i></p> <p>Anagram: Blend in toy Did she have big ears? (4,6)</p>

[See next page for an example of how to tackle the competition questions]

For more information visit www.thedavincigame.com/eo.html

If you wish to buy the game, using the web address above and buying the game through the Amazon link will generate money for EO.

N.B. The competition is open to all members of EO, except members of the Council and EO's paid contractors. The use of services and products in the competition does not imply endorsement by Education Otherwise.

ANSWER TO APRIL COMP

The answer to last competition is below and the winner is: Helen Royston from Marsden, Huddersfield, who will receive a selection of books – well done Helen ☺ – thank you to all those who entered

6	X	4	/	3	8
-		-		-	
8	X	1	/	2	4
+		X		-	
7	-	5	-	9	-7
5		15		-8	

EXAMPLES FOR JUNE COMP

Below find an example of clues and the answers along the same line as this month's competition, hopefully this will get you in the right frame of mind....

Logic Key:

For explorers it's 2 and for Alexander it's 4,
If X marks the spot, where is Excalibur?

The answer is 2, which is the position of X in each word (eXplorers, aleXander and eXcalibur).

Vitruvian Man:

Anagram: **Book kids transcend bombs**
Hint: A witch, three children and a divan (8,3,11)

Rearranging the letters of 'Book kids transcend bombs' gives 'Bedknobs and broomsticks'. There is a clue in the anagram as well as the hint. The numbers in brackets tell you the number of letters in each word.

Codex:

A kind of border which kids climb for fun,
You do it to catch an innocent one. (5 letters)

The answer is frame, which is the border of a painting, something kids climb and what you do to catch an innocent person (frame them).

**All entries have to be in by the end of June – to: EO Competition,
79 Cumberland Avenue, Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY5 2DS.**

REVIEWS

Three Dimensional Greetings Cards

by Dawn Allen

I found this book very inventive and helpful. The illustrations are very colourful and show everything clearly to enable you to make the cards. There are all sorts of different ideas and at the end of each set of instructions there are photographs of the different types of card it is possible to make of that kind. I loved this book and would recommend it to anybody with the time to be creative!

JJ (10)

£6.99 ISBN 1-84448-055-0 Search Press

Seven for a Secret

by Laurence Anholt & Jim Coplestone

The seven of the title refers to the numbers of magpies Grampa sees in his country garden and about which he tells Ruby who lives in the big city. The story is in the form of letters between Ruby and her Grampa and deals with the love between them. It is also the death of Grampa and birth of Ruby's new baby brother. We found it touching and gentle, acknowledging the sadness Ruby feels, but ultimately leaving a feeling of hope. I would recommend it particularly to anyone who may have to cope with the death of a grandparent.

Tina with Finn (5)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-300-2 Frances Lincoln

And The Good Brown Earth

by Kathy Henderson

Rowan thought this book came at the right time, as we have started to grow our seeds for our vegetable plot. This book tells the story of Charlie and his Nan and how they look after their vegetable patch throughout the year. The illustrations are absolutely beautiful and very busy with a lot to discuss in each one. It shows how much fun it can be, by enjoying the seasons on the vegetable patch, though it does make growing vegetable look very easy i.e. it does not require much work. Rowan really loved this book, his favourite bit was where Charlie's seeds had grown which he had scattered earlier in the year. This he thought was funny as all the seeds were mixed up, so in Charlie's patch there is a bit of everything - all higgledy-piggledy.

Kathleen with Rowan (7) and Kai (1)

£5.99 ISBN 1-84428-558-8 Walker

Doodlebug Summer by Alison Prince

It is the summer of 1944. This book is about Katie and her family in the middle of World War Two. When the bombs have stopped life is almost back to normal but then the rockets start I think this book is very good. It is suitable for anyone age eight plus. This is a Flash Back series title.

Ethan (8)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7136-7579-9 A & C Black

Giant Uemplepum

by Karen O'Brien

Giant Uemplepum is a very silly giant and always having problems - he should be called Giant Problemsome! He is very good at cooking and I think he should be a chef. He also throws very good parties. I liked this book because it made me think that giants can really be nice even when they're making problems they don't mean to make.

Eleanor (8)

£6.95 ISBN 1-85776-934-1 Book Guild

The Opposite

by Tom MacRae and Elena Odriozola

The Opposite is a ghost-like creature that haunts little Nates' day. His milk goes on the table, not on his cereal; his paint everywhere but the paper; until finally Nate tricks him into helping him! As the omnipresent *Opposite* is quite ghost-like, my youngest preferred it to be read during daytime. Its catchphrase 'but then the opposite happened', caught on quickly and the children used the phrase long after we'd read the book. Very nice, clear and simple illustrations, destined to be a classic!

Jane with Robyn (8), Max (5) and Oliver (3)

£10.99 ISBN 1-8427-0482-6 Andersen Press

Rescued by a Dog called Flow

by Pippa Goodhart

When I began reading this book, I didn't think I'd like it much. Oliver is very unhappy at school and being teased by the other children because he finds his work difficult. No-one knows that he is dyslexic. The thing that Oliver wants most is to own a dog, but his parents are not keen on the idea. Secretly, he gets a sheepdog puppy and, together with another boy (Craig), begins to train "Flow" for the village show. He dreams about winning the top prize - I won't tell you if he does or not! Like Oliver, Flow has problems learning and is described as being "backward". At the very end of the Summer holidays, Craig has an accident on the fells and breaks his leg. Luckily for him, Oliver and Flow come to the rescue. One of the Mountain Rescue team that brings Craig safely down is actually going to be Oliver's new teacher - he works out that Oliver has dyslexia and Oliver tells him what Flow's real name is (can you work it out?). I enjoyed this story more than I thought I would because it gets quite exciting in parts. Visit www.pippagoodhart.co.uk for more information about the story and worksheets (if you like that sort of thing!).

Deiniol (11)

£4.99 ISBN: 1-903015-47-2 Barn Owl Books

Cool Circuits and Wicked Wires by Nick Bushwell, Susan Martineau and Martin Ursell

This book includes many easy experiments that are simple, safe and highly fun. They are well explained

and most can be done unsupervised, but youngsters may need help with fiddly wires. They also explain about the inventor of the light bulb, the earth's magnetic field and even the speed of light! I would suggest it for 6+, but anyone could do it with supervision. 10 or above may find it a bit basic and should look for something a bit more advanced.

Oliver (10)
£4.99 ISBN 1-902915-33-X *b small publishing*

A Hen, a Chick and A String Guitar by Margaret Read MacDonald

This is a cleverly written, enjoyable book (with CD) for young children. Inspired by a Chilean Folk Tale, it introduces children to farm animals and the names of their offspring, animal sounds, to several family members and music. The story is based on repetition of the previously told, while adding on new lines, which enables the child to participate while reading the story. The illustrations are colourful and original and the CD gives the opportunity to listen to a sung version of the book.

Mirjam with Raphael (3)
£5.99 ISBN 1-905236-51-4 *Barefoot Books*

King Cudgel's Challenge
Prince Marvin's Great Moment

Both by Karen Wallace
King Cudgel's Challenge is an attempt to find the King's successor. All Prince Marvin and Princess Gusty Ox have to do is find a pack of golden cards then work out what to do with them but they cannot stop arguing and fighting. They have to learn how to work together - which is not easy. And what is that cheeky squirrel doing up in the tree? I liked the way first one then the other landed in a swamp with mosquitoes and then had to try and find the right game to play with the cards. All can be done if they co-operate - or their horrible cousin gets the throne. In *Prince Marvin's Great Moment*, Princess Ghastly has an accident leaving the weedy Prince Marvin to visit the angry Harry the Hairy Green giant, which is spraying the castle with green slime. Will Prince Marvin calm the giant? These books are different - the princess being the strong character and the prince the weedy one. The king loves clothes and he cannot decide what to wear to the ball while the giant likes powder compacts! Easy to read books, with a good story line ideal for reading out loud or to yourself. They are books you have to keep reading to the end, and cannot stop giggling over. Definitely different, and lots of cartoony pictures and word puns such as Godrik the Geek; a wizard called Crackle. These are books to relax with - brilliant!

Karis (11) and Galen (7)
£4.99 each (*Crunchbone Chronicle series*)
A & C Black

Secret Scribbled Notebooks

by Joanne Horniman

When I first started this book, I found it a bit hard going, but once I had got into it, I found it very interesting. It is about a 17-year-old girl (Kate) living in Australia who decides to write her thoughts in three coloured notebooks, one red, one blue and one yellow. I did not find the notes written in these books very interesting and wonder why the book was written around these. In between each entry, Kate types a story of her life at that time and I found these far more interesting. The typed notes give an insight of Kate's past, present and what she would like her future to be. Kate and her sister were abandoned by both their parents at a very young age and were brought up by a non-relative who runs a guest house. Kate comes to accept why her parents left and is then able to look to the future. Well worth a read by either male or female in their teens.

