

education otherwise



Illustration by Rebecca Gaul Age 12

No. 172 – October 2006

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1ST NOVEMBER 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 sae.**

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

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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.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

I would like to begin by saying a huge thank you to Anne Rix for all of the help and advice that she has given me over the course of the last few weeks. Anne has been nurturing this newsletter for many years now and I know that everyone in EO is extremely grateful to her for that and for my part, to benefit from her experience is invaluable. So a huge thank you to you Anne!

You may have noticed the lovely artwork on the covers of both this issue and the August issue of the Newsletter. We would like to keep using original EO artwork on our covers so **PLEASE keep your beautiful works coming!** Jacqui Houlding is ready and waiting to receive them via e-mail (jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk) or post (38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington, WA5 8TF) nb: if you would like any original artwork that you may send in returned then please send an sae – personally I would just send in a photocopy if I were you.

And finally, TOPICS, we would really like to hear more from everyone out there. So, in an effort to incite more contributions **our topic for the December issue is Christmas Time and New Year Celebrations;** do you celebrate? If so what and how? Tell us about your experiences at this time of year!

Right, on that note I shall love you and leave you. Until next time...assuming that the lovely Newsletter Team will have me back!

Beth x

IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL OR OTHER DETAILS, OR IF YOUR NEWSLETTER DOES NOT ARRIVE

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

Education Otherwise Association Treasurer

Do you have a little time to spare each month and some experience with book keeping and keeping accounts? Education Otherwise is in need of a new Treasurer as Martine, our current treasurer, is stepping down from the role. Although it has proved to be a big job in the past (as well as being a very responsible one), the EO insurance for local groups and the keeping of records on Gift Aid will be done by different volunteers, which reduces a lot of the time-consuming work. Please contact Martine Frampton for more details of what's involved. Martine Frampton, 70 Fossey Avenue, Moreton in Marsh, Glos GL56 0EA. Telephone: 01608 812 411.

Email: martine-frampton@macunlimited.net

VISUALLY IMPAIRED?

If you have genuine difficulty reading the small print in the newsletter? Then please contact Beth the Acting Newsletter co-ordinator (back page) to discuss alternative access options.

CONTACT LIST FEEDBACK NEEDED

The new list is much bigger than in previous years and is getting too unwieldy to print and distribute in this format.

We need to know what you want from the Contact List as we will have to make some changes before printing next years list. Would you be happy if we missed out members' house number, street name and postcode just including village and town/city instead? Do you want to receive a national list or would you prefer a smaller list with areas nearer to you, if so just your county or the surrounding ones too? What are the essential bits of the contact list that you wouldn't like to see change?

Any idea or comments to Lynda – Database, database@education-otherwise.org

IMPORTANT: The contact list is confidential and for the sole and personal use of members. In no circumstances can it be used for any purpose other than to facilitate social contact between members. It is NOT to be used to prepare circular letters/emails or for mailing lists for advertising, research, marketing, resources or any other purpose. Anyone found misusing the contact list or divulging any of its contents to non-members will have their EO membership terminated. Contact Lynda or a Council Member with any concerns.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS & LOST OR MISSING ITEMS

If you change your address, phone number, email or other details please remember to contact the Database Administrator. If we don't have your new address then you may miss newsletter mailings. If you would like a replacement newsletter or lose your contact list or members handbook or membership card and require a replacement you need to send a cheque or postal order made payable to "Education Otherwise Association Limited" along with an sae to the address below:

Cost of Replacement Items:

Contact List £3 and 55p sae
Contact List and Handbook £6 and 75p sae
Handbook £3 and 55p sae
Newsletter £2 and 37p sae
Membership Card £1 and 23p sae
Truancy card £1 and 23p sae

Lynda Hitchman,
22 Lewis Drive, St Germans, Kings Lynn,
Norfolk PE34 3FB

CHANGE OF PO BOX ADDRESS

We have a new PO Box address for Education Otherwise and will gradually wind down the London one, though will run the 2 boxes concurrently for a year or two.
The new address is: PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE: PLEASE READ.

The Public Liability Insurance has been renewed during July and we would be grateful if anyone who runs a local group which is on the list could contact us briefly to confirm that the group is still running and that contact details remain the same. The current list of groups who are covered is available on the web site.

There is now a **new form** for notifying us of your group. It can be downloaded from the website. If any other groups wish to be added to the list please download the form, complete and return it as indicated. You can also use this form to notify us of any significant changes. Please ensure that you have read the Local Group Guidelines, also available from the website.

Please note: Public Liability covers the groups in the event of injury or death or damage to property that happens as a result of **demonstrable** negligence by some person involved in Education Otherwise. This means that the person injured or owner of damaged property would have to sue Education Otherwise and demonstrate that there was negligence that led to the incident/accident.

The insurance is in no way personal accident insurance and does not cover accidental injury to people attending groups.

We will be putting together a short leaflet for groups explaining the insurance and answering the most common questions, and we will hopefully be getting copies out to all groups on the list in the near future.

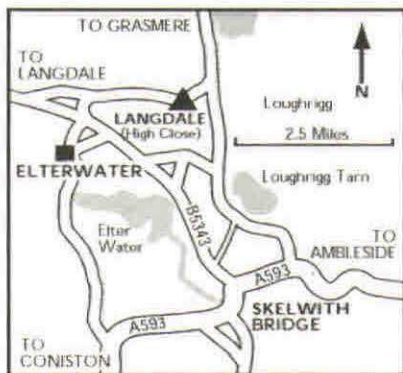
Please confirm details to: EOInsuranceCover@education-otherwise.org

Martine Frampton, EO Treasurer

EO National Gathering
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.

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!

An **Open Council Meeting** will take place on **Sunday 12th November** 10 am for 10.30.

All members of EO are welcome to attend.

For further information and booking forms please send S.A.E. to
Lize Stevens, 96 Ivanhoe Street, Leicester, LE3 9GW

or email kissit@yawot.me.uk

EO National Gathering (Advance notice!)

Thursday 8th to Tuesday 13th of February 2007

YHA Okehampton, Klondyke Road, Okehampton Station, Devon, EX20 LEW



This preserved Southern Railway station has been restored to its former glory after being closed for 25 years. Within the station grounds, the Youth Hostel is an ideal base for exploring the Dartmoor National Park and the countryside, moors and coast of Devon.

Shake off those winter blues and come and join us at this wonderful youth hostel situated in a lovely part of the country. Come for the full gathering or just the weekend but most of all come and enjoy yourself.

An open council meeting and AGM will take place on Saturday the 10th February. All members of EO are welcome to attend.

For further information and booking forms please send sae to Joss Nowell at:
53 Wilton Close
Southmead
Bristol
BS10 5PF or email homeed@gmail.com

Notice of Council Meeting Sunday, 12 November 2006 10.00 am for 10.30 start.

An Open Council Meeting will be held during the Gathering at Langdale (details for that elsewhere in this newsletter).

All members of Education Otherwise are welcome to attend the meeting (and risk the chance of being mentioned in the Informal Report of the meeting). There is a lot of discussion at these meetings and they rarely finish before 6 pm so it is important that it starts on time and remains on topic. To ease the flow of discussion, everyone is entitled to be heard but it is requested that people speak when acknowledged by the Chair of the meeting.

Any member of Education Otherwise may request an item be added to the agenda for the meeting. If you wish to have something discussed at the meeting, please send your agenda item together with a brief report on why you wish the item to be placed on the agenda and what you expect to be discussed. This should reach Jacqui by Saturday, 21 October and it will be circulated with the agenda so that people can consider their views prior to the meeting.

If you have placed an item on the agenda but cannot attend the meeting yourself, please nominate someone (with their agreement) to speak for you at the meeting, or contact me and I will speak on your behalf if you don't know anybody attending.

Jacqui Houlding
38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington. WA5 8TF
jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk or 01925 654856

EXCITING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!!

ENQUIRIES VOLUNTEERS

EO's Enquiry Line (Helpline) is one of our key charitable services. It's always busy receiving calls from anxious parents considering or just starting out on HE, overwhelmed by how enormous the task seems. Typically after 45 mins or an hour's talk with a volunteer, they find that many other parents are in the same position, and that there's plenty of support available.

Could you be one of the people who ease this transition from anxiety to relieved anticipation? You need to be an EO member, experienced in home education, a good listener and aware of the variety of styles of doing home education, so that you can offer the caller a range of options for how to go about it, and help them find a way that will suit their child, family and way of life. It also helps if you are familiar with the way Local Authorities operate in practice.

The Helpline operates a rota system, and typically volunteers will be 'on' one week in four, although you do not need to be by the phone full-time so long as you are available at some time during the day and evening.

If you think you might be able to contribute to EO's work in this way and would like more information, please contact **Jo Borthen on 01392 438876 jo4eo@aol.com or, if Jo's not available, Anne Rix on 01237 451535.**

EO TRADING VOLUNTEER

You may have seen from the newsletter that the range of merchandise available from EO is expanding. Whilst we may expect to make a small profit on these goods, the main aim is to publicise home education and that school is not compulsory. We need a volunteer to hold and dispatch some of the new stock items which we now have...and are planning to have in the future. If you have a little space to store things and are happy to post out orders to customers, please contact **Jacqui Houlding on 01925 654856 jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk** (You do not need internet access for this job but a telephone would be required.)

COLLEGE CONTACT VOLUNTEER

EO needs someone with a good knowledge of college admission procedures and some knowledge of college courses and requirements to act as a Contact for home educating families who have children desiring to attend a college for courses. This is not a hugely busy post as a lot of information is available on the website and in the leaflets which EO distributes, but many families prefer to talk to someone when considering this as it will be a very major step for many home educated young people. If you believe you have the requisite knowledge (and are happy to look up the bits you might need), please contact **Lynda Hitchman at database@education-otherwise.org or 01553 617551.**

SMALL JOBS VOLUNTEERS

From time to time, EO has small jobs that need doing. These are 'usually' short term jobs; sometimes unique, sometimes connected to the roles of other volunteers in EO.

If you have some time that you could give to EO for odd jobs, please let **Emma Birkenshaw**, the small jobs co-ordinator, know. Tell her what sort of thing you like doing/are good at and give her an indication of the amount of time you may be able to devote to the job. **You can get hold of her on 0113 2172795; emma.birkenshaw@gmail.com 86 Foundry Mill Street, Seacroft, Leeds, West Yorkshire. LS14 6DB**

**Volunteering for EO can be GREAT FUN and
it's a fabulous way to get to know other home educators.
So what are you waiting for? Offer a helping hand today!**

MORE EXCITING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!!

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS INVITED

EO, as a registered charity, is required to have between 14 and 19 Trustees - known in EO as Council Members. There is always a steady turnover of council members and to maintain a healthy functioning council we need a few new Trustees every year. As a member of EO already doing a job for the organisation, Council would like to ask you to consider whether you have the interest and time to take on the role of Trustee.

Council members are elected by signed up members at the AGM (or can, in special circumstances, be co-opted between AGMs) and are either recommended by the council or proposed by any signed up member, following the procedure which appears in the newsletter with the notice of the AGM. A term of office usually runs for 3 years. The Trustees of a charity have, and must accept, ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and meeting the needs for which it is set up. The commitment required to be a Trustee for EO can be variable, to suit personal situations. Council members have a wide variety of backgrounds, skills and experience, and are usually fitting their work for EO in around home-educating family life. It is useful, but not vital, to be able to access email regularly as some council business is discussed via an email list between meetings.

In EO, Trustees are drawn from EO members, normally have some direct experience of home education and already have taken on jobs within EO. (See EO Handbook p18) Council meetings take place 3 times a year, usually associated with a youth hostel gathering or a camp, in venues around the country, and it is useful to attend at least one meeting per year to meet other council members. Council meetings are open to any interested EO member. Further information from the Charity Commission about the role of Trustees can be found in the publication "The Essential Trustee: What you need to know" available free from the Charity Commission 0845 300 0218 or on the website www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc3.asp. I also have a few spare copies if anyone considering being a Trustee would like one.

If you would like to consider taking a share in the legal responsibility for decision making in EO or would like more info about what is involved then please contact me or any other council member to chat further about being involved. **Sarah Cook 01768 896019**

COULD YOU BE A LOCAL CONTACT FOR ONE OF THESE AREAS?

Please contact **Pauline Butterworth** on 01642 570786 or at pollyb47@aol.com

OVERSEAS

America

ENGLAND

Cheshire

Derbyshire

Dorset East

Dorset West

Durham

East Sussex - Brighton

Gloucestershire North

Hampshire West

Herefordshire

Hertfordshire

Kent (excluding SE & NE Kent)

Lancashire - Blackpool

Lancashire - Bolton

London - Central

London - North West

London - Enfield

London - West (Richmond & Kingston)

Norfolk - Breckland

Norfolk - Great Yarmouth

Norfolk - West

Northamptonshire

Nottingham County

West Midlands - Birmingham and Solihull

West Midlands -

Wolverhampton and Walsall

West Midlands - Dudley

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

RESIGNING CONTACTS

Joy Beasley - West Midlands -

Dudley

Diane Berry - Nottingham

County

NEW ACTING CONTACTS

Karen Lees - Derby City

Bronwen Hamilton - Gwent

Adding to the HE mosaic

After being home educated until the age of 11, my sons have now completed 2 and 3 years respectively of secondary school, and my daughter her first year at primary school (year 5).

It was their choice to try school. I was concerned that they would have problems adjusting and hoped that the years of spending time with them at home had not been in vain. So far I have been reassured.

Although socialising with his peers in a school environment initially proved difficult for one son, that has been our only real concern and it was something he was keen to overcome. With everything else the children have fitted in and have found the work different, but well within their capability. Some subjects have been so new and interesting that they have wanted to work, which has surprised some teachers, as has their ability to converse easily with adults.

Someone wisely said to me a long while ago, "How can they ever appreciate being home educated if they have had no experience of the alternative?" It made me think. Looking back, when my children reached the age of 9-10 they did start to find being permanently at home unstimulating and began to need more than I felt able to provide; patience, imagination, energy, knowledge, money, social contacts and taxi service skills.

After having that space to be individuals at home it was important to them that they experienced what other children were experiencing, though I still have my reservations about what exactly it is they are learning on occasions and realise that schools do have some serious problems. Occasionally my children regret they have little time to do nothing in particular, that they are permanently stuck in a classroom, or that they have to suffer teachers who have lost control, (and some pupils!), but we are overall more content and our relationships have further improved.

I have the impression that there is still a positive difference in my children compared to their friends who have always been in school; a greater awareness of the world around them, probably since school has only been a part of their childhood, a confidence and a sense of direction

in life - they have had time to work out what it is they enjoy doing. They do question the actions and behaviour of others, are not afraid to stand up for what they believe and they value their friendships and family.

From my perspective, I believe that any time spent being home educated is precious for a child, be it months or a few years. It doesn't always have to be a long-term choice, you are not a failure if it isn't. The benefits appear to last. We haven't all got the skills or the opportunities needed for home education to be a permanent way of life. Congratulate yourself on however long you do manage to avoid school, it is well worth the effort.

Helen Burton, 23 Lawrence Drive, Brinsley NG16 5AU

Tel: 01773 710970 E-mail: hjburton@tesco.net

Feedback from one home-eding family and our sincere thanks to EO

Our two youngest children were home-educated for 9½ years. The younger one has just had a great success and gained a place at Oxford University.

We would like people to know that, whilst it is by no means the be-all and end-all, and certainly not everybody's dream, it happened to be our son's personal ambition, and he's done it. We'd like to share the good news and hope that this achievement both bolsters, and gives courage to, all those already doing home-education, and all those who are either just embarking on it, or thinking about doing so. Lastly, perhaps it could help strengthen the case for Home Education in general. Having the choice to home-educate is of great importance to us all.

We decided to try home-educating because it seemed much more to my liking and I was very unhappy at school myself. In a nutshell, we have been on the more radical end of the home-education spectrum in that we did no formal education in those 9+ years, with the exception of the Arts. Because the system was paying less and less attention to Arts subjects, I thought we should make this our main focus. The only formal classes with qualified teachers were in art, craft and dance. My intention was to develop their imagination and creativity. When I was at school I was constantly told "You have too much imagination for your own good". This was also

written in some of my school reports. I recall being seriously embarrassed by this trait of mine.

I paid much attention to their health and fitness and enabled them to do quite a bit of sport. This was nicely complemented by having a trampoline in the garden, which they spent hours on every day and helped to keep them really very fit and well.

I had not travelled very much and wanted to do so, and taking them with me was the only way to do it. So we did a fair amount of travelling around the place, sometimes hooking up with other home-educating families in some far-flung places. It is by no means essential to travel and neither do you have to have a packet of money. The main thing is to a) have the idea, b) to make it a priority, and c) to make choices, such as that new oven, or a trip somewhere. Otherwise, we joined in fully with our local group, as well as making as many national events as we could. We thoroughly enjoyed all these get-togethers and gatherings. It was every bit as important and necessary to me (as the main adult guiding the EO process) as to the children. Each and every one would invariably hold value for us, although one realises this more with hindsight.

Eventually, both children wanted to go to Sixth Form College, which they did. They were asked to spend the first year doing some GCSE's. They were allowed to do 5 and joined in on the college's revision (not taught) courses. They then went into the AS year, followed by the A level year. Lucinda, despite contracting glandular fever not long after starting, did brilliantly by hanging on in there and achieved 6 GCSE's and 2 good A levels. She did not want to go to university. She went to France and successfully worked for a British company there for 6 months. So it would seem that the combination of home education, plus 3 formal education years, worked fine for her. The transition to the world of work went pretty seamlessly. And Benjy, enthusiastic to try for Oxford, also got 6 GCSE's and 3 A levels that were good enough to enable him to take up the conditional place they had offered him. So, likewise, the combination of non-orthodox and orthodox would appear to have worked for him too. It will be interesting to see how he gets on there.

For us as parents, as from the start, we have most of all wanted them to be happy and content

individuals and citizens. They seem to be reasonably balanced, non-confrontational and happy young people. This is what we were aiming for and this is what we have got. I am certain this would not have been the case if they had gone through the normal education system. With absolutely not a doubt in my mind, it is as a direct result of having been home educated.

I am so so grateful that Education Otherwise exists and that I heard about it and went on to try it. It has changed me, changed my life, changed my family and changed everything. I do not regret one single moment of it. The day we started home education, was the day when our lives began to open up and we all started to enjoy ourselves. So thank you, particularly to the Harris family, who started it all off, and everyone else who has made Education Otherwise both happen and carry on. You have made a life-changing institution and it needs to continue.

P.S. We spent some time travelling in the Middle East and Benjy was drawn into the language, the culture and the people. Because of all this, he is going to read Arabic.

*Jenny Stevens, Whyke Cottage, Whyke Road,
Chichester, West Sussex PO19 8HS
E-mail: jenny@jennystevens.wanadoo.co.uk*

Request for Information

Hello. My name is Delphine Ryan and I have three children aged 5, 7 and 9. In April this year, I decided to take my children out of school as my husband and I were becoming increasingly concerned with the psychiatric influence in schools namely the labelling of children with such thing as "ADHD" and the drugging of children on that count. I joined EO shortly after and I have found this group just super. What a help to home teaching parents!!

Although my kids were all fine, behaviour-wise, at school and were academically doing very well, there was something they were not happy about. They would come home upset, and it was not to do with bullying. I witnessed instances of other children with these so-called educational and learning disorders and found the handlings disturbing. We also noticed that the teachers seemed to be nowadays more trained in "behaviour management" rather than actual teaching. I have very fond memories of my primary school years when none of these "behavioural" and "disorders" labels were

around. Teachers just taught and children had a good time (well it was for me anyway).

This prompted me to look into this whole area of drugging children. I came across the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (www.cchr.org) which deals exclusively with psychiatric violations of human rights and currently working very hard in the field of child drugging by psychiatry. I was amazed at the wealth of information available, for example the fact that in 2004, over 350,000 prescriptions for powerful mind-altering drugs were handed out in England alone for children with so-called "ADHD" and other similar "disorders". I also found out that CCHR works with many other like-minded groups and parents' groups across the world in this area. Some of the drugs given such as Ritalin are as powerful as illegal drugs such as cocaine. I found out that there exist a number of books written by experts who clearly explain that there is no scientific evidence behind labels such as ADHD and that many behaviour problems can easily be handled without use of drugs, especially in the field of medicine as it transpires that quite often simple things such as food allergies, undiagnosed physical conditions et al are at the back of such problems. When I started to think about all these children on drugs for "behavioural" problems and who will continue to be on these drugs into their adult life, I thought of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and decided I wanted to help.

I am now helping as a volunteer collecting information from parents and individuals who experienced first hand problems with theirs or someone else's children in this area of ADHD and drugs and if there is any one reading this letter who has had such an experience or who knows of someone who has, I would really love to hear from you.

I am very glad I am now home teaching my children and have got them out of the system and I can now fully appreciate the various letters and stories from other home schooling parents. But if my information and letter can help anyone else, I will be very happy indeed. There is a wealth of information on the above subjects, so don't hesitate to email me and I will do my best to help. Delphine Ryan, 97 Peel Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 8BL
Tel: 01625 424996
E-mail: delphineryan@aol.com

ATTENTION: ADOPTIVE PARENTS

If there are any members who have home-educated adopted children then I would love to hear from you! We are soon to go to panel to be approved to adopt children in addition to our birth children and I want to make a convincing case for home-educating troubled children!

I would love for anyone to share with me their experiences/opinions to help me with my case.

Many thanks,

Shara Ouston.

(Isle of Wight Local Contact)

Tel: 01983 562313 or 07891 725193

E-mail: sharaouston@aol.com

LEARNING TO READ OUR EXPERIENCE

I read with interest Ross Mountney's "Diary" entry in August's newsletter. I found that in principle I very much agreed with her view that children will eventually learn to read, in their own way, if left alone and allowed to take their time. However, in practice I found this did not work for us. The reason I am writing is not to contradict her, but to provide an alternative view for those whose experience was more like our own.

My kids, despite (as she also said) my consistent attempts with an endless array of reading methods and materials, just were not learning to read. I guess they weren't ready. They both showed dyslexic signs, and my son was actually diagnosed at one stage as being dyslexic. (This was prior to going to a Steiner school and was a requirement).

I was beginning to lose confidence in my belief that they would learn in good time- and it wasn't important WHEN because they would get there eventually. However, the crunch really came when my daughter was being made to feel stupid by her school-going friends, and begun to believe it. Nothing I said helped, even seeing that other kids just like her grew up bright, and reading fine. She wanted to be able to do what she felt all the other kids her age could do, and got extremely distressed about it. Her self-esteem took quite a knock.

At this point, I sent them weekly to a dyslexic tutor, and it was like magic. They were both reading in a few weeks of beginning with her, and from there the progress snowballed.

Of course I can't be sure why this worked. Maybe I'm a lousy teacher, maybe I did exert too much pressure unknowingly, or maybe conversely I didn't do enough. (All helpful suggestions I got given!!) Maybe they are dyslexic and her methods were just what they needed, or perhaps it was the more focused learning environment that helped. All I can say for sure is that it did wonders for my kids' confidence. They were able to catch up with their peers on current book favourites - Jacqueline Wilson and Harry Potter it was! When well-meaning aunts asked them to read out loud the message in the birthday card they didn't feel humiliated.