Francesca (16)
£5.99 ISBN 1-74114-406-X *Allen & Unwin*

Eddie's Garden and How to Make Things Grow by Sarah Garland

"*Can I have a garden of my own*", said Eddie so mum reclaims a bit of lawn and between them and little sister, Lily, they plant an array of vegetables and flowers. Sarah Garland never fails with her down-to-earth style and lovely pictures but this book is really special. The whole story encourages children to enjoy the garden organically. There's even a chapter at the end explaining how to grow all the plants mentioned. My three loved it.

Becky with Rosie (11), Molly (8) and Lily (3)
£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-015-1 *Frances Lincoln*

The Willow Man by Sue Purkiss

This is an excellent book about a young girl recovering from a stroke, her older brother and his best friend. It deals with issues of guilt, abandonment and the struggle to come to terms with dramatic changes in one's life. Ashley's mother struggles as a single parent. When his father returns, Ashley's joy turns to shame and despair, when he realises his parents will not be reconciled, and that his father is an alcoholic ex-con. Spohie struggles to get her life back after losing her ability to walk or talk. Her brother feels he is to blame for her condition and thus alternates between moments of intense guilt and resentment. This is quite a grown up book, but, like *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, I think it has a lot to offer both parents and children. My daughter loved this book and has reread it several times; I am sure gaining more from it on each reading. I would thoroughly recommend this to children of 8/9 and over (and their parents!).

Karen with Holly (8)
£4.99 ISBN 1-84428-115-9 *Walker Books*

Down to Earth - The story of Gravity

by **Jacqui Bailey and Matthew Lilly**

The book is in the *Science Works* series. It is a cartoon-style story, which describes Zac's first flight into space. I like the way it woud a story round facts about gravity. I learnt quite a few things about what it is like living in a spacecraft: strapping yourself to the toilet, for example. Aimed at 7 to 10 year olds, I think it is a good, fun science book with plenty of colour illustrations.

Natasha Crane (11)

£10.99 ISBN 0-71367-353-2 A & C Black

Mission to Marathon by Geoffrey Trease

One in a series of 'Flashback' books in which dramatic stories are set during key moments in history. Based on factual events, this one is set in 490BC when Persian forces are invading Greece.....when news reaches Athens that Persian warships are about to land at Marathon, Philip is sent on a mission - to cross the mountains and warn his family of the coming danger. The race is on... but will he get there in time? These events are viewed through the eyes of Philip, a young boy and how the events affect his family. I would say this was aimed at 9+ readers, and is well written, holding the readers' interest as the events unfold. There is even a glossary for reference as well as a synopsis of the actual historical events

Connor (12)

£4.99 ISBN 0-71367-677-9 A & C Black

Usborne Books of Fairy Things to Stitch and Sew

This book is a perfect gift for any little girl who loves fairies and crafts. It is a very attractive book, with beautiful pictures of the finished projects. The projects themselves range from easy to quite complicated so there's something for every level. Romy is a complete beginner, sewing wise, so we're going to start on the more simple stuff. Overall this is a fabulous book (as Usborne books so often are) which has hours worth of activities that you and your child can do together and feel proud of the result.

Hazel with Romy (6)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7460-6993-6 Usborne

Mad Iris Goes Missing by Jeremy Strong

This is the second book about Mad Iris, an ostrich who ran away and now lives at a primary school. In this book Mad Iris is kidnapped and two of her friends from the school set out to rescue her. It is quite a funny story with the occasional black and white illustration. Lydia enjoyed it and has asked for it to be read again. The story moves along at a nice pace with mostly short punchy sentences. We think it is an enjoyable book for capable readers but also a funny book to read aloud to younger children. Suitable for 5 years and up.

Julieann and Tony with Lydia (4) and Stan (2)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84299-365-8 Barrington Stokes

Classroom Tales: Using Storytelling to Build Emotional, Social and Academic Skills across the Primary Curriculum by Jennifer M. Fox

This book is obviously aimed for use in schools, but it makes an interesting read and many parts of it could be adjusted to suit a HE group or family. The book covers a multitude of topics from the importance of story telling, to how to tell stories, creating your own stories and encouraging children to tell their own. I enjoyed reading about Fox Eade's personal experiences of using storytelling in the classroom and have found plenty in this book to inspire me. However, I do feel that it is little overpriced for many HE families and would be glad to pass on my copy to anyone interested.

Emma Sibley

£13.99 ISBN: 1-84310-304-4 Jessica Kingsley

The Chain by Keith Gray

This book has four short stories about completely different teenagers, who are linked by having the same book for various reasons. The stories show the reader a little bit of their lives, using the book as a starting point. I liked the idea, but the stories are quite simple and clichéd and the characters are shallow. It was very short so it didn't have time to get too boring and you don't have to concentrate very hard.

Emma (15)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84299-362-3 Barrington Stokes

Hare's Choice by Dennis Hamley

We thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. Musa and Hawwa would not have read by themselves I feel, but when read to them, they both were enthralled. Musa said: "The book is about a hare that died when a car ran over her. Some school children found her and wrote a story about her adventures. My favourite part was when the hare has to choose which heaven she wants to go to." Hawwa said: "This is a very exciting story. I liked the bit where the animals kept the humans out of their forest, it made me think how animals are as brave as people."

Almaas with Musa(9) and Hawwa (7)

£4.99 ISBN 1-903015-54-5 Barn Owl Books

Minus Magic by Emma Laybourn

Once upon a time the world was as it is today till one day a mage was born and he spread magic over the entire country. Hundreds of years later the story unfolds. Ned is a boy in a world of magic, and everyone in the country can do magic, every one except him. Ned goes to a new school at the start of the book, and spends three months getting used to having his water cup filled with newts, his hair turned into snakes, and being thoroughly embarrassed about being the only person in the whole school who uses a pencil in class. One day when the school are at the town fete Ned and two of his friends are captured by a group of evil necromancers, and spend a week on a gruelling

adventure trying to escape from a flying ship with 25 other children they find on board. When they finally do escape an extremely powerful mage tries to stop the children's magic, but the spell goes wrong and spreads ridding the world of magic and therefore starting the cycle once again. I thought the story was good but often found chapters clumsy or badly written, but I think readers around the age of 10 or 11 would enjoy it.

Jenny (13)

£4.99 ISBN 1-8427-0478-8 Andersen Press

Celebrity Cat by Meredith Hooper

With the poetic writing style and ethereal illustrations, Felissima Cat is transported around the world's art galleries to do some art appreciation with a difference. Finally after a hectic celebrity lifestyle she opts for the quiet life. Cat's Rule – that's for sure! You'll never look at a painting in quite the same way again! My children loved it – they are doing an art history course at the moment and loved the idea that cats 'could' be in 'any' painting at 'any' time!

Jane with Robyn (9) and Max (5)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-290-1 Frances Lincoln

Meet the Weirds by Kaye Umansky

The Primms do not approve of anything not neat and perfectly normal, and the Weirds are no exception. And why should they be, when there is a mad scientist, a dwarf, a stuntwoman and "the Plant" in the household. But Pinchton starts to make friends with Otterly Weird and the household goes upside-down! A good read, it is rather small and 5+10s would enjoy it most, though older people may still enjoy it. One of a few in the Weird series.

Oliver (10)

£4.99 Barrington Stokes

DK Guide to Oceans by Frances Dipper

Stunning photography takes you on a journey through the oceans from sandy shorelines to dark, abysmal plains where strange creatures patrol water where no sunlight ever reaches. Full of the most amazing creatures, colourful coral reefs, dramatic volcanic islands, hot vents where life exists in nearly boiling water, melting glaciers and much more. A fascinating book presented in an interesting way and like all really good books, it is just as interesting for the adults.

Hilary with Isaac (6)

£5.99 ISBN 0-7513-3923-7 Dorling Kindersley

The Usborne Illustrated Dictionary of Maths

This maths books will be useful for many years to come. It covers everything from arithmetic, fraction, geometry, to probability. This is such a handy book to dip into when my son asks awkward questions his (not very confident at maths) mother cannot answer!