I know not everyone needs or wants to take these measures, and also not everyone can afford to. (We only could very temporarily.) There really is no reason why everyone should learn the same stuff at exactly the same age, particularly if they are out of school - unless the children themselves really want to, as in our case. I truly believe in autonomous learning, if you and your children are happy with this approach. But for this one thing, someone else's help took a huge weight off! (Now five years down the line, I'm considering a maths teacher for very much the same reasons...)

I would just say, if like me, you had an autonomous learning ideology, this is still consistent in a sense if structured learning such as a tutor is your child's wish, and you all feel you've benefited. And if they're happy taking their time, by all means leave them be!

All the best,

Soirai Nicholson

E-mail: soirai@yahoo.co.uk

Can anyone help?

I sometimes need to visit my aged Mum in St Austell. As it's a little awkward to stay with her, and, as campsites are so pricey, I wondered whether anybody had an area of land that my son and I could camp on, occasionally? Or, does anybody know of a cheap campsite in the St Austell area? I'd also like contact with any other HE's in that area.

Thanks,

Anni Keene and Barnaby (11), Newark, Notts.
Tel: 01636 700818

New Group In Newport Shropshire

A new group has started in the Shropshire area. We are meeting weekly on Fridays from 12.30pm at Newport Royal British Legion.

If you are interested in coming along and would like more information, please call Julieann
Tel: 01952 401571

E-mail: weshalllook@aol.com

We look forward to seeing you.

Activity day Norfolk/Suffolk border

There will be an activity day on 'Exploring the Elements', 20th October 10.30a.m. - 3.30p.m. at Lopham Village Hall (on the A1066 nr Diss).

The day will be aimed at children 11+. Younger siblings are welcome, but please bring something for them to do. Cost: £5 per family (up to 2 children) + £1.50 per extra child. Bring a packed lunch.

Pre-booking is essential (payment in advance) as there are limited numbers.

If you are interested please contact: Rachel on 01379 642126 or e-mail ragz@btinternet.com

THANK YOU

I felt I should put pen to paper as a mother of four children. Three are grown up and went to school, and I have a gift of a boy (now aged 7) after a 13-year gap. I am home-educating him, as I couldn't stand another child going to school.

The boy, the youngest of the older three, was assaulted in the toilets at school, aged 7. He was also bullied as he was so shy and quiet. He has never really got over it and he is now 20 years old. He remembers it vividly. He was made to feel he was the bad one and he never used the toilets at school again. The two older girls also remember the bad times. The younger one is a mother herself now and wants to home-educate her children.

My eldest son is changed for ever. He remembers school as a very unhappy time, and it has scarred him for life.

The 7 year old is a happy, lively boy who is learning well, as are all of us with him! The best thing my husband and I did was keep him from nursery and school. I feel confident he will be a better adult; kind, understanding etc. He mixes well and I can't see any problems. So far my family and I are really enjoying watching him grow and learn confidently.

The magazine is a great help and other people's ideas are useful. Thank you,

Suzanne Walker, 6 Brodolau, Rhydcymerau, Carmarthen SA19 7PU

RESPONSE

After reading a letter in the last magazine, from Christine Jones, I felt I had to write to lend my support to her.

I agree with Christine when she asked the question 'Which planet do the LEA live on?' Unfortunately I do not have the answer.

Both my children were de-registered from their schools after bullying. My daughter Sammie's bullying was so severe that she even admitted to me that she had contemplated suicide. I still have occasional LEA visits but am convinced they have no idea just how bad the bullying in school is, or just what home-education is all about.

Unlike Christine, I have had very little support. My ex-husband (the children's father) believes that I am ruining his children's lives. Typical as he has not been in their lives for about a year now – his choice, not theirs. My two sisters also disapprove of the home-education.

But then they don't see what we see; happy, healthy children, full of excitement and free of bullies.

Angie Osborne, The Beeches, Hayton, Aspatria, Cumbria CA7 2PD

HOME EDUCATION – OUR WAY

Callum and I would like to share with you how we do our 'education otherwise'.

As I have to work, Callum's education is very much a family thing. We are lucky that Callum has six, very active, grandparents, family friends with skills and patient older sisters. This network of support means that, whilst I am at work, Callum is benefiting from very relaxed and informal Spanish tuition from a family friend. So great is the quality that Callum is mistaken for a Spanish National when he speaks in Spain!

Grandparents take him here, there and everywhere, from theatres to museums to bowling to farm sales to conservation centres and, of course, 'Toys R Us'!

Callum chose a drum kit as his instrument of choice and enjoys immensely the lessons given by his friend and tutor, Dave. He now has a

Maths tutor, having outgrown my own attempts to 'do maths' with him. The one-to-one method means that Callum and Nick (his tutor) get through so much learning in an hour that great progress is made each session.

As parents, Gary and I focus much of our time away from work around Callum's learning, but in a very casual and informal manner. We endeavour to ensure that the education that he gets is experiential, aiming to give him a 'hands on' feel in any subject that he shows interest in, whenever and however we can. Callum likes to be making, touching and doing.

We walk, talk and play. If Callum sees something of interest he will look it up either in a book or on the Internet, but when it suits him.

There is no right or wrong way, simply by home-educating you are giving your child something special and unique, however you chose to do it. I do know, having educated a daughter with a now successful career in much a similar way...it works ... it makes for happy, sociable and confident child, who will grow into a happy, confident adult. We pick and mix from a whole pot of resources and experiences out there and use them to Callum's particular liking. School is so **not** 21st Century!

This is how we do it. How do you do it?

Callum Healey and Jackie Avison, The Bungalow, Wintersett, Wakefield WF4 2EB Tel: 07944559230 E-mail: avison4024@aol.com

Home Education in Bath

I've heard that some years ago Bath had a very active and thriving Home-Ed community and that there was a lot going on. Unfortunately this doesn't seem to be the case anymore: although I'm sure there are lots of us around, we don't seem to be coming together or know of each other (well, at least I'm finding hard to meet fellow home-edders).

With this in mind I started an online email group for local Home-Educating families - by joining and participating you'll help create a virtual space where we can get to know each other and share our learning journeys. So please do [join in](#) and help get this going! You'll be most welcome!

<http://www.freewebs.com/bathhomeeducation/index.htm>
Ana Jardim, 3 Belton House, High Street, Bath, BA1 4DB ana_jardim2000@yahoo.com

EDUCATING ARCHIE

tunes in to HE TV

MEG

AND IN THE STUDIO TODAY WE HAVE A VERY BRAVE

SOME WOULD SAY FOOLHARDY

OR EVEN IRRESPONSIBLE



PARENT AND HER SON

ALFRED

WHO WILL NOT BE JOINING OTHER, NORMAL CHILDREN



A SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT ONE WOMAN SAYS IS FAILING AND BAD AND

REPRESSIVE

BUT WILL BE EDUCATED AT HOME. WE ASK-

IS IT TIME THE GOVERNMENT STEPPED IN? TO STOP THIS MADNESS?

I HATED SCHOOL



SO DID I. WORST DAYS OF MY LIFE.

AND THAT'S ALL WE HAVE TIME FOR. THANKS TO OUR GUESTS MRS G AND ARTHUR FOR-

THEY'VE GONE



Have You been affected by issues raised in this programme?
-Get a grip on yourself. It's only a cartoon!

ARTICLES

RUNNING A HOME-EDUCATION STALL

We did a home education stall at the Green Fair in Sheffield recently. It wasn't my idea and I couldn't see why it needed much planning. Oh, we'll just turn up and chat to people I said airily. Fortunately we have an active local group here who knew far more about this than I did and went ahead organising anyway. The stall went very well and this is what I learned from the experience.

- Ideally you need a team of people and a means of communicating with them. We have an on-line news and support group for South Yorkshire and this was filled with ideas, offers of equipment and support. It's much better if the workload (and expenditure, see below) doesn't fall to the same few people.
- A laminator is good for displaying photos of happy children at home ed events (you should get parental consent for identifiable images). Start laminating ahead of time in case your laminator breaks down. Actually, start everything earlier than you think, because your printer might jam or run out of ink as well.
- If you have a gazebo or similar this gives you much more freedom about where to place your stall because you have some protection against the weather. I couldn't understand the fuss about the gazebo, till I arrived on the day and found we'd been allocated a non-air conditioned place indoors next to the amplifiers for the rock band. At which point the prime mover in all this (you know who you are, Janet) eyeballed the volunteer help and said firmly 'No, we are an outside stall, we have a gazebo'.
- Which brings me onto the next point. Arrive early to bag a good place and ideally with enough helpers so that you outnumber the organisers when you have those little talks about location, chairs etc.
- Find out ahead of time about parking at/near the event. You don't want to waste time circling round trying to find a meter. If there is limited on-site free parking that's another reason to turn up in good time.
- In fact, have enough helpers all day, including packing-up time at the end. Plan to stay to the bitter end as it may only be then that other stall-holders can talk to you properly. We used the set online group database facility so that people could add themselves to the rota, in two-hour shifts of not less than two people at any time.
- Think hard about display material. What can you get and how will you display it? Education Otherwise have a loan facility for laminated display material. These are A4 sheets and you'll need some way to make them visible. Display boards would be ideal. We couldn't get hold of these (tried asking around, advertising on freecycle etc.) so we strung them up by their corners from the trusty gazebo posts.
- Speaking of stringing up...Take string. Take a hole puncher. Take pegs. Take pens. Take blu tack. Take thumb tacks. (Because you never know, and on the same principle take heaps of loose change and many bottles of water as well)
- It is good to have a local flavour to the stall. We printed general details of local groups and answers to a questionnaire about home education filled out by local parents. These went very quickly, so print more than you need.
- Visitors to the stall love to talk to real life home educated children and young people.

It is well worth doing these stalls to promote home education and it was also a positive experience for the families involved both behind the scenes and on the day itself.

It makes things much easier if you have a budget for such events, rather than individuals picking up the tab. The main costs are the stall itself (Green Fair charity stalls were £10) and printing and laminating. £50 would do for a start.

*Fiona Nicholson, 205 Leverton Gardens Sheffield S11 8FD
Local contact for EO (Sheffield)*

EO and The Child Protection Group

I think we, the membership of EO, need to have an open discussion about EO's Child Protection Group. While I realise this is a very emotive issue, it is partly because of this fact that I feel discussion and openness are important. On the one hand, we all want to do what we can to protect all children against any harm and particularly 'secret' harm, child abuse of any sort, a heinous abuse of power. On the other hand, no one wants anyone wrongly accused. Anyone on the end of a wrong accusation knows how destructive and malicious they can be. It is often impossible to defend yourself against accusations of this type. Even if the evidence is found to clear your name the old adage 'there is no smoke without fire' hangs over your head forever. Visions of 'The Crucible' and McCarthy's witch-hunts come easily to mind.

I am writing this because firstly I do not understand why EO has this group. EO does not run any home education groups, camps or events where children are left without their parents. It is a service organisation for home educating parents who have full responsibility for their children at all times. I think EO does not need a Child Protection Group at all.

Secondly, this potential powerful group, that can, or perhaps already has (as nothing has even been said openly about the actions of this group) make decisions about people that can dramatically affect those people's lives. This group presumably abides by the law, and if it finds evidence of abuse, after accusations have been made, takes that evidence to the police. Or does it? What does it do? Further, how do you get on the group? What is its role, statutes and procedures? How does it make decisions and how does it act on them? What are the projects and decisions it has made in the past? None of these questions have been discussed openly with the membership of EO.

It is because this is such a difficult and emotive subject that policies and procedures must be laid out openly and discussed before an incident occurs so that if such a thing were to happen, clear procedures rather than emotion would guide people's actions. A lot of hard work has been done in this area by many organisations so these policies and procedures are not hard to find.

There is secrecy involved in any child protection issue. Accusations may be made and they cannot be made public as they may be either wrong or the perpetrator may get wind of them and depart and the victim needs to be protected. There are well-worn avenues for the accusations and defence mechanisms for the innocent. Social services are the place for these concerns. At the Otherwise Club, where we do provide weekly meetings for parents and children, we do not have a Child Protection Group but we do have child protection policy, which relies on social services.

Secrecy around these issues can be very dangerous, both for a child being abused and for someone wrongly accused of abuse. A child protection group that has no open and clear mandate can also be dangerous both on an individual level and for the health of an organisation. I am someone who thinks openness and democracy are the best way have a healthy organisation.

It may also be true that the Child Protection Group, unintentionally, actually undermines parents' responsibility, in some way, by giving the impression that it can root out any abusers. Parents' need to take responsibility for their own family in all ways and they need to HAVE full responsibility for their children including checking anyone that has dealings with their child/ren.

What if EO gets it wrong once and misses an abuser? For example, what if someone advertises in the EO magazine or runs a camp and then does something awful, parents could hold EO responsible. However, if EO, like other organisations that give advice to parents, says that it is parents' responsibility to check organisations advertising in the EO newsletter, EO cannot be to blame. It really is impossible for any organisation to completely assure the safety of all its members at any event it advertises.

To sum up my question is two fold: why does EO need a child protection group? Parents are always responsible for their children at all times and this group may actually undermine parents' responsibility. EO does not organise any events where it has the responsibility for children. Secondly, if the membership of EO accept EO needs a child protection group, what does this group do, what has it done in the past, how does it work, who is in it and how did they get in it?

I think, for the future health of EO, we need to discuss this openly, hear from EO Council about this group's past decisions and what role, if any, there is for this sort of group in a future democratic EO.

Leslie Safran Barson

A REPLY TO LESLIE SAFRAN BARSON FROM THE CHILD PROTECTION GROUP

Leslie Safran Barson asserts that nothing has ever been said openly in EO about the role, membership or activities of the Child Protection Group. However, the history of the Group, from its inauguration in July 1994, can be traced through reports and announcements in the newsletter, beginning with the October 1994 issue. The most recent mention was in April 2004, when a report appeared on page 7. This report had been given at the previous Council meeting in February. It was signed by Jane Bathgate, Janet Simpson, Jenny Stevens and Anne Wade, and included an invitation to contact them. This was followed by another article in February 2005, also on page 7, where feedback by members was acknowledged and some proposed amendments and additions to the CPG policy were suggested. Responses to these amendments were requested, and full details of how to go about this were given.

Workshops and discussions on child protection have been held all over the country, at national gatherings and at local groups. One was held at the Sheringham gathering in February 2005. At the same gathering a report was given at the Council meeting on the latest consultation on the child protection code of practice, and an eight-page précis of the feedback received from individual EO members and local groups was appended to the minutes. Several copies of this précis were on display throughout the gathering, and it was emailed to various members and local groups who had contributed or asked for it.

The current EO handbook includes the full text of the child protection code of practice, but fails to give the Group's terms of reference or list its members. This does not reflect an attitude of secrecy, but rather an oversight. All these things were included originally in each new member's pack. We are sorry that only the code of practice got put into the handbook. We intend to see that the next edition includes a statement of the Group's remit together with a list of members and the revised code of practice.

Because of the nature of its work, membership of the Child Protection Group is restricted to Council members except where non-Council members are invited to join because of special expertise. The aim is that the Group should be a mixture of professionals and lay people with appropriate training. (Since the 2004 article, Pam Bellinger has joined the Group in her capacity as Criminal Records Bureau representative.)

The role of the Child Protection Group can be summarised as

- to keep informed about child protection issues
- to pass on information, advice and support
- to establish, implement and maintain a child protection policy
- to collate information within EO, to alert the Council and membership to areas of concern, and where necessary to refer concerns to the statutory services.

As Leslie correctly states, children and young people under the age of 18 remain the responsibility of their parents and guardians. This is stated explicitly, in bold type, in the code of practice. The code places great emphasis on personal responsibility, and in no way suggests that the Child Protection Group seek to undermine parents. Indeed, the Group are very anxious to disabuse people of the notion that EO is some kind of magical environment where everyone is automatically safe.

A prominent and very explicit disclaimer appears next to the advertisements. (See, for example, pages 28 and 29 of the June 2006 issue.) A more general disclaimer also appears on the inside front cover. But it is simplistic to argue that by this act alone 'EO cannot be to blame'. The organisation has responsibilities too, and if we behaved negligently in connection with an event or gathering, no disclaimer invoking parental responsibility would carry much weight in a court of law.

In order to discharge these responsibilities it is important that EO should have not just a written child protection policy but also a group with a comprehensive remit, and procedures to put that policy into practice. What use is a policy if we have no mechanism for enforcing it, and no designated people to report concerns to the authorities? A voluntary organisation does not have an investigative role, but it is required to refer concerns to the statutory authorities, and to have a named person/people to take this responsibility.

Our active, well thought-out approach to child protection was an important factor in securing our charitable status in 1996. Any organisation can lose their charitable status if it comes to the attention of the Charity Commission that they are failing in the area of child protection. If the Commission found that a charity had nobody responsible for putting their child protection policy into practice, or for dealing with concerns about child protection, that charity would be required to discuss the situation with the Commission and to work with them to correct it. Ultimately, if the charity failed to respond, their charitable status could be revoked.

It is not enough for an organisation to argue that it has no direct responsibility for, or even contact with, children. The claim that such organisations do not need a child protection policy is regularly refuted. One reason for this is that someone holding a position in the organisation may acquire 'perceived authority' in the eyes of a vulnerable member or client, and they can exploit this authority if they are inclined to do so. For instance, they may be perceived to have power or influence because they control money, or because they give access to legal support. The Charity Commission requires a child protection policy in all cases. As an example, a charity that only raised funds for sick children was criticised by the Commission because it had no child protection structure. This principle applies to other bodies too. The Forestry Commission has a child protection policy. The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority has a child protection policy.

The Child Protection Group is in favour of discussion and openness. Nevertheless, as Leslie correctly acknowledges, it has to keep certain matters confidential for the protection of both individuals and the organisation. The Charity Commission has criticised EO in the past for our lack of vigour in protecting the organisation from destructive individuals. Because of the need for fairness, this issue remains a problem. The Group is not a kangaroo court. It does not make accusations, nor does it recommend the exclusion of members on the basis of suspicion alone. If it comes to light that a member has been convicted, or lost a job, in connection with child abuse, it is for the Council to exclude them from EO in accordance with the published code of practice. Decisions of this sort are not made unilaterally by the Child Protection Group. The Group's role is to make reports and recommendations to the Council.

A distinction has to be drawn between existing convictions and new evidence. The code of practice specifically prescribes that anyone who has clear evidence of child abuse should report it to the police. This applies equally to members of the Group, Council members, other EO members, and citizens generally. The code also points out that where there is no evidence of child abuse, EO members have neither the duty nor the right to intervene simply because a child is being treated, within the family, in a way which they personally find unacceptable. The Child Protection Group do not seek to take the law into their own hands.

The text of the code of practice appears on pages 31-34 of the current edition of the EO handbook, together with contact details for feedback. The code deals with many of these issues at greater length than can be done here. Much effort was put into drawing it up in such a way as to make it as clear and workable as possible. This entailed a lot of discussion through meetings, correspondence, phone calls and email lists, including feedback from local groups. Nevertheless, the code is subject to continuing refinement in the light of experience.

Leslie refers to work done in this area by many organisations. EO in fact made a significant contribution to this work from the outset. When we first began to research policies and procedures, documents of this kind were non-existent. We worked nationally and internationally with many other groups to develop them.

EO cannot and does not undertake to protect its members from the world at large. An important aspect of the Child Protection Group's work is to encourage families to acknowledge their responsibilities. But like all other organisations, EO must take every reasonable step to promote safety. This obligation is not negotiable. No amount of disclaimers can take it away. This is the ongoing and necessary role of the Child Protection Group.

Jane Bathgate (council member, Scotland, Borders)

Pam Bellinger (Leicestershire)

Janet Simpson (council member, Lincolnshire)

Jenny Stevens (Sussex-West)

Anne Wade (London-Middlesex)

Waldorf Home Education

I wanted to share a little of our experience and enthusiasm of following a Waldorf inspired approach to home education. Following a structured day is not everyone's ideal of what home education should be about. Nor for that matter, a spiritual approach. For those of you who are attracted to both of these qualities, then this is something that Waldorf education can certainly offer. However, this does not explain what the essence of Waldorf is about, and especially so from a home education perspective. Whilst in our family, we do follow a loose 'timetable' for the day, when Rudolf Steiner, on whose principles Waldorf education is based, talked about structure, he was not talking about 'schedules' or 'plans', but the importance of 'Rhythm' in children's lives.

One of the things that attracted us to the 'Christopherus' approach to Waldorf (see resources below) was how they show that 'Rhythm' can be flexible, to suit the differing styles and routines of individual families. In addition, they offer calm reassurance one needs at times, when one is in a situation, which I am sure we have all faced as home educators, when we ask ourselves: 'What exactly are we supposed to be doing now for our children'.

Donna Wilson, who along with her husband Paul, produces Christopherus resources, has a wealth of knowledge and experience. In addition to being lifelong educated in Waldorf schools, and having taught children both in Waldorf schools and as a youth worker for 25 years, she has also home educated her own children following Waldorf principles. Yet at the same time as having this experience, she is also very much down to earth, and if you listen to her lectures you will hear her empathy of having been in a situation when you face a day when one's child just does not want to do any learning that day, or has a tantrum at the front of the supermarket queue. Whilst as individual incidents they can often be difficult and stressful as a parent to overcome, and Donna does offer guidance in her lecture on 'Positive Discipline', it is the overall pattern to the day and one's lives that are important.

She has instilled to me a sense of 'slowing everything down' in one's approach to education, Waldorf is not about 'targets' or 'checklists' but about guiding our children to grow into fuller 'human beings', and at

the very least, if we can instil the sense of 'Rhythm' into the way our children live and learn, then we have introduced something wonderful into their lives.

Waldorf is 'holistic' in approach - weaving together through play, learning and living, the importance of the patterns of the differing stages of child development, the importance of the development of the whole person': their emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual development, and of the cycles of the seasons and of family life. Steiner also suggested that education should be 'artistic' in approach, so music, verse, fairytales and poems are used to 'experience' what is being taught in different ways. Indeed one of the central themes is that of:

'Head , Heart & Hands' .

So for example, in learning the alphabet, instead of just focussing on the thinking or 'Head' activity in understanding what the letter is. A context is given, so that the child can experience the letter in many different ways: The parent might tell a fairy story in which the letters are characters, for example for 'Q' : a Quiet, Queen who likes to make Quilts. The parent may also write the letter with their finger on the child's back, so they can 'feel' what the shape is like, or the child is asked to dance out the shape of the letter, draw it in the sand, make a clay model of the letter, sing a song about the letter.