Leanne with George (9)

£8.99 ISBN 0-7460-5157-3 Usborne

Small Stories of Great Artists

by Lawrence Anholt

Really cute format; a mini-book library containing the stories of four artists which introduces the young reader to famous paintings and sculptures. Each book brings realism and humanity to Picasso, Degas, Van Gogh and Leonardo da Vinci. The stories touch upon fact-based events from the artist's lives. These little books will nurture a love of art and are beautifully written and illustrated. My older children wanted to hear more stories by the talented Laurence Anholt.

Jane with Robyn (9) and Max (6)

£9.99 ISBN 0-7112-1928-1 Frances Lincoln

Where's Wally? The Great Picture Hunt

by Martin Handford

I had two *Where's Wally* books before this one came and this is probably the best one so far. Your aim is to find and frame thirty portraits with the stickers provided. One thing I thought was a bit strange was that in the exhibit, *eleven pirate panorama* some of the stuff was repeated from *Where's Wally Now - Being a Pirate!* The exhibits range from *A Sporting Life to Old Friends to Old Friends Again*, as well as the usual scenes, spot the difference and match the silhouette. My favourite is probably *The Monster Masterpiece*. I rate this book 8 out of 10.

Keith (12)

£9.99 ISBN Walker Books

What Do Elephants Do? By Hazel Lincoln

Bright, colourful illustrations tell the story of Esme, the African baby elephant. She is following her family, discovering her surroundings and learning all about being an elephant. She discovers that other animals all have different ways of eating, drinking and keeping cool and learns 'just what elephants do' by copying her family. This is a cheerful, sunny story for children who love the animal world.

Hilary with Isaac (6) and Finty (1)

£9.99 ISBN 0-86315-550-2 Floris Books

The History of the Steel Band

by Verna Wilkins and Michael La Rose

I love playing the drums so was interested in this book. Mum had already told me about steel drums, as she has always loved the sound they make but I have never seen or heard one. They are still played today. Now I know all the history about them and steel bands. It was also really good to hear the actual music on the CD that came with the book. Steel bands started in Trinidad, in the Caribbean but there are lots of different stories about how each of the instruments evolved. People were often controlled and made to work really hard so they lived for their music. Some tried to stop the music but the people found ways to have the festivals and made instruments from any materials they could find.

George (11)

£12.99 ISBN 1-870516-74-5 Tamarind

Creepy Crawly Calypso by Tony Langham

My daughter and her friend loved this book and insisted we had the accompanying CD on many times so if you can put up with this! The book itself teaches numbers in a fun way using different insects that each plays a different instrument. It is certainly fun for toddlers as we danced our way through it many times! The pictures of the ten different insects are bright and cartoon-like and for budding musicians the music sheet is given at the back of the book. An excellent and good value resource for youngsters.

Marie with Sophie (3) and Mia (2)

£3.99 ISBN 1-84148-138-6 *Barefoot Books*

Tony Robinson's Kings and Queens

Usually history book are too heavy going for our son – often written in an old-fashioned way, which doesn't hold any interest for myself, let alone a child! This book is an exception. You get all the facts but in a short, witty up-date way! There are lots of nice illustrations by the likes of Shirley Hughes, Tony Ross etc.

Learnie with George (9)

£8.99 ISBN 0-09-941748-0 *Red Fox*

Hill of the Red Fox by Allan MacLean

This is a boy's adventure book. It is set on Skye in Scotland and brilliantly brings to life the islands, countryside and people. It is nicely paced, giving you a chance to get to know the characters, then picking up before you get bored. The adventures in it are a cross between Enid Blyton and a young Bond. I would not particularly recommend this book for girls though.

Sophie (13)

£5.99 ISBN 0-86315-5561 *Floris*

The Day Ravi Smiled by Gillian Lobel

This is a story about a girl called Joy who enjoys her riding lessons. Everyone in her riding group has some form of disability and one boy called Ravi does not smile until one day This is an interesting book to help you learn about other people. It made me feel very lucky that I do not have the problems these children have but it is a good story with a nice ending.

Ben (9)

£5.99 ISBN 1-870516-76-1 *Tamarind*

The Ultimate Teen Book Guide

I still use the last guide that included titles for younger children (8 to 12 years) and now this one has been published for teenagers. It includes a diverse range of titles for teenagers with something to suit everyone and some really good ideas. All the well-known authors are included as well as the less well known ones. The 700 books reviewed (many of the reviews are by teenagers) include classics and modern reading and all the books are cross-referenced to other suggested, similar titles.

Keith (12)

£12.99 ISBN 0-7136-7330-3 *A & C Black*

My Brother's Famous Bottom

by Jeremy Strong

This is the latest story of life with Nicholas's funny family. In this book his brother is going to be a star on telly but as usual everything goes wrong. It's really funny. Jeremy Strong is my favourite author – all his books are brilliant.

George (9)

ISBN 0-1413-1978-X *Puffin*

Drama Therapy and Storymaking in Special Education by Paula Crimmens

It is a resource book for people working with special education pupils and a method of using story therapeutically within drama therapy. It gives practical advice on how to structure and set up sessions. Designed to increase issues of self-esteem and to build social and communication skills, it includes traditional stories from around the world with numerous examples from the author's experience.

Sally P

£16.99 ISBN 1-8431-0291-9 *Jessica Kingsley*

A Faith Like Mine

This is a 'celebration of the world's religions – seen through the eyes of children'. It includes all the main religions and how these affect the daily lives of children across the world. Typical of a DK publication, this is a really fascinating and colourful insight into the lives of other people. It starts by asking 'what is faith?' and a useful map of the world marked up with the major religions in each area. We particularly enjoyed the words of the many children interspersed throughout and the details about the festivals. A splendid introduction to this subject for children of all ages and adults!

Emma with Ben (12), Jack (8) and Ellie (6)

£12.99 ISBN 1-4053-1017-9 *Dorling Kindersley*

The Biggest Bible Storybook by Anne Adeney

This book contains 100 favourite stories from the Old and New Testaments. The colourful illustrations help bring the stories to life. My son thought some of them were a bit scary so this should be borne in mind if reading to younger children. As each story is 'told' by a different child from biblical times, there is a paragraph by the child at the start of the story which we found interesting as you learn a bit about the child who is telling the story.

Sue with Tim (9)

£16.99 ISBN 1-84255-029-2 *Orion*

My First Book of Garden Birds

by Mike Unwin and Sarah Whitley

I did the *Big Garden Birdwatch* with mum this year but I did not know the names of all the birds we saw so I am finding this book very useful. It shows you the birds most likely to be seen in your garden. The

drawings are interesting and there is two pages for each species – on the right hand page is a rather obscure drawing of the bird with some clues (you have to try and guess what it is) and the other page is a clear drawing which tells you all about the bird and its features. This is a good book for children interested in birds and bird watching.

Bethan (9)

£6.99 ISBN 0-7136-7678-7 A & C Black

NEWS

From Search Press

For all of us who enjoy making our own cards and who may already have some of the Search Press books on this subject, a new compendium of **Cardmaking Techniques** has just been published. It includes full instructions and some projects for card and thread; quilling; watercolour; silk ribbon embroidery; beading and glitter cards. Excellent value at £12.99 (ISBN 1-84448-161-1).

Search Press has also republished the superb **Handmade Baskets** book by Susie Vaughan. An easy to use, step-by-step guide to making baskets out of hedgerow materials. £9.99 ISBN 1-84448-153-0

Can't Read or Won't Read

Barrington Stoke has published a free information pack that helps parents work out why their child may be reluctant to read. It answers some of the commonly asked questions and offers tips plus advise on what can be done. The leaflet is available free from bookshops or www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

CONTACTS

Note

Prices quoted are the publishers' recommended retail prices (rrp). Shop around for lower prices - try discount book shops, mail order discount book clubs and the internet. Some contact details are set out below but many titles can be ordered from your local book shop. *The Book People* (0870 6077780 www.thebookpeople.co.uk) and *Red House* (0870 1919980 www.redhouse.co.uk) are good, economical sources for books where you can order what you like, when you like (at prices well below publisher's rrp). Postage / packing is usually free on orders over £25 but if you are ordering less tell them you are home educating and you may be able to get a discount rate. Many local EO groups have meetings where books and other resources are swapped or sold. Don't forget you can usually pick up cheap books at car boot sales, jumble sales etc and the library is a free resource.

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Services and products advertised on this page have not been endorsed by Education Otherwise. EO does not make recommendations about any tutors or youth leaders, whether members of the association or not. Use of people in any such role, whether paid or unpaid, remains the responsibility of the parent.

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Regional Diary

All regular meetings listed below are included automatically in every issue, please let us know of any changes.

New members attending their first meeting should phone to check it is happening as shown.

Changes to Jo: 01392 438876 email: jo4eo@aol.com

ENGLAND

BATH

H.E.L.P. group meets regularly for outings and activities. Louise 07957 618988 jensen-thomas@clara.co.uk

BEDFORDSHIRE

For full details of events programme contact June on 01234 341375 or email info@Bedford-HomeEd.org.uk "Horticulture/Agriculture" theme for summer months. Lots of related art and craft sessions and many workshops with plant life in mind, plus theatre trips and other planned visits including Kew Gardens, The Chelsea Physic Garden and Garden Organic Ryton. Also regular swimming, multisports, gym, chess club, carpentry group, funded GCSE groups, etc.

Website: www.Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk
The Luton Home Education Group established 2004 - We are a small but expanding group, and our aim is not only to help bring HE into the open but also to provide ongoing events to keep our children learning and entertained. All are welcome to join in. For a copy of the latest newsletter contact Fran on 01582 515458 email: frantfrant100@yahoo.co.uk

South Bedfordshire Home Education Group, we are a small friendly group covering Houghton Regis, Dunstable and surrounding areas. We meet regularly with a variety of activities inc arts and crafts, educational visits, science lessons, sports and cookery. e-mail: southbeds.homeed@ntlworld.com or Bernie 01582 866207

BERKSHIRE

email list for home educators in **Berkshire** and surrounding counties.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BerkshireHomeEducators
Activities and HE events for all ages most days including social for chat and play; crafts; embroidery; swimming; skating; wall climbing and other indoor and outdoor sports and organised camping, caving, walking and cycling trips. Details and list of all Berks activities from Gail: eostationery@gmail.com or 01628 483895

Camp Mohawk Home Education Centre

4 days / wk - workshops, lessons, activities. Contact Dawn 01628 783107 thirdEye1@compuserve.com or website www.homeeducators.co.uk
Lambourn Fridays. Meeting on a farm. for crafts, cooking and nature walks. Contact Tracey or Roge: 01793 610448, roge.tracey@virgin.net

BRISTOL

Thursdays meeting at St Paul's Adventure Playground; Spanish, Science and Pottery happening on a regular basis. Contact Ian or Silke 0117 9412707
Email list for Bristol and surrounding areas at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BristolHomeEducation

Also local group website for more information about home ed in Bristol: www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk

Bristol Home Education Learning Place, Friday afternoons. Ring Carla 0117 9354389.

BUCKS

Newsletter for Bucks/Northants Contact: Georgeanne on 01908 662256.

Milton Keynes home educators network extends a warm welcome to all (wherever you live): activities, socials and support. Local Contact Georgeanne 01908 662256 or www.mkhen.co.uk

MKHE - Milton Keynes Home Educators, friendly group welcomes all... arts + crafts, socials, outings, chess club, sports, open afternoons, themed activities etc, monthly newsletter + online discussion room contact Georgina 01908 371945 www.miltonkeyneshomeeducation.co.uk
South Bucks: meetings for craft, activities, play, speakers, drama, trips etc. Contact: Jackie 01753 886924 or Gail 01628 483895 eostationery@gmail.com

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridge regular meetings and outings. Penny 01223 526441 penny.k@ntlworld.com

Alconbury monthly activities run by Christian group. All welcome Contact: Audrey Hull 01480 219881

Peterborough weekly meetings for art, craft, science, swimming, sports, play and visits. Contact: Sarah 01733 265043 sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com

Cambridge/Norfolk border North Cambridgeshire: Fortnightly at March. Contact Jane 01354 677869 or Sarah 01354 688245 or email Pat: Northcamps@chauntryhouse.fsnet.co.uk

CHESHIRE

Chester area Outside Education Group for details of all events contact Clare 01490 412167 cefarrall@corwen.net

Delamere Weekly alternative education programme with Delamere Forest Rangers

Chester Meetings every other week for music crafts and educational activities.

Frodsham Social meetings and Youth achievement/ DoE award meetings every other week.

Deeside Monthly ice Skating

South Cheshire and North Staffs newsletter for local social and educational events. Contact Carrie: 01782 786720 Email: home.ed@ntlworld.com

CLEVELAND AND DURHAM (see also DURHAM)

email list: http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/tvhe/
Billingham Forum, ice Skating first Tuesday of every month (term-time only) £1.85 per person, contact Linz 01642 800940

CORNWALL

Free events sheets every two months via Email or SAEs. Contact: Anna Wheeler, Cambrose Farm, Redruth, TR16 4HT 01209 890378 Annawheeler.cam@btinternet.com
Local information on our local home ed website: www.freewebs.com/cornwallhomeed

Menheniot near Liskeard, Home Grown Small School for HE children now split into two groups for children ages 4-7/8 and 8-15. Thursdays 10am-3pm in term time. Themed per term. Led by qualified teacher and parents. £5 per session. Contact Kath 01752 851091 or Michelle 0845 3305034.

Menheniot, Science/History Days. £5 per child ages 6-13, 2nd Monday of the month. contact: Katinka 01208 813490

Pensilva, Forest School. Last Monday of the month. Contact Ruth 08344 560247.

CUMBRIA

Informal gatherings for socialising, support and activities. Cumbria Otherwise Newsletter, for full details of events throughout the county contact Martin, 01539 732918 email: cumbria.otherwise@dsl.pipex.com

Kendal 3rd Friday each month 'Castle Art', held at Castle Street Centre, 10.30-2.30. HE visitors to the Lakes welcome too. Contact Jayne 01539 534541 or email jaynewoodbank@yahoo.co.uk for more details.

Kendal alternate Mondays Endmoor Village Hall 1-4pm, Contact Jo Collier 01539 567005.

Penrith alternate Tuesdays Castletown Community Centre 1.30-3.30 Contact: Sarah Cook 01768 896019

South Lakes, Wednesdays. Contact: Lex 01229 885206

DERBYSHIRE

Chesterfield home ed group, meets Weds - NEW larger premises. Age related activities. Contact Yvonne 01246 555645, Suzy 01246 240917, Alastair 01246 520820.

Chesterfield - Hasland Village Hall

NEW ART CLASS - Ages 10 and over, 4th Thursday of month 12pm-2pm, with professional art teacher. £3.50 per child, £3 per child if 2 or more in family. Term time only. Minimum 3 bookings. Contact Stan or Marek on 01246 473902.

Derby Group, 4th Thurs of month. Contact Andy 01332 752998 or andy@derbyhe.co.uk

Amber Valley, Alfreton area, meetings, 30 minute drive from Derby, Nottingham, Matlock and Mansfield contact: Deborah 01773 778380 or Helen 01332 883545

DEVON

Devon Newsletter, full details of events throughout the County: £3.00 for 6 months by post, call 01297 625439 E-mail copies free from: news@ed-he.org.uk

National Trust (Devon) card is held by Louise, 01392 209289 email: louise_239@fsmail.net

Exeter Wednesday, Free Range Learning, all ages., Spanish, Yoga, science, music, cooking, art + craft contact Annie 01392 434167

Exeter Thursday, alternate weekly outings contact Louise 01392 209289 email: louise_239@fsmail.net

Exeter Friday, Pottery Workshop with kiln and wheels, fortnightly 1-3pm contact Neil 01363 82314

Exeter Green Woodworking contact Neil 01363 82314

Okehampton meetings on alternate weeks, contact Barbara 01837 55805

East and Mid Devon: Contact Kate 01392 851370

Tiverton Adventure Playground Eileen 01884 256955

North Devon Local Contact: Amanda 01237 422403

Bideford area Fortnightly social meetings on Tuesdays. Ring Louise 01237 441786 or Amanda (above)

South Devon: South Devon Home Education Group Mondays: swimming at Totnes - Ivana 01803 840830

Tuesdays: outings, museums + camping trips contact sally 01803 551955

Wednesday: weekly meetings in hall near Totnes contact Helen 01803 665604

Thursday: workshops - Sara or Helen 01803 665604 see Devon Newsletter (details above) for more info.

South Devon: Dart Valley H.E. Network an alternative to established groups and/or help contacting families with similar interests.

History Group - New EO group meets fortnightly - a small group of children and parents interested in

exploring history in an autonomous way. Natural History Group new group meeting monthly for a Natural History ramble. Entomology (insects). Themes to follow include rock pools, spiders, pond-dipping, birds, bats, for details of all of the Dart Valley groups Hannah/Gordon: 01803 762788, gordon@staverton.com

Devon East/Dorset West Lyme Regis, Axminster, Bridport, Chard. Contact Habiba 0845 4582984

Dorset/Somerset/Devon borders Regular meetings on Tuesdays, Karen 01460 30461, on Thursdays, Ali 01297 443816

DORSET

Regular meetings, Rosemary 01747 853593

Bournemouth area: local website www.he-ed.org.uk Meeting every Monday for crafts, games, play etc.