This theme also flows through the focus of the education based upon a child's developmental stage:

0-7 years - Hands - Learning by Imitation

A child should be surrounded by what is 'Good'

7-14 years - Hearts - Learning by imagination and the authority of love

A child should be surrounded by what is 'Beautiful'

14-21 years - Head - Learning by intellect and idealism

A youth should be surrounded by what is 'True'

And also through the rhythm of the day :

Early morning - Head - Thinking Activities - Language & Maths

Late morning - Heart - Feeling Activities - Music & Art

Early afternoon - Hands - Doing Activities - Crafts

Within each activity there is also a focus upon: 'Wholeness'. Learning always starts from the 'Whole' before the 'part'. For example, if you are fortunate enough to live in the country, instead of just buying some wool & needles to teach your children how to knit, which in itself is a wonderful gift to share, one would go for a walk and collect sticks to make your own needles, collect wool out of the hedgerows in order to card and weave your own wool then go out and pick plants to make your own dyes.

So you are instilling in your child an experience and appreciation of the whole process. In addition, you would be reciting verse, or singing songs with your children about going to collect the sticks and plants, and to imitate the rhythm of the weaving or knitting actions that they experience with their hands.

There are of course moments when my own children aged 7 and 8 are having an 'off' day, or are too tired to want to participate, or we have shopping to do, or it's sunny and decide to go to the beach, but overall they appear to be thriving on the experience of the 'Rhythmic' structure to their day, and to their learning.

If you wish to know more about Waldorf Home Education, there are now numerous websites available, a few of which I outline below. Also, if you live in the Powys, Hereford or Shropshire borders and are interested in linking together with other like-minded families, or just to find out more, then see my contact details below.

Some resources :

www.christopherushomeschool.org - Syllabus & Guide Books - Downloadable lectures - Regular Newsletter & Networking - Reasonably priced

www.waldorfhomeschoolers.com - Kytka's excellent site has 100's of pages of resources -free printable worksheets - songs - poems - newsletter & networking

www.wonderhs.com - An eclectic approach, but with Waldorf as the main inspiration.

www.live-education.com - Produce a beautiful syllabus tailored to your individual child's needs, with the option of personal guidance for your child & yourself. Unfortunately, very expensive!!!

Waldorf Home Education Group
Powys -Hereford & Shropshire Boarders
Please contact me:

Glenn Ashbrooke

Tel: 01686-688771 or E-mail : gruhnwolf@aol.com

Diary Of A Home-Educating Nobody.

One of the beauties of Home Educating is that you can take your holidays when everyone else is in school. It gives me a sense of wicked freedom when we're jaunting off somewhere just as the rest of the world is imprisoned once more within school routines, lunch boxes and uniformed existences!

Of course the draw back to this is that if you are staying with someone who has children and they have to go to school when yours don't it can get a bit tricky! Even though all parties maintain that they're absolutely comfortable about what they're doing and why. What I find odd about this is that, despite this apparent confidence, parents with children in school seem to spend an awful lot of energy justifying to me what school is doing for their children!

We sit at the breakfast table trying not to talk too much and too excitedly about our day when there's a resentful seven year old in his uniform getting ready for school.

"It's not fair," he says, gesturing at my two with a Weetabix slimy spoon. "They get to go out and I've got to go to boring old school!"

Slight pause and awkward silence. I can't think of anything to say to this especially as I agree with him. Then mum pipes up with a brave attempt to comfort him.

"Well - aren't you lucky - you're the only one getting to go to school today and do all those exciting things!"

His face suggested that he believed this line of argument as much as he would believe that chocolate tasted horrible! I was just silently praying my children didn't enter into the discussion and give their opinion. Thankfully they seemed to sense that at this moment it would be best not to. What astute sensitive children they are - who says that Home Educated children haven't got social skills! Then my eldest adds:

"Don't worry, we'll make sure we're here when you get back so we can all go out together".

He looked a little happier with that. My heart went out to him.

Anyway, later on, when mum brought him home from school, she brought the SATs results with her too and stuffed them proudly into my hand. I have to say I stared at them a little dumbly.

It was a piece of paper with the child's name at the top. This was followed by a few lines of print. Followed by a few solitary numbers printed down the page. Followed by a tepid comment at the bottom. And I looked at it vacantly while they told me how pleased they were with the results so I said that I was pleased they were pleased. But I think I must have looked completely blank because she then asked me if it meant anything to me.

I had to admit it didn't. I mean - how much can a few numbers on a piece of paper tell you about a child? But she was raving about it as if it was a message from Heaven!

She explained that the numbers indicated that her child was right where he should be, that everything was quite in order, that he was nicely averaging out, and they were happy with that.

I looked at this pathetic list of three or four numbers on a relatively blank sheet of A4 paper and I thought what a con! I looked at this bright, active, intelligent and enthusiastic child and I thought; how can you let

this vacuous piece of paper tell you anything that you don't already know about what's in front of your nose and how on earth can you be satisfied, when knowing this kid, with 'average'?

There is no doubt that the child is intelligent. He is articulate, obviously has great thinking skills and thinks things out a lot coming up with diverse and creative answers to problems. He knows and remembers many things, is active, keen and responsive.

Yet already, at seven, his abilities are nothing more than a few numbers on a piece of paper indicating he is 'average'. And what is even sadder is that his parents, sucked as they are into a system they've been conditioned to believe is educational, are so relieved that his education is taking the right and average pathway and they can be reassured by that!

I've obviously been HEing too long! I have seen so many bright and intelligent HEed children now to ever be satisfied with or coned by a few numbers on a piece of paper telling me about children.

I think of all the HEed children I have seen. I think of all those children who have never been numbers on a piece of paper. And many of them, mine included, would perhaps never be able to get these magic numbers on this magic piece of paper at the magic time they were supposed to. But ironically, I do not know of an uneducated, unintelligent HEed child among the lot of them, truly I don't.

I know bright motivated children. Children who can do things and talk about things and think about things. Children who can discuss and question and come to conclusions about things thus demonstrating an active and intelligent and open mind. Children who demonstrate a whole range of valuable skills besides those of simply reading and writing and test passing. They demonstrate a kind of creative resourcefulness, a diverse and innovative intelligence, initiative, and personal and social skills that will get them through life better than anything else.

I know HEed children who can challenge and question and think beyond merely one answer that gets them one tick in one place at one time to a whole range of possibilities. And it is people like that who we need to help our society progress. Who will make discoveries, find solutions, design, create and develop and help our world to grow. It's not people who stay stuck with one single answer. It's people who will find alternative answers, who have an intelligence to see beyond, who will do that.

This is what truly educated people are. And average scores on SATs tests have nothing to do with it! SATs do not make people educated. In fact SATs have no value whatsoever to the child. Sometimes they determine a child's ability. Sometimes they are completely useless in determining a child's ability! Sometimes they can be as useful as labelling a can of peaches as cat food. And who needs 'standard' anyway!

The next day when they came home from school, with the seven year old bouncing into the house with his pent up energy and his eagerness to see what we'd been up to, mum was rather more deflated. She blurted out how another parent at the school gate had been bragging about their child's SATs results, how she'd got top marks in this and top marks in that.

For a moment she was silent but then said she wasn't bothered about it; she was grateful her son had got as far as average. Again I wasn't convinced even she believed that! And I could see she was hurting inside.

So I suggested another angle to take on SATs. I just said she perhaps shouldn't take SATs results as gospel. Intelligence was far more than a few numbers on a piece of paper and we both knew, as anyone really looking at her child would know, what a bright intelligent kid he was, full of enthusiasm, ideas and creativity and this was far more valuable to him and far more important than any numbers on any bits of paper.

She looked at me in relief, as if she'd just been given a lifeline. Her face lightened into a big smile and we both looked at her busy bright child.

But now she was looking at him with completely different eyes!

Ross Mountney

ross.mountney@tiscali.co.uk

HEROS CAMP - BERKSHIRE

Heros in Berkshire will be holding another teen challenge event for four days over the October Half Term. It will consist of four days, of challenge activities for children aged from 12 - 17 years old.

At Easter we had 45 children from all over the country who joined us for this event and everyone had a great time. See our website www.homeeducators.co.uk under special events. We had wall climbing, army assault style games with laser guns, woodland skills, fire making, shelter building, tepee erecting, it was a fantastic four days. We do not know the price yet till we know how many we have coming.

Heros Camp is starting back on 19th September and I will be letting everyone know what exciting events are planned. Some of the new classes we have are Street Dance with well known hip hop dancer Andy Instone, Chemistry and Science on a weekly basis, Boys Yoga class, Creative writing, Warhammer, sport, lots of other workshops. All the other regular workshops we have had before will be continuing as well.

Heros has now been running for two years and is growing daily, this year we plan to get lots of publicity and really get the message out there via local radio local newspaper and flyers plus attending lots of fairs etc. We have our own yahoo site for members now and are working on a new website for Heros Club.

It is there as a support for families who are educating their children out of the school system. All children are welcome whatever their age, whatever their ability. Children 8 years over can be left.

Are you interested in getting involved or knowing more about our club and other events? Please contact me on 01628 783107 or thirdeye1@compuserve.com



NOT YOUR STEREOTYPICAL TEENAGE MOTHER!

I am a happily married woman. I don't drink or smoke. I have a three-month-old son who I breastfeed. I worked while I was pregnant. I am not exactly your stereotypical teenage parent. The stereotype applied to young parents is both unfair and unrealistic. When I found out I was pregnant, I asked a health-care professional if young parents, were in her opinion, good parents. She answered that, yes, she was sure some were.

Being a good parent is entirely dependent on you as an individual. Age is irrelevant. Some people would argue in principle that you can be a good parent at any age, but the

older you are the more financially stable you become.

It is true that some young parents need to claim benefits, but I have yet to meet any who enjoy doing so. It is a means to an end and, for most people, a stepping stone while they improve their career or education.

When I found out I was pregnant, I was still at Exeter College and despite taking my final exam while my husband looked after our son, I never gave up. I achieved a B for English literature and a distinction in a Btech in Journalism.

I will never forget walking into college with a huge bump or the hours I spent working on my laptop while breastfeeding my son and taking him into college with me.

The college was immensely supportive of me and understanding when I turned up late because of morning sickness in the early stages of pregnancy or couldn't attend some classes because of hospital appointments.

Without the college's support, I would not have been able to achieve the grades that I did.

Because I was home-educated, I felt it was a big enough achievement to get into college just because of an essay I wrote, so getting good grades was not my top priority.

Being home-educated from the age of 12 allowed me to focus on what I was most interested in. Although I had lots of other home-educated friends, I missed out on the immense peer pressure I would have felt if I had stayed in school. Instead, I gained a greater confidence in myself.

It is possibly because of this confidence that stopping college and giving it all up to watch daytime television throughout my pregnancy was never even an option for me, because I wanted to achieve the best, not only for me, but for my son.

Obviously teenage pregnancy is not something people want to promote. But it is something I feel should be embraced. Young mothers should not be made to feel ashamed of their situation as every parent, in my experience, tries their hardest to do the best by their child regardless of age.

Amie Hinton (nee Borthen) 18 years old



present an important conference:
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EO MERCHANDISE

Hopefully, by the time you receive this newsletter, EO will be selling its merchandise and publications on line. We're also adding to the range of 'stuff' that is available.

The idea is that, by having more things available, people will buy them and advertise home education by using/wearing the items.

(Today, when I got back to my car at the supermarket, there was a dad waiting there to ask me about home education. He'd seen the sun shades I have over the rear windows of the car. There's one little lad not going back to school next week now!)

As this is a new venture...there will be new items added all the time...so keep checking back to see what we have.

There is no longer an EO Member price and a non-member price. What will happen now is that all EO Members are entitled to a 10% discount on everything that is sold. To gain this discount, you must enter the code:

EdOt1st (*ECHO-delta-OSCAR-tango-One-sierra-tango*)

Please note: If you forget to enter the discount code, you cannot claim it back later.