Friendly, welcoming group. Contact: June 01202 827945 bugchick@btinternet.com

DURHAM

Durham based weekly meeting call Juliet 01207 544473 or Beth 07719530472. Yahoo chat group at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/durhamhome_ed.

To join e-mail: s.waynforth@btopenworld.com.

ESSEX

Chelmsford meetings - monthly, third Thursday 1-4pm, various activities. Email: Sally@brisley.freeserve.co.uk

Chelmsford ice skating - Riverside, Fridays 3.30 - 5pm.

Colchester Bowling and swimming monthly - also informal meetings fortnightly. debbie-m@lineone.net or 0778 6570870

Southend OTHENA - Older children/Teens News & Activities (11+) for details contact Michelle:

ab006h6097@blueyonder.co.uk or 01702 307834 <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/OTHENA/>

Tiptree monthly meetings, last Tuesday of month 2-5pm. Contact Julie, email: julie.ashton@ntlworld.com

Various venues across Essex, New Teens Group, meeting monthly - Sally@brisley.freeserve.co.uk

Around Essex Educational visits twice monthly, Thurs. Full details of all Essex groups and visits in *Epicycle*

available at meetings - or for more info contact Corinne: epicycle@wavy.org or 07802 630693

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Monthly social meetings open to all. Regular workshops and outings. Website:

<http://members.lycos.co.uk/GlosHomeEducators/Index.html>

also Email list for events and forum for discussions, information and virtual activities. Contact Rob and Fiona

01684 290087 openhorizons@ntlworld.com

Caroline 01242 890351 cambrose@iee.org

Beverley 01242 524091 or Mhairi 01452 384104.

Dursley Home Educators meeting first weds every month for social, support and activities. Swimming and occasional outings. All welcome. Contact Paula 01453 519287 email: uks_sneaky@hotmail.com

Gloucester meetings & swimming. Contact Dawn 01452 540019 dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk or Tracy 07941 612092

South Gloucestershire

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthGlousHomeEd>

HAMPSHIRE

Petersfield, ACTIVEO, 5 events a week within 20 miles, all welcome. 01428 712394 website: www.activeo.org.uk

Fareham and Gosport. FAREGOS HE meets twice weekly for craft, swimming and other activities. Contact Tracey 02392 551870 or Julie 01730 261468, email: jkbar1955@myrealbox.com

North Hampshire. NHEO For home educators in North Hampshire and across its borders. There are regular activities and meetings organised, throughout North Hants and surrounding areas suitable for all ages. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NHEO/>

Contacts: west; Carol 01264 357650, eo@azakit.com, or east; Lesley 01420 543414, lmaskell@tesco.net

Farnham/Aldershot Friendly group for under 10s, weekly meetings/outings/activities. Contact: Emma 01483 426277 emmajevans@supanet.com

Romsey/New Forest area, fortnightly - details email Karen on karence@btinternet.com

HERTFORDSHIRE (see also N.London)

For events List for Herts Home Educators please email karenbartlett@btinternet.com

St Albans. Social group meeting at Sandridge village hall, mornings 2nd and 4th Thurs. Carolyn 01727 851073

Stevenage Swimming Pool. Swimming Lessons every Thursday 10.30am, term time. All ages and abilities. £1.40 per session. Contact Barbara on 01707 891021 or email: babs.mcdonald@ntlworld.com

ISLE OF MAN

Isle of Man Home Education Network. Meeting monthly for themed activities.

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>

email: hen-iom@manx.net

ISLE OF WIGHT

Contact Shara 01983 562313

Isle of Wight Learning Zone workshops, social events + newsletter, contact Sue 01983 241095 for details.

I.W.E.O. Group: craft sessions, visits, swimming, theatre, picnics, barbecues, mutual support, especially older EO kids but new members and visitors always welcomed. Contact Jude 01983 531680

KENT

Wealden Home Ed website: www.when.omnia.co.uk and email group:

wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.groups.com

Ash, Sandwich, Dover, Canterbury, Ramsgate and surrounding areas Contact Leanne 01304 814498

Isle of Thanet Contact: Vanda 01843 842629

Medway towns Contact: Bridget 01634 234938

Tunbridge Wells group meet every Monday from 10-4 for Tae Kwan Do, art and crafts, & many other activities. Contact Kim 01892 863941

French for beginners through songs and games. Yoga for children. Contact: Katherine 01892 863958

SE FLAGS Edenbridge, Kent and Sussex,

Fortnightly meetings at hall as well as lots of social activities, for details contact: Lucy 01444 483842 or Karen 01732 864524 <http://www.flags-education.org.uk>

Leham anyone wanting to meet in this area please contact Jayne 01622 859882

Medway Towns, fortnightly play activities, fortnightly bowling, swimming weekly. Regular shared learning days with volunteer tutors. Contact Ann 01634 826188

LANCASHIRE

Regular events on Fylde coast, for details contact Tracy 01253 858840

Blackburn Ice Rink monthly - Jackie 01695 424220

Botany Bay - contact Angela 01204 659634

or Jackie 01204 361072 (see also Preston)

Preston Badminton/Swimming - contact Angela/Jackie

Old Cobblers, all ages children - contact Pam 01706

215585 email: davidandpam@ntlworld.com

For comprehensive list of monthly events please email Pam at davidandpam@ntlworld.com or send SAE to 2 Melia Close, Rossendale, Lancs, BB4 6RQ.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Frequent meetings for play, craft, walks, hanging out, singing, swimming, science, skating and much more. Contact: Lise 0116 242 5802

LINCOLNSHIRE

website: www.activelincs.org.uk

ActiveIncs Home Education Group - for a newsletter and list of regional events call: Donna 01472

752507, Helena 01724 720595 or Tessa 01522 790452

Lincoln Cathedral Home-educators - Central Lincoln activities crafts, play, walks, science etc. Regular meetings for the city. Contact Ruth 01522 804583.

Variety of informal events and get-togethers. Contact Christine 01507 338070, christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk

South Lincs Regular meetings & activities,

swimming etc. Contact Lorraine 0845 458 3004

LONDON

Central and East London, Stratford Home-Educators,

Bryant Street Methodist Church, Stratford, London E15

Every Friday 12.45 - 2.45. Open, informal meeting for home-educators new and established. Currently ages up to 11 but all welcome. For more information contact:

annalise@tesco.net or phone: 020 8500 1053

Bromley/Croydon Chrysalis Group meets most weeks for activities and outings, age from 0-10. Very welcoming.

Contact Jenny 020 8654 3972, jen9@blueyonder.co.uk

Clissold Park. Tuesdays. All welcome.

Contact: Charlotte 020 7254 0419

Dulwich, Woodland Club, Wednesdays.

Activities/ ages 7-16, social all welcome, contact Gina 020 8299 1135

Forest Hill, all day meetings for age 11 plus, contact Denise 020 8699 6866

Grove Park group meets every other Friday. Crafts, volleyball, football, tabletennis - open to any ideas.

Contact: Claire 020 8402 5831

Kidbroke rollerblading Contact: Fiona 020 8852 9756 bettleslake@ciara.net

Lewisham Thursdays 11-1 then to park afterwards

Jemima 020 8297 5672 jemimacornish@tiscali.co.uk

New Cross, term time swim on Tuesdays at 12.30,

contact Denise 020 8699 6866

Sydenham contact Chrystia + Keith 020 8776 8597

NW London Otherwise Club Leslie 020 8969 0893

Harrow meetings fortnightly on Fridays

Chelsea Open House Project SW London,

NLP cafe study group Mondays afternoons, acting and storytelling, visiting lecturer, poetry evenings and board games, on going speed networking for HE families call

Sophie on 020 7581 5238 to book.

Stanmore events on Tues and Wednesdays.

Programme available from Vivienne, email:

timsharkey@aol.com, call 020 8954 1885 or Vicki email: Aceva@btinternet.com

N London Hornsey Home Educators Club

(currently under 10s, meet for arts, crafts, drama, games etc) Thursdays 11-12.30 contact: Tina 020 8340 4212

N London Barnet Group, meets Mondays, contact Mirelle 020 8449 7868, email lance.e@virgin.net or Lynda 020 8368 9046.

West London (and Middlesex) Home Ed group meets every Tuesday for varied educational and social activities and visits. Call Betsy 020 8993 0677 email: betsyhomeed@yahoo.com

Contact Betsy (EO West London Local Contact) to join West London Home Ed yahoo group, details above.

WEDNESDAY 12-2.30 pm, fortnightly during termtime. Pool table, soft play room, outdoor play area, equipped for all ages. Optional organised activity. Welcoming all for fun, friendship and support. Alison 020 8569 9398 or Kathryn 020 8566 0543 or kathrynvglenn@hotmail.com or Alison@rothwell1973.fsnet.co.uk

West London (Chiswick & Ealing) home ed group meets every Tuesday. Outdoor activities in Spring / Summer. Warmer/drier activities Tuesdays during the rest of the year. For full details and more information about winter activities, contact Naomi 020 8567 7589 or naomisandler@yahoo.co.uk. Also contact for details of yahoo group membership - discussion and information about events in the area.

MANCHESTER

Manchester, contact Sue 0161 881 4830
Madcow email list from Lesley: m.samuel@ntlworld.com

MIDDLESEX

Hayes, We are an informal group that meets at a Church. We have free-play in a carpeted main hall, with a craft table, climbing frame, slides, lego and boardgames, each meeting there is a fun, hands-on science experiment in a smaller side room. We have access to a well equipped kitchen and all the facilities of the church. We meet every other Thursday, from 10.30 to 1.30 For further details please contact: Jenn 0208 573 9042, Jenn@shadowdale.demon.co.uk

NORFOLK**West Norfolk**

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators>
Want to meet up with other local home educators? Call Lynda 01553 617551 or Sue 01485 544762

Norwich area - Free Wheel for under 10s - activity group Weds fortnightly 01603 478402

Yoga Bugs Fri fortnightly contact Sally 01603 279832

Norfolk/Suffolk border Steiner style grp for the under 7s. Craft activities and peaceful, imaginative play *

Norfolk/Suffolk border craft activities for 5-10 yr olds, contact * Hilary 07799065097 could people please text their number, not leave a message * for both

Thefford, Swimming, indoor sports/play at Leisure Centre Term-time Thurs 2.30-4.30 Fay 01953 681785

Norwich, Fridays, fortnightly activities run by Christian group, contact Sue: 01953 454278

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Want to get together with other local home ed teens? Please contact Lynne 01604 454240

NORTHUMBERLAND/NORTH EAST

<http://groups.msn.com/EducationOtherwise>

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

meetings in Amber Valley area, contact: Deborah 01773 778380 or Helen 01332 883545

Weekly meetings. For full list, Contact: Wendy 0115 9114312 or Louise 01773 780634

OXFORDSHIRE

Group meets alternate Thursdays for structured timetable of activities. Children split into 3 age groups 0-4, 5-7 and 8+. Workshops include - singing, cooking, crafts, science, history, literacy, sport, watercolour painting and lots more. Regular visitors to the group bring subjects we can't cover as individuals and we go on lots of trips. Contact Wendy 01865 514973

SHROPSHIRE

Activities and outings, contact Val 01952 502225
South Shrops regular meetings every Tuesday, outings and workshops: Carolyn 01588 680503

SOMERSET

Frome and beyond (FAB) home educators support group. Social gatherings, outings and newsletter.

Contact: Sally 01749 841554, Helen 01373 465260

Wiveliscombe/Taunton area - regular get-togethers and outings: Maggie 01984 624651.

Wells and Glastonbury area, regular social meetings, weekly swimming, outings and nature activities. Contact Lesley 01749 689241, Tanya 01458 83487, Steph 01749 812959

Somerset North - Regular get-togethers and activities Contact Vicky 01275 848425

STAFFORDSHIRE / S. CHESHIRE / N. SALOP

Stafford HESEO (Home Educators Supporting Each Other) Meeting 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month 11:30 - 3:30, Craft, drama, dance, socialising and varied activities. Bring lunch. Jane 01283 820642
christopher.perkins@onetel.net

Staffs North and South Cheshire newsletter for local social and educational events. Contact Carrie: 01782 786 720 email: home.ed@ntlworld.com

SUFFOLK

North Suffolk nr Lowestoft - Weds pm - £2.50 per family. Christine 01502 519649 or Jackie 566266

Suffolk/Norfolk border Steiner style grp for the under 7s. Craft activities and peaceful, imaginative play *

Suffolk/Norfolk border craft activities for 5-10 yr olds, contact * Hilary 07799065097 could people please text their number, not leave a message * for both

Woodbridge, Foxburrow Farm, for 5-12yr olds, activities organised by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, for more details and to book call Jenny on 01394 380113

Wetherden meetings every 3rd Friday 10.30-2pm. £3 per family, shared lunch: details from Heather 01953 688128

SURREY

P.A.C.T. Surrey's home education group. Monthly newsletter containing information about activities, outings, events etc. For more information and subscription form please contact pact@jellyed.com or Jeremy on 01483 546515.

Guildford Spectrum skating during term time Friday 1-4pm Rachel 01483 565703 (No Sunday calls please.)

Cobham area just off A3 - Learning Group for parents + children 0-7, in 26 acres of private woodland, based on High/Scope approach to independent learning and problem solving. For more details contact Rachael: rachael.underwood@classicfm.net 01932 706191
Guildford area: Theatre bookings: Tisha 01483 898575. Under 10s: Nicky 01483 232080

Dorking/Reigate area. Helen Burnett 01737 243606

Farnham/Aldershot Friendly group for under 10s. weekly meetings/ outings/activities. Contact: Emma 01483 426277 emmajevons@supanet.com

North Surrey/Croydon meets once a month. Park in the summer, activities in winter, age from 0-15. Contact Jenny 0208 654 3972 or jen9@blueyonder.co.uk

SUSSEX

Regional Contact for East Sussex:

Winnie Durdant-Hollamby: 01342 826087

Sussex Newsletter for Home Education

Monthly newsletter gives full details of news, groups, events and activities throughout the County. Paper edition - £12/year or £6 1/2 year
Email only £2.50 year from Tula 01323 648127
email: asanababy@aol.com or ring one of the following local events organisers:

Lewes: Jan 01273 514528

Hastings HEDGE Group: Rachel 01424

422178, Emily 01424 719570 or Ali 01424 814175

Brighton: Kathy 01273 685674, Lucy 01273 204764 or Jim 0779188343

Eastbourne 'SHINIERS' home ed. group - All ages and abilities welcome. Contact Loretta 01323 509283 or email madboys@tiscali.co.uk

Worthing/Shoreham Beach: Avis 01273 542589 or 0770 3647954

Forest Row Area: Winnie 01342 826087

Petersfield ACTIVEO: www.activeo.org.uk
5 events a week within 20 miles. For details please tel: 01428 712394

St Leonards/Hastings call Jenny 01424 434953 for an informal chat/meeting

Shoreham, West Sussex, HEDspace open to all. Weekly meetings and special events. Well equipped for all ages (including babies). Structured and unstructured activities, including languages, drama, dance and play-leader led sessions. Vickie 01903 244571 or Hayley 01273 454366, email: martinandhayley@yahoo.co.uk

Wealden Home Ed website:

www.when.omnia.co.uk also email group: wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.groups.com

TYNE & WEAR and NORTHUMBERLAND

Regular, frequent and varied activities. Age range from 1 to 17yrs. New members welcome. Website:

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_tyneandwear
Music - Rosemary 0191 2853707 or paul@thenews.icom43net

National Trust & English Heritage Visits-Deborah 01434 674713 Woodland visits - Juliet 01207 544473 or ablett.jules@tesco.net

WARWICKSHIRE

Usually 2 Thursdays a month; at Wolston nr Coventry and for an outing in the area. Call Helen, 01926 771958

WEST MIDLANDS

Meetings, trips out, activities etc are held throughout each month at a variety of locations all over the West Midlands. The newsletter HELM lists many of them. HELM is available free by email or by post for a small charge and covers HE related articles and events throughout the West Midlands and surrounding areas. Joy 0121 585 6450, jb49@blueyonder.co.uk

WILTSHIRE

contact: Beccy 01985 840174

Wiltshire - Chippenham and surrounding area:

'Out and About Learning Centre' **Tuesdays**, termtime only 10.00am - 2.30pm Biddestone. Membership encouraged. Based on the Reggio Emilia approach to learning. Program of activities facilitated by qualified teachers and includes combined Arts, Science and Nature. Currently mostly 0-6 years looking to develop older group 7-11 years. All parents participate and can lead a group using their own skills/get involved with the running etc. Visiting professionals/interesting people/speakers. Trips out. Parents evenings. Contact: Rachel: 01249 890525 or Amanda: 01380 739845 email: info@outandaboutlearning.org.uk for more details. Please let us know if you'd like to come along and see what we do.