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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EO Hoodies - hooded sweatshirts with triangle logo and the letters **SINC** now available in navy blue and black children's and adult sizes

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For further details please contact

alex.caldwell@tiscali.co.uk

tel: 0116 2720209

EO HOME EDUCATION CARDS

("Truancy Cards")

Extra cards are available at £1 for each card required from: EO HE Cards, 5 Ridge Way, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 0HL

Please send a stamped, addressed envelope plus a cheque or postal order or the equivalent in 50p or £1 stamps.

Cheques and postal orders made payable to 'Education Otherwise Association Ltd.'

Email queries to

database@education-otherwise.org

Learnpremium

This is an online educational service owned by the Guardian Newspaper. EO pays Learnpremium a lump sum and is making a small charge to each user to cover this cost. The new year will start on 20 Oct 06. I'll e-mail current subscribers with renewal details as soon as they're confirmed. Meanwhile there is a reduced rate of £10 for use of the site until 19 Oct. Watch the EO website for more info or contact me.

There are around 130,000 pages of online lessons and resources on a wide range of subjects including English to Design & Technology or Physical Education. It offers interactive lessons and resources, games and activities, video lessons, Guardian lesson packs, whiteboard activities, randomly generated tests, a daily news service for 9 - 14 year olds and the facility to generate tests.

Free Trials -contact Lynda.

database@education-otherwise.org

EO/NEC vouchers

- £30 discount per course -

A5 SAE to Sarah Cook, The Old Cottage, Croglin, Carlisle, CA4 8RZ

(quoting EO membership number)

or sarah@croggies.freemove.co.uk

EDUCATION OTHERWISE MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

As you will have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, we will soon be selling EO merchandise online. However, not everyone uses the internet! Now whilst that, to me, is almost unimaginable, I accept that I'm not the norm.

You can still order individual items from our volunteers as per the individual adverts in this newsletter. However, if you want a range of different items, please use this order form. The prices here are for MEMBERS ONLY.

| T Shirts | Member Price Incl P&P | Publications | Member Price Add P&P |
|--|--------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Navy: Home Education – a real option Sizes M, L or XL | £6.00 | Early Years | £3.60 |
| | | Teach Your Own by <i>John Holt</i> | £5.85 |
| Navy: Home Education – a real option Sizes 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-11 or 12-13 | £4.50 | Free Range Education – Ed. <i>Terri Dowty</i> | £9.90 |
| | | Learning from Home Based Education | £4.50 |
| White: SINC Sizes M, L or XL | £6.00 | School's Out - Educating Your Child at Home - <i>Jean Bendell</i> | £3.60 |
| | | Educating Your Child at Home – <i>Jane Lowe & Alan Thomas</i> | £10.75 |
| Oskar: The World's My Playground Sizes S, M or L Purple, Royal Blue or Sky Blue | £5.15 | Evaluation and Research in Education, Special Edition Home Education - <i>Guest Editor Paula Rothermel</i> | £6.00 |
| Oskar: The World's My Playground Purple, Royal Blue or Sky Blue Sizes 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-11, 12-13 | £4.70 | Educating Children at Home - <i>Alan Thomas</i> | £9.85 |
| | | Their Own Voices | £3.15 |
| | | Paula Rothermel's PhD Research (2002) Leaflet | £0.54 |
| Postage (based on value of order book order only): | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | Orders under £20 in value = £2.00 | |
| Sun Shades | Single/Pair | £4.75/£9.00 | Orders between £20 and £30 = £3.00 |
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Cheque to be made payable to: Education Otherwise Trading Limited

OCTOBER 2006 COMPETITION - ISSUE 172

Autumn is upon us once again! Leaves are turning lovely shades of red, orange and golden brown, time to start hibernating, by cuddling up on the settee with a good book and a warming drink ☺

The winner of last issues maze competition is Roberta Lorusso, from Brentwood, Essex, and she should be in receipt of her prize by now. Well done to all of you who entered, have a go at this one ☺.

This issue we have a great prize which has been donated by Tony Messiou who is the creator of Evolution– a great new family board game where between 2 – 6 players have to battle it out on the evolutionary ladder. Evolution is a game of animals, thunderbolts and volcanoes. Become the top evolutionary beast and win the game! This looks like a great family game (see Tim's review on page 29 of this Newsletter).

- Includes the rules on one (A4) page (family version)
- For 2-6 players ages 9+ Takes around 45 minutes to play
- Enjoyable blend of skill, luck and player interaction
- Start life from your own sector on a primitive volcanic world. Then choose your evolutionary path carefully to avoid natural calamities.
- Beat off challenges from other species as you progress to become the dominant species.

For more information or to find out where you can buy the game visit the website : www.super-apegames.com

Usual competition rules apply and all entries to be sent to - EO Competition, 79 Cumberland Ave, Cleveleys, Lancashire. FY5 2DS by October 31st. Slightly different competition this time, if you have any ideas of the kind of things you would like to see here then please let me know

EVOLUTION

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| A | R | S | O | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

Created by *Puzzlemaker* at *DiscoverySchool.com*

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Advertising Rates: Non-members – (subject to space and interest to members) £35 per issue (50 words) **Members** (please give full contact details) – small items/notices, free: commercial enterprises, £25 per issue
NB: DEADLINE FOR ADVERT COPY AND PAYMENT – 1ST OF MONTH PRIOR TO ISSUE

They Don't Teach You This In School!

Does your son/daughter enjoy writing?

Have they shown an interest in writing for magazines and newspapers?

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Places are limited.

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Or email deborahdurbin@fsmail.net

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New Magazine for Home-Educated Kids

Since September last year, EO member and freelance journalist Deborah Durbin has been running a correspondence course for home educated kids in freelance journalism. Now with over 20 students working their way through the course, Deborah has decided to launch a magazine called The Reporter—a magazine written by home-educated kids for home-educated kids.

The aim of the magazine (which will be bi-monthly) is to give the students the opportunity to showcase their work and build up their own portfolio so they can put what they have learnt into practice and provide an entertaining and useful resource for other home-educated kids.

The first issue, due out in October, will have articles of interest, jokes, reviews, information and a competition to win a free journalism course.

To cover printing, the cost of The Reporter will be £1.50 per copy (contributors receive a free copy) and the debut issue will be out in October. If anyone is interested in receiving a copy, or you would like to contribute to it, please contact Deborah at deborahdurbin@fsmail.net or phone 01934 835769

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Please mention Education Otherwise in the "any other information" section on your order and EO will receive a donation of 5% of the value of your order.

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REVIEWS

Elsewhere by *Gabrielle Zevin*

Liz lives in Massachusetts, USA and is an average girl aged fifteen, with an average family and average friends. Or more to the point, she used to be, as one day she is hit by a taxi and dies. Soon after dying, she finds herself on a boat in the middle of the sea heading for a place she never knew existed named Elsewhere, where all the people who die go and "live". But the strange thing is instead of growing older, people start their new "lives" at the age they died and grow younger each year. Liz doesn't take this too well at first but after a year of "living" there she makes new friends and relationships and "lives" with her dead Grandma Betty who looks after Liz for fifteen years until she turns back into a baby and is sent down to Earth ready to be born with new parents as a different baby. I thought this book was brilliant, if a little strange, and once I started it I almost literally couldn't put it down. It had just the right amount of happy, sad and romantic parts, and despite the odd storyline I was glued to it. I would recommend this highly for any teenage readers.

Jenny

£6.99 *Bloomsbury*

The Singer of all Songs by *Kate Constable*

This is a typical fantasy adventure with an original twist in it. This story is about a girl called Calwyn, her adventures through various lands and the people she goes with on her journey. She has escaped from the rigid life of her homeland, Antaris, and has gone on this journey to help a wounded man defeat an evil sorcerer. The unusual twist in this story is that the magic used by the people in these lands is called up by song. This separates the storyline from others to some extent to form a fresh fantasy novel. Despite this created interest, the story seems to lack momentum, but is still worth reading. I would recommend this book for boys and girls of all ages. Finally, I would give this book seven out of ten, mainly for its original concepts.

James (14)

£5.99 ISBN 1 74114 532 5 *Allen and Unwin*

On the Ghost Trail by *Chris Powling*

I don't usually read ghost stories, so I didn't really want to read this at first in case it was scary. But it wasn't scary at all, it was good because the two older brothers were scared of a ghost at Grandpa's house but the little sister wasn't! It has a good twist at the end and makes you laugh. The Grandpa looks a bit scary though. He looks like a ghost himself. I liked this book and I think it would be good for girls and boys of between five and ten years old.

Romy (7)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7136-7680-9 *A & C Black*

The Shapeshifters; Finding the Fox

by *Ali Sparkes*

This book is really amazing. It is one of the best books that I have ever read, definitely in my top ten. The story is about a boy, Dax Jones, who can change into a fox when he panics. He is taken to a college in Cornwall, where he is taught basic lessons, such as geography and also he is taught to develop his 'shapeshifting' powers. The college is for gifted children. Other pupils have gifts such as telekinetic powers, healing abilities and invisibility. I really like this story because you get to know Dax well, and all the characters are really believable. It is the first book of a series - I hope that there are lots of books in this series, as this one was really un-put-downable! I think the book is most suitable for boys aged 8 upwards.

Jake (12)

£5.99 ISBN 0-19-275465-3 *Oxford University Press*

Flight of the Fire Thief by *Terry Deary*

This is the 2nd book in the Fire Thief Trilogy. If you read the first, you will certainly enjoy this one by the author of the brilliant *Horrible Histories* series. For those of you who haven't read the first it is about Prometheus - remember him - he stole fire from the gods and his punishment was to be chained to a rock to have his liver plucked out every day! The story reinvents the myth. Prometheus can be let off by Zeus if he can find a true human hero. The narrator is Nell, a young, fearless person. I don't want to give away the plot but I can say that this is one of the best books I have ever read. It is full of adventure, action packed, hilarious, very hard to put down and I just can't wait for the next in the series!

Keith (12)

£7.99 ISBN 0-7534-1149-0 *Kingfisher*

Bella Balistica and the African Safari

by *Adam Guillain*

This is the third book in the series and I personally think it is the best so far. In this book Bella, (considered a bit of a freak with no mobile phone or boyfriend but I think she is a real hero and an individual who doesn't care about peer pressure!!!) heads for Africa in search of her missing dad who she finds is organising a summit against the 'Knights Templar' and 'the company'. On the way she meets coffee growers in Ethiopia (amazingly it referred to the Lalibela churches I'd just been reading about in *Current World Archaeology*, a mag I get!) who are trying to get fair trade from 'the company'. The Knights Templar have something to do with the freemasons (I'm not sure what yet). There is a big climax at the end to encourage you to read the next in the series ... and I can't wait until it comes out!

Rob (12)

£5.99 ISBN 1-84059-4829 *Milet Publishing*

Evolution

This is a rather innovative game. One of my hobbies is making board games (usually from computer games) so when I got this one I was thrilled as I have been trying to make a board game on this subject for some time. The game is about evolution (of course) starting at volcanoes and moving through the different eras (bacteria, algae, fish, reptiles, birds, dinosaurs, mammals and primates) until your chosen animal (wolf, crocodile, lion, elephant, ape and rhino) reaches the end of six eras in its path. The aim is to beat your opponent(s) to the end. I really enjoy playing it. There is a long version, which does go on and on, and a much shorter one (instructions for this on website). I think this would make a great Xmas present for older children / adults.

Tim (12)

£16.19 *Super-Ape Games Ltd*

The Tail of the Trinosaur by Charles Causley

"A Present from the Amazon Jungle" says the label on the enormous container – a present to the people of Dunborough. But it's more of a surprise package really – for inside is something alive – large and green, with unpleasant claws and a tail as slippery as a slide. The Trinosaur has been asleep for ninety million years (or thereabouts) but now it's waking up.....I liked the idea of this story as I love anything to do with dinosaurs, but although it was an interesting read, I found that the fact it was written in rhyme made it really hard to read right through to the end – the rhymes started to get annoying! Parts of it were enjoyable, and I'm sure the story is too.

Perhaps this is more for those who enjoy poetry,

Connor (12)

£6.99 ISBN1-90325223-7 *Jane Nissen*

Vlad the Drac-Vampire by Ann Jungman

Vlad the Drac is a miniature vampire from Romania. He comes to England because he's been asked to be godfather to the Stone family's new snoglet (baby). Vlad is a vegetarian vampire and drinks warmed up washing up liquid! Vlad gets taken around London to see the sights where he gets into all kinds of trouble and ends up being locked in the House of Horrors. It is an hilarious book, a really good read and one I would recommend. The 4th book in the Vlad the Drac Series.

Jack (9)

£4.99 ISBN 1-903015-55-3 *Barn Owl Books*

Tashi and the Forbidden Room

by Anna and Barbara Fienberg

A collection of two stories starring Tashi, an inquisitive boy. In the first story he learns that a mysterious stranger called Bluebeard has moved into the old castle on the hill. No one knows who he is or what a monster he is. When Tashi's friend Lotus

Blossom reveals that her big sister, Ho Hum, is going to be married to Bluebeard, Tashi is not keen. When Bluebeard goes away, they explore the castle and find the forbidden room. What is behind the door and why is it forbidden? The second story is about a wicked baron who has a prize peacock, which goes missing, and his dog Pongo gets the blame. Tashi wants to save the dog but to do that, has to complete three totally impossible tasks. Who is the real killer of the peacock? Tashi wants to find out. These are very easy to read stories and well illustrated. I think they are perfect for reading out loud. I would recommend them to anyone who likes fairy stories. They could be more detailed, and more atmospheric. Bluebeard is not very frightening and you don't feel scared, just a little curious, when Tashi is approaching the room.

Karis (12)

£3.99 ISBN 1-74114-731-X *Allen & Unwin*

Stink; the incredible shrinking boy

by Megan McDonald

For those of you who are familiar with Judy Moody, this book is about her younger brother Stink. Annie wrote: *It was more of a book for boys than girls. I didn't like it very much. It was very American. Judy was unkind to Stink and that made me sad because I am a big sister and wouldn't do that. I learnt about the Presidents. I liked the cartoons and the part about the newt.* As a family we feel you would enjoy this book more if you knew a little about the country, its history, and liked its language. We would not recommend it.

Adrian with Annie (6)

£3.99 ISBN 0-7445-9371-9 *Walker Books*

The Encyclopedia of the Unexplained

by Judy Allen

Here is a book not for the faint-hearted! Full of strange happenings that send a shiver down your spine, all with one thing in common – they have never been properly explained - ghostly faces seen in buildings, strange patterns, UFO sightings, curses, jinxes, levitation, mind over matter, dreams, sixth senses, crop circles, alien cats, odd creatures, strange phenomenon, superstition, natural forces at work, standing stones, crop circles, Bermuda Triangle – it's got them all, those odd happenings that science can't explain and I was hooked. I really enjoyed reading all the strange tales and looking at the clear and colourful illustrations in this fantastic book. I found the boxed sections really helpful as these gave actual facts of phenomena and specific cases. There were a few suggested explanations but most remained unexplained....

Sarah (13)

£17.99 ISBN 0-7534-1296-9 *Kingfisher*

Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve

This is the first book in a four part series. I have now read them all (reviews of the others will be included here in the next issue of EO). This book is my particular favourite. A really brilliant and gripping adventure story, it is set in the future after the 60-minute war. Life has changed considerably since our time with traction cities, which have gigantic wheels and tracks which enables them to move and also eat towns! These cities rule the Great Hunting Ground. This book is about Tom and Hester. Hester is a scavenger, someone who roams around the Great Hunting Ground while Tom is a curator at the London Museum. They meet when Hester tries to assassinate the Head Historian, Thaddeus Valentine. Both of them end up getting chucked out of London and into 'out country' where it is hard to survive. They get sold as slaves, rescued by a mysterious figure, attacked by the stalker shrike and end up having to stop London using its secret weapon on the anti-city league. I recommend this book to any teenager who loves adventure.

Keith (12)

£5.99 ISBN 0-439-97943-9 Scholastic

The Encyclopaedia of Scrapbooking Techniques

by Karen McIvor and Sarah Mason

If you are a fan of scrap-making this is a must have book. It gives lots of step-by-step instructions for creating some great scrapbook pages. It really does cover everything; principles, basic materials / tools needed, photos, design, text advice and loads of techniques which help make your project look really professional. Some of the ideas for backgrounds are stunning and help lead you on to your own ideas. Loads of great ideas and a really useful book.

Sue (14)

£12.99 ISBN 1-84448-062-3 Search Press

Down the Rabbit Hole by Peter Abrahams

This book says that it is Stephen King's all time favourite but it is definitely not one of mine. I found it very difficult to get into. The exciting bits are few and far between. It is about a girl called Ingrid, she visits someone's house and on the following day the woman is found murdered, Ingrid then has to retrieve her shoes from the dead woman's house. The story moves slowly from this point with lots of descriptions of every day life. The humour in it is quite good. People who prefer a slower paced story, to one that is full of adventure, may better enjoy the story. I would say it most suitable for young teenagers.

Jacob (12)

£5.99 ISBN 1-4063-0028-4 Walker Books

Scratch and Sniff by Margaret Ryan

This is an ideal book for developing reading skills and has two lovely characters in the form of dogs. Scratch and Sniff are resourceful dogs who help their owner, Police Constable Penny Penrose, solve a crime, with some humorous moments along the way. The text is large and the book is full of appealing black and white illustrations. With a picture on every page, it is enough to hold the attention of our non-readers. We enjoyed this book very much.

Julieann, Tony, Lydia (5) and Stan (2)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7136-7632-9 A & C Black

Silly Jack by Holly Surplice

This is a lovely book about Jack who arrives at his new home not knowing what kind of animal he is. He meets lots of new friends, including a goat, a dog, chickens, a cow, a cat and geese and tries to be like them all in turn until he eventually finds out that he is in fact a! That would be telling. My children loved the repetition at the end of each page "Silly Jack! You are not a goose (or cow etc), you are a ..". The children loved being in the know about what Jack was. The illustrations are fantastically colourful and engaging and my 6 year old was even able to read some of the pages for himself as the text was very clear. A lovely book for a wide range of ages; the younger ones enjoyed the picture, the older ones were able to do some reading. Recommended.

Katherine with Samuel (6), Rebekah (5) and Jeremy (3)

£10.99 ISBN 1-4063-0304-6 Walker Books

Uan the Little Lamb by Sandra Klaassen

A beautiful new book set in the Outer Hebrides. Two children find an abandoned lamb in the snow and take her home to care for her. They call her Uan, which means 'little lamb' in Gaelic. She misses her mum, so they feed her, love her and play with her until one day she is no longer a little lamb and becomes a mother herself. It has lovely illustrations and it is a very warming story all about caring and growing up. Suitable for 2-6 years.

Hilary with Robert

£8.99 ISBN 0-86315-561-8 Floris Books

A Touch of Wind!

by Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore

This book aims to be a humorous version and retelling of *The Voyage of Odysseus* legend. It didn't appeal to my son (9) who normally loves history, as he found that the authors were trying just too hard to be funny (he does like 'Horrible Histories'). It's an 'easy read', but I wouldn't use it as a resource for history. It has similarities with the 'Horrid Henry' series and I would place it in that category.

Mirjam and Max (9)

£4.99 ISBN 1-903015-55-3 Barn Owl Books

What's Happening to Me

This is a book all about growing up for girls. It explains what happens to your body and your feelings too. I was able to read it through quickly and easily. It only has 48 pages but it's bright and cheerful with loads of information. At the back of the book there is information about boys growing up too. I found the book very reassuring and calming and I think it prepares you well for the changes which will happen to you without being scary. It's funny in some places, especially the pictures, but I liked that it wasn't just full of jokes. I would recommend it to any girl aged about 8 or older who has worries about growing up.

Emily

£6.99 ISBN 0-7460-6995-2 *Usborne*

Wild About Books by Judy Sierra

The story begins with a librarian driving her mobile library into the zoo. At first the animals look on warily, but soon find themselves taking to reading in a big way. Yahya managed to read this colourfully illustrated book by himself but said "I found some of the animals names hard to say". Some books we like to read over and over again, I'm afraid this wasn't one of them. Perhaps because the message of "reading is fun" is one that we like to discover for ourselves, rather than being told.

Almaas with Yahya (6)

£10.99 ISBN 1-8450-7526-9 *Frances Lincoln*

The Flowing Queen by Kai Meyer

The Flowing Queen is the first story in a trilogy. It is about a girl called Merle who lives in Venice. She and Serafin, a friend from the weaver's workshop across the canal, uncover a secret plot by three of the city councillors and the besieging Egyptians. The traitorous councillors trap the Flowing Queen, who has always protected Venice in the past, in a small glass flask. Merle must somehow save Venice and the Flowing Queen, and quickly, before Venice is invaded by the enemy Egyptians. Although the book ends very suddenly and it takes a while for the actual story to begin, 'The Flowing Queen' is well written and engaging.

Molly (13)

£5.99 ISBN 1-4052-2298-0 *Egmont*

Boy Soldier by Andy McNab and Robert Rigby

This book is definitely in my top ten. It is about a boy called Danny whose dream is to be a soldier. While he was at a selection course at an army centre he was told he couldn't join the army because of something his grandfather had done in the past. So he decided to find him to turn him in. He finds out that his grandfather is suspected of being an SAS traitor, but he then sides with his grandfather and becomes hunted himself. The story is action packed, and full of suspense. There is lots of fascinating

information about the military and the SAS, which I found really interesting with a glossary of military terms. Did you know a maggots is a sleeping bag? I would highly recommend this book to the over 12's. Leonard (13)

£5.99 ISBN 0-552-55221-6 *Random House*

J is for Jamaica

by Benjamin Zephaniah and Prodecepta Das

This book introduces a variety of Jamaican themes from A for Ackee to Z for zinc roof, using rhyming text. The bright pictures were a hit with both children and my older son was keen to further explore a few of the themes (most notably exotic foods!). The book is an evocative introduction to a different country from a cultural and geographical perspective, but would benefit from a more structured format. Following the alphabet means that topics are introduced in a haphazard and limited way, which is a bit confusing for small children. Another criticism is that, although the text is in a clear font, the letter introducing each topic is highly decorative, which proved frustrating for our 3 year old who struggled to recognise the 'tasselly' letters. Overall an interesting book, which we'd suggest borrowing from the library.

Tamlyn with Benedict (3) and Rowan (11 months)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-401-7 *Frances Lincoln*

Sam Stars at Shakespeare's Globe

by Pauline Francis

Full of beautiful illustrations by Jane Tattersfield, this book is about a boy called Sam who goes to live on London Bridge. It's set in the time when William Shakespeare wrote his plays and is a good introduction to him for younger children. Sam goes to work at the Globe Theatre and plays lots of roles, including his favourite, Juliet. The story provides an insight into the world of the theatre at this time as well as being an enjoyable storybook. It could be enjoyed by children of all ages up to about 11.