Warminster meeting each Monday at Tropical Park, Woodcock Road from 2.30pm, Beccy 01985 840174

Salisbury meeting every Tuesday afternoon, for details contact Vicky 01722 324863

Swindon Swimming every Monday term time 1.30 onwards phone Susan: 01666 510217, 07801734044 or Mandy: 01793 644472

Swindon Ice Skating 2nd and 4th Wednesday 10am-12pm optional lesson, phone Susan 01666 510217

Swindon meeting: informal get together 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 2-4pm Shena: 01793 334673 or Mandy 2nd Friday of the month 12.30-2.30, Eleanor 01793 616854

Lamborne Pottery 1st Friday of the month 11am-2pm Phone Jane: 01380 860969

Join email list at: http://groups.yahoo.com/NWilts_HE/
Devizes: Last Thursday of month 11.30-2.30 activities, support, socialising. Tel: Janet 01249 818672 email: janet@eldekvis.com Or tel: Jane: 01380 860969

WORCESTERSHIRE

LC Rachel 01527 597809 Meetings, events, trips out etc happening all through the month throughout the county.

Meetings - Karen 01527 835384

North Worcs/Kidderminster meetings - Gail Tutchter 01562 822034 email: gall@tqmi.co.uk

YORKSHIRE EAST

Regular meetings and visits. Alison 01405 769902

YORKSHIRE NORTH

Near York, new group meets Wednesdays for various educational activities, crafts and social contact. Please email: contact@yorkeo.co.uk for further details

Carleton Music Group meets the last Friday of the month, 1-3pm, in Carleton Village Hall (near Skipton) for musical activities. Contact: Judith 01756 791356

Regular meetings and outings. Contact Karen 01904 400317 kkarensandy@aol.com

near Malton, weekly on Wednesdays - contact Tess on 01947 825772 or tess@chrisgeall.com

Harrogate new group started at the Hookstone Chase community centre. Meeting weekly on Tuesdays 1-3pm for playing, arts & crafts, games etc. Contact either Liz on 01423 320341, email Blessingway1@aol.com, or Kate on 01423 865777, email ksbtscott@aol.com

YORKSHIRE SOUTH

Bradway, Mondays fortnightly 1-4 Activities/play for 0-8s but older siblings welcome. £1 per family. Contact Barbara 0114 235 3224, Jax 01246 430616 or Kirsty 01709 865721

Regular meetings for arts/crafts, visits, swims, hanging out and more. Contact: Jo 01709 820866 or Denise 01226 733478 or Gary 0114 2585702. Tuesdays 12-3 term time at **Highfield**. Free entry, small contribution for craft materials. Contact: Annette 0114 2583502 or Fiona 0114 22751142

YORKSHIRE WEST

Bradford: Bradford Environmental Community Project (1st Monday of month) at Carlisle Road Business Centre, Bradford. Contact Niki (01274) 583164.

Badminton, football and table tennis (every Monday except 1st and last in the month) at **Manningham Sport Centre**. Contact Gillian (01274) 586146.

Ten-pin bowling (last Monday of month) at **Hollywood Bowl**. Contact Sarah (01484) 361206.
Ice skating (every Friday) at the **Ice Arena, Bradford**. Contact Anne (01274) 875357.

Leeds: Ten-pin bowling (2nd Monday of month) at **Hollywood Bowl, Leeds**. Contact Sarah (01484) 361206.

"Wednesday Club" (every Wednesday) at **West Park Centre, Headingley, Leeds**. Contact Sarah as above.
For a list of local Museum/places of interest and Theatre trips, please contact Sarah (01484) 361206 or e-mail: sl.marshall@ntlworld.com

Halifax: Gymnasium, Heath Training Centre, Free School Lane, every Monday except bank hols. 2-4pm. Meeting: Free-range activities + exchange of friendship and support for home educating children and parents. Gill Kilner 01422 311876, email: GillKilner@aol.com

Huddersfield: Swimming (every Wednesday - term time except 2nd Wednesday of month) at **Huddersfield Sports Centre**. Contact Tracy (01484) 317176.
Huddersfield monthly meeting (2nd Wednesday of month - except Feb when on 2nd Friday of month) at **Paddock Scout Hut, West View Rise, Paddock**. Contact Helen (01484) 841041 or Jane (01484) 645034.

"Lunch and Chat" (last Thursday of month) at **Civic Centre, Huddersfield**. Contact Tracy (01484) 317176.
Art Workshop (last Thursday of month) at **Huddersfield Art Gallery**. Contact Jane (01484) 645034.

SCOTLAND

ARGYLL

Home-Ed Group - Regular meetings and occasional outings/activities. All welcome. Contact Joanne 0845 345 2291 or Debra 01631 730469 email: debra@celtic-soul-music.com

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

Home-Ed Group Regular monthly meetings. Contact: Jean 01387 820374 or Debbie 01848 600348

FIFE

Friday fortnightly meetings, activities and social get-togethers. All welcome. Contact: Nicola 01334 478530 nicola.stubbs@btinternet.com

HIGHLANDS/MORAY

Informal network for information and support, occasional outings and get-together, suggestions welcome. Contact Toni, email: tee.kay@hotmail.co.uk or 01463 831574 or Rebecca 01343 542245

IRVINE

For details of regular and one-off activities contact: Rhona 01294 273644, Shirley 01563 540063, Vivien 01563 537428

LOTHIAN, CENTRAL & S.E. SCOTLAND

fortnightly group for meetings and outings. contact Jane 01835 862118

WALES

SOUTH WALES

South Wales Home Educators Network, Weekly meetings in Llantrisant and Swansea, Home Learner's days at local museums, e-mail support list, plus trips, parties and get-togethers. For information and support e-mail: contact: SWHEN@aol.com or bev1.french@btinternet.com or contact Louise 01443 231362 (Llantrisant), Bev 02920 797628 (Cardiff), Juliet 01639 760987 (Port Talbot), Amanda 01792 862305 (Swansea) or see www.swhen.netfirms.com

PEMBROKESHIRE

EO swim & sauna: Haverfordwest pool, Dew St. 3pm at main reception, fortnightly. Call to check dates. Yvette 0845 458 9251

CARDIGAN area social meetings and outings on Mondays - Contact: Yvette 0845 458 9251

CEREDIGION & CARMARTHENSHIRE

Lampeter, weekly meetings on Tues, Laura 01545 580528

Aberaeron weekly meetings on Fri, Laura 01545 580528
Llandeudonant monthly meeting. Contact Laura 01545 580528

GWYNEDD

Weekly meetings for craft, social and other activities. Julie (Gwynedd) 01286 678181 or Nick (Anglesey) 01407 811049

POWYS

Welshpool on wednesdays, swimming/Tumble Towers, workshops, skateboarding, and events, contact Dee + Dave 01938 590098 email: d.yeoman@tesco.net

Brecknock/South Powys area occasional events in South Powys contact Hela 01874 610190 email: ry.ella@tiscali.co.uk

Newtown area: Fortnightly get-together in Newtown, for activities, play and socialisation. Contact Sue 01686 688748 or email: smw5@tutor.open.ac.uk

N.E. WALES / BORDERS

weekly gym/trampolining in Wrexham, Oswestry, West Cheshire/NE Wales. local newsletter of events please send your details and £2 payment to; HENWOS, Berlan Gron, Llany Cil, Bala. Gwynedd LL23 7YG

Wrexham themed craft sessions run by prof. artist, with parental help. Contact: Marie 01978 362436

Back Page Part Two

New volunteers for any of the groups most welcome, with expertise or just an interest

For more information contact any of the council members listed (in bold)

If you would prefer to volunteer for infrequent or small tasks please contact Emma Birkenshaw emma-birkenshaw@ntlworld.com tel 0113 2172795 Emma will add you to our volunteer database and contact you with information when help is needed.