Jill with Sarah (9)

£10.00 ISBN 1-84507-406-8 *Frances Lincoln*

Christmas in the Family by Isabelle Marion

Full of seasonal activities, carols and stories, advent stories, advent calendars, recipes for tasty treats, cards and much more. We liked the ideas for beeswax nativity scenes. There are many nice recipes from around the world for traditional Christmas snacks. We tried the woven hearts, which are great fun to make and ideal to give presents in. The home made chocolate recipes are delicious and make the ideal present - in a homemade box of course! So much to keep you busy and lots of new ideas. We will use this book a lot.

Hilary with Isaac (6) and Finty (1)

£9.99 ISBN 0-86315-563-4 *Floris*

Sylvie's Seahorse by Mara Bergman

We read this book in one sitting with Elena and I reading alternate pages. It is split into three mini-stories giving children a perfect excuse to stop at the end of each of them but that didn't happen so it gets a definite thumbs up! In the book, Sylvie learns to swim and also learns some facts about seahorses - did you know that the male gives birth to the baby seahorses? We do now! I found the family life details endearing and very similar to the way things are in our house. Elena said she liked it because everyone was nice to each other in this book. No particularly hard words so new readers can enjoy it although there is quite a lot of text so avoid if your child is still daunted by too many words on a page. Gillian with Elena (6)

£3.99 ISBN 1-4063-0304-9 Walker Books

Under the Spell of the Moon

Art for children from the world's great illustrators.

Foreword by Katherine Paterson

This book contains work from artists who were asked to choose a text and illustrate it. It is a nicely laid out book with lots of lovely pictures from a wide variety of illustrators. However, the translations let the book down because in making the poems rhyme the original meaning has in some cases been changed and sometimes the poems do not make sense at all. The range of pictures is fascinating with artwork from all corners of the world. There is a section at the end of the book with information about the artists.

Clare Crane and Natasha (11)

£12.99 ISBN 1-84507-527-7 Frances Lincoln

The Children who Smelled a Rat

by Allan Ahlberg

Aidan says: "This book is about a dad who has to chase his runaway baby, a mum who drives a taxi, and two children called Gus and Gloria who have to solve a mystery about their teacher. There is a bird who hypnotises a cat and I liked them very much. The book is quite good but I didn't understand some of it." We have always been great fans of Allan Ahlberg, but I have to say that this one rather puzzled me. It is quite disjointed and surreal, which could have been part of its attraction, but it was even quite scary at one point, with the gravedigging mad triplet.....! It would probably be most fun for 7 - 9 year olds reading it on their own, who would enjoy the cartoons and jokes.

Meraylah with Aidan (5)

£5.99 ISBN 1-4063-0134-5 Walker

The Face of Home-based Education 2: Numbers, support, and special needs

by Mike Fortune-Wood

This is the second part of research into home educating. It is full of facts and figures, which those

new to home educating or contemplating home education may find useful. The book estimates the number of home-educated children and projects future numbers - there may be an awful lot more of us in the future! It also researches the agencies home educating families have found useful for advice and assistance, which may give others a place to start. The section on university entrance is reassuring and interesting. The special needs section contained lots of information and was well worth a read. The research was thought provoking and adds to the body of information available on home education.

Debbie

£12 ISBN 1-900219-32-6 Educational Heretics

Baj and the word launcher by Pamela Victor

It was a lovely easy read story that I read without my son which gave me lots of ideas of things to suggest when he was needing support to understand others or express himself. The story is slightly school based but offers several suggestions for any child who has communication difficulties. It is easy to remember as a homeschooling mother writes it as a children's story.

Sally P

£9.99 ISBN 1-84310-830-5 Jessica Kingsley

Yoga for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

A step-by-step guide for parents and care givers

Dion E. Betts and Stacey W. Betts

Children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder, although not alone in this, are particularly prone to anxiety, stress and sometimes poor muscle tone and coordination. Yoga can be a very helpful and portable tool to help alleviate some of the side effects of living in an essentially alien world. Why Yoga? How can it be useful to my child? Importantly for some, how can I motivate my offspring to want to do this? This book gives some answers to these questions and provides a very accessible, graded program of different 'positions' and breathing techniques to help achieve inner peace and tranquillity. Eventually. One step at a time, no matter how small it seems. Really good, useful resource, if you have the patience and determination to keep going!

Laura

£12.99 ISBN 1-8431-0817-8 Jessica Kingsley

Homespun Remedies; strategies in the Home and Community for Children with Autism Spectrum and Other Disorders

by Dion E Betts & Nancy J Patrick

The book covers Home Life, Hygiene, Community, Medical, Schools and Organisations, and Tools for Adapting the Environment for Success. Within each chapter the same format is followed: an overview is

given of the problems faced by the families of people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. Then a series of typical scenarios is presented, raising problems, issues or successes. Each of these is summarised and commented on. The authors have backgrounds in teaching and psychology, and both have family experience of children with disabilities. The book has an easy-to-read style, and can either be read straight through or dipped into for advice. It gives a good impression of the variety of difficulties families with ASD have to cope with, and how to overcome or cope with them. Bear in mind that the context is American, and some situations may need 'translating' or adapting, but it could be a useful buy for families or supportive friends of people with ASD, as well as teachers and other professionals.

Margaret

£12.99 ISBN 1843108135 Jessica Kingsley

Gifted Children; A Guide for Parents and Professionals Edited by Kate Distin

I found this book very comforting to read and realise that my son's abilities do have drawbacks which are normal for a child in this situation. An excellent book written in an easy to read lively text explaining the gifted mind and the social and emotional needs of gifted children and their families. It is written by counsellors who are also parents who give very down to earth examples that relate to normal day to day living.

Sally P

£14.99 ISBN 1-84310-439-3 Jessica Kingsley

An Introduction to Dyslexia for Parents and Professionals by Alan M. Hultquist

I didn't find this book very relevant to home education as most of the problems occur in the classroom. It talks about means of testing, remediation and the matter of 'staying back' to repeat a school year. If you are looking for classroom management this book might help you.

Sally P

ISBN 1-84310-833-X Jessica Kingsley

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.

If you are buying any books or software from Amazon, Education Otherwise receives a small percentage for everything purchased using the link from the EO website. The link can be found at the top of the publications pages. Dorling Kindersley www.dk.com offer a 20% discount to home educators. Follow the online instructions to register and contact bdcustomerservice@penguin.co.uk if you need any help.

Any EO member can review books for these pages. If you would like to be part of the review team please email or telephone Sally for more information.

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www.tellbooks.com

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www.usborne.com

Walker Books 01256 302692

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 Please check your details in case there has been a technical mistake or human error. Thanks. Jo

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 in Bedford and other areas of the County contact June on 01234 341375 or email: info@Bedford-Home-Education.org.uk Website: www.Bedford-Home-Education.org.uk The Luton Home Education Group established 2004 - We are a small but expanding group. For a copy of the latest newsletter contact Fran on 01582 515458 email: frantificran100@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. Bernie 01582 866207 or email: southbeds.homeed@ntlworld.com

BERKSHIRE

email list for home educators in Berkshire and surrounding counties. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BerkshireHomeEducators> Varied activities and HE events for all ages most days 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

email: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.

Penzance PZ HOME ED Monday afternoons, weekly lively and interesting workshops at SureStart centre, £3/2.50 per family. Also at other times; football, swimming sessions and spanish tuition.

Contact Ruth Boulton 01736 350887 or tboulton@phonecoop.coop

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

ART CLASS - Ages 10 and over, 4th Thursday of month 12pm-2pm, with professional art teacher. Term time only.. Contact Sian 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

EO Devon Newsletter for details contact Kate: email katefernhill@aol.com or phone 01392 851370

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

East and Mid Devon Local Contact Kate 01392 851370

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

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. 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

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

Poole & Bournemouth area, For fortnightly meetings with lots of space and lots of activities - contact Rachel or Donna, email: shec4u@yahoo.co.uk

DURHAM

Durham based weekly meeting call 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

Westcliff/Southend FREYA - fortnightly informal

meetings on Fridays throughout Summer, 1-4pm. Please

contact Shirley on 01702 308698, freya-day@fsmail.net

or <http://freya-day.blogspot.com>

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@ieee.org

Beverly 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, ACTIVE0, 5 events a week within 20 miles,

all welcome. 01428 712394 website: www.active0.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. Open to all home educators

in North Hants and surrounding areas. Regular meetings

from Sept 2006 in Oakley. Plus ice skating (including ice

tots), swimming and other activities.

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NHEO/>

Contact Carol 01264 357650 eo@azakit.com

Farnham/Aldershot area, friendly group for under 10s;

fortnightly meetings and occasional outings. Contact

Paula: 01252 316497 paula.oakley@talk21.com or
Emma: 01483 426277 emmajevons@supanet.com
Romsey/New Forest area, fortnightly - details email
Anne on anniemax1@yahoo.co.uk

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
5 regular meeting venues across Leicestershire.
Also meetings for swimming, skating, walks, playing,
hanging out and much more. To find out what's going on

in Leicestershire please contact Alex Caldwell 0116
2720209 or email Alex: alex.caldwell@tiscali.co.uk

LINCOLNSHIRE
Activelincs Home Education Group
Generally suitable for home educated children 12 plus,
can offer information on resources for older children. Call
Helena 01724 720595

Bluebells - Central Lincoln activities, crafts, play, walks
etc. Regular meetings, contact Ruth 01522 804583
Variety of informal events and get-togethers. Contact
Christine 01507 338070, christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk
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
Dulwich, Wednesdays. Mornings: Science, Magic Maths
and guest speakers (various topics chosen by the kids)
for ages 7 - teen. Low cost. Afternoons: socialising and
playing in the 3 adjoining fields. Families stay all day or
just am or pm. Tel 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

Kidbrooke rollerblading Contact: Fiona 020 8852 9756
bettlelake@clara.net

Lewisham Thursdays 11-1 then to park afterwards
Joolz: 0208 2895026 teachyourown@hotmail.com
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 up to 12, but older kids welcome. Range of
activities, socialising and fun. 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/ dryer 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 Manchester + District events and support email list from Lesley: lesley.blackshaw@ntlworld.com

MERSEYSIDE

www.homeeducationnetworkuk.co.uk

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 07760 203728
Yoga Bugs 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

Thetford, 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

Newport nr Telford, meetings every Friday from 12.30pm for all ages. Contact Julieann 01952 401571 or weshalllook@aol.com

SOMERSET

Frome And Beyond (FAB) home educators' support group. Social gatherings, group activities, outings and newsletter. Contact Sally 01749 674842 or Jennifer 01373 813830

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

Wild Meadows ... A Group of 3- 14 year olds meet regularly with a bunch of 26 to 40+ year olds in Ringsfield, Suffolk. We meet to skill share and learn from our kids in a chaotic, eco fiendly and creative way! For more info contact Mell Harrison on 0845 337 0282

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 area, friendly group for under 10s; fortnightly meetings and occasional outings. Contact Paula: 01252 316497 paula.oakley@talk21.com or 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: Avi 01424 814175, Rachel 01424 422178 or Emily 01424 719570

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

and Woodland visits - Deborah 01434 674713

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
Coseley, West Midlands, we meet monthly, 1st Monday every month at Coseley Womens Resource Centre, 11.30am-3.00pm

WILTSHIRE

contact: Beccy 01985 840174

Wiltshire - Chippenham and surrounding area:

'Out and About Learning Centre' **Tuesdays**, term time 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@eldekvisit.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: gail@tqmi.co.uk

YORKSHIRE EAST

Regular meetings and visits. Alison 01405 769902
Bridlington, regular meeting every Thursday morning except first in month. Ring Jacqui 01262 679769 or Alison 01377 240324.

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, meeting weekly on MONDAYS in a hall or around the region for outings. contact Tess on 01947 825772 or email: 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 Weekly meetings and activities including ice skating, ten-pin bowling, racquet sports, art, music, theatre trips and language workshops. For a monthly