Small Groups:

Finance: **Martine Frampton**, Lynda Hitchman, Ann Samuel Till, **Phil Hicks**, **Janet Simpson**, **Martin Wise**

Enquiries: **Pam Bellinger**, Geraldine Adams, Iris Harrison, Jo Borthen, Edwina Theunissen, Jacqui Houlding

Publications: **Gail Borrows**, **June Wilson-Billing**, Jacqui Houlding, Lynda Hitchman, **Anne Rix**

Govt. Policy: Ann Samuel Till, **Phil Hicks**, **Martin Wise**, Julie Ridley, Jill Fisher

LA/EA Group: Anne Wade, **Sarah Cook**, Ann Samuel Till, Rob Wade

Scotland Group: Ann Samuel Till, Lucie MacAulay, Anne Wade, Jill Fisher, **Jane Bathgate**

Child Protection: Anne Wade, **Janet Simpson**, **Jane Bathgate**

Grievances and Complaints

Martine Frampton 70 Fossey Avenue, Moreton in Marsh, GL56 0EA 01608 812411
martine-frampton@macunlimited.net

Lynda Hitchman, 31 Audley St., Reading, Berks, RG30 1BP 0118 961 4466
hitchmans@ntlworld.com

Celia McDonagh, 235 Coed y Gores, Cardiff, CF23 9NL 07763 729055 celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk

Anne Rix Hembury Orchard, Frithelstock, Torrington, EX38 8JT 01237 451535
anne@annerix.demon.co.uk

Media Contacts

Please contact one of the following people if you would like to volunteer to be interviewed or are contacted by the media and would like help/advice/support on giving an interview:

Media co-ordinator: Claire Turnham, Oxfordshire.

Claire.turnham@btinternet.com

Scotland: (VACANT) *Volunteers please!!*

Northern Ireland (VACANT) *Volunteers please!!*

North West: Stewart Eyres 07792 777750

eonorthwest@yahoo.co.uk

North East: Eva O'Rourke, Wilsden

01535 274520 evaandmary@aol.com

Midlands: Simon Foster, Birmingham

0121 443 2752simonf@surefish.co.uk

Wales (S): Celia McDonagh, Cardiff,

07763 729055 celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk

Wales (N): Edwina Theunissen, Wrexham 01978

661 882 theunissen@freeserve484.fsnet.co.uk

East Anglia: Ali Willer, Sprowston, Norwich

01603 401020 simon.whitehall@tesco.net

mailto:webmaster@education-otherwise.org

South West: (Acting) Kay & Simon Smith, Cornwall 01726 842057

smithsontour@myway.com

South East: (Acting): Ann Newstead, Kent

01634 826188 thenewstead5@yahoo.co.uk

London(1): Winnie Durdant-Hollamby, East

Sussex. 01342 826087

London(2): (VACANT) *Volunteers please!!*

Isle of Wight: Shara ouston, Ryde

01983 562313 sharaouston@aol.com

EO Email Lists & Forums

EO runs four email lists with Yahoo Groups. One is for general discussion about home education and would normally be the first port of call for someone seeking advice and peer support. There is also a list for members in Scotland which is new but is intended to run along the same lines as the general discussion list, but be more Scotland focussed. The third list is for single parents who are home educating so that they can share some of the problems unique to them. The final list is for the children of members only to chat with each other. All four of these lists may be joined via the front page of the Education Otherwise website at www.education-otherwise.org

There is also a Members Area on the website with several discussion forums. There is a general discussion forum which is used by everyone and there are forums available for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland members to share things specific to them. There is a business forum used for the purpose of running EO and responding to various Govt Consultations. Additional forums exist providing information useful to all members as well as a specialist forum for Local Contacts. To join the Member's Forum, send an email to forums@education-otherwise.org giving your preferred User Name, your Full (real) Name, the email address you wish to have associated with the forum and either your full postal address or your EO Membership Number. You will receive an email at your associated email address confirming your Username and giving you a password. You will be able to alter this password to something more memorable yourself.

WHO DOES WHAT IN EO

Council Members

Jane Bathgate (Borders) 01835 862118
Pam Bellinger (Leics) 0116 282 7929 (Co Secretary)
Gail Borrows (Bucks) 01628 483895
gail@borrows.plus.com
Pauline Butterworth (Cleveland) 01642 570786
pollyb47@aol.com (Co-opted)
Sarah Cook (Cumbria) 01768 896019
sarah@croggies.freeseerve.co.uk
Martine Frampton (Gloucs) 01608 812411 (Treasurer)
martine-frampton@macunlimited.net
Phil Hicks (London Central) 0207 2294385
phil@hicks-london.com
Celia McDonagh (Wales) 07763 729055
celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk
Anne Rix (Devon) 01237 451535
anne@annerix.demon.co.uk
Janet Simpson (Lincs) 01427 617313
HE@hubblesimpson.co.uk
June Wilson-Billing (Dorset) 01202 827945
educationotherwise@mac.com
Martin Wise (Cumbria) 01539 732918
martlakes@dsl.pipex.com

Two or more to be appointed at meeting on 20th May

Membership

Membership and newsletter subscription enquiries, membership cards, address changes, new member packs, other queries or missing newsletters contact: Database Administrator, Education Otherwise, Lynda Hitchman, 22 Lewis Drive, St Germans, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3FB 01553 617551
Permanent Tel: 0870 765 3650
Email database@education-otherwise.org

Stationery

Leaflets, posters, letterhead, compliment slips, membership forms, car stickers etc: free (donations toward postage welcome); reuse labels £2.50 per 100 (free for EO business use); EO business cards £1.30 for 20, £3 for 50. Gail Borrows, 48 Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Bucks SL7 3NB 01628 483895 email: gail@borrows.plus.com

Truancy Cards (HE cards) (free on joining). Extra cards SSAE + £1 per card. P.O./cheque (payable to 'Education Otherwise' or in 50p or £1 stamps, to: EO HE Cards, 5 Ridge Way, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0HL

Publications

Books, information leaflets and back issues of newsletter. For a full list send SAE to: June Wilson-Billing, 17 Woodland Close, Verwood, BH31 7PM 01202 827945
educationotherwise@mac.com
(please ring to check availability of items before ordering)

Useful Contacts

Contact with LA /Member Support / Other Problems.

If you need help in dealing with your LA/EA please ring your Local Contact or any Council Member.

If you have a query not covered below please contact your nearest Council Member (list left)

Single Parent Family Contact: Rowenna Williams rowenna73@hotmail.com Berlan Gron, Llany Cil, Bala, Gwynedd, LL23 7YG Tel:01678 521348

Special Needs: Christine Waterman, 85 Elfrida Rd, Watford, Herts WD1 8AT 01923 464773

GCSE Contacts: Geraldine Adams 0207 263 4922
Sarah Cook: 01768 896019
sarah@croggies.freeseerve.co.uk

School Phobia: Kathleen (Mary)Thompson 01942 795975 ktmusic59@yahoo.co.uk

College Contact: Lianne Smith, Ivy Mount, Canny Hill, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 8NU 01539 530716 (07717 301 887)

Autonomous Education Support: Sammy and Nick Vidal-Hall, Home Croft, Brownston St, Modbury, Devon PL21 0QR 01548 830716

Research Contact: Sue White, 2 Pretoria Villas, Eye Rd., Brome, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8AL 01379 870036
sue_white@tiscali.co.uk

Website and email lists: Jacqui Houlding, 01925 654856 jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk

EO Stalls: Jacqui Houlding 01925 654856
jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk

Newsletter Coordinator: VACANT - *Volunteers please!!* Anne Rix (Publications Secretary) acting (see Council list)

Small Jobs Coordinator: Emma Birkenshaw emma-birkenshaw@ntworld.com 0113 2172795

Coordinator for Local Contacts: Pauline Butterworth (Cleveland) 01642 570786 pollyb47@aol.com

Membership Secretary: Gail Borrows (Bucks) 01628 483895 gail@borrows.plus.com

Enquiries Secretary: Vacant (to be appointed at May meeting)

Coordinator for Enquiries Secretary: Iris Harrison (Worcs.) (Assistant) Jo Borthen 01392 438876 jo4eo@aol.com

Company Secretary: Pam Bellinger 56 Beech Drive, Braunstone, Leicester LE3 3DA 0116 2827929 Pam.pam@phonecoop.coop

Treasurer: Martine Frampton, 70 Fosseyway Avenue, Moreton in Marsh. GL56 0EA tel: 01608 812411 (not mornings) email: martine-frampton@macunlimited.net

Chairperson: Vacant (to be appointed at May meeting)

Vice-Chair: Vacant (to be appointed at May meeting)

education otherwise

Education Otherwise is a membership organisation which provides support and information for families whose children are being educated outside school, and for those who wish to uphold the freedom of families to take proper responsibility for the education of their children.

Our principal aims are to:

- encourage learning outside the school system;
- reaffirm that parents have primary responsibility for their children's education and that they have the right to exercise this responsibility by educating them out of school;
- establish the primary right of children to have full consideration given to their wishes and feelings about their education;
- promote knowledge, understanding and acceptance of education otherwise than at school in the world at large.

For further information send an A5 s.a.e. to:

P.O. BOX 325
KINGS LYNN PE34 3XW

Helpline 0870 73 000 74

Web Site: <http://www.education-otherwise.org>

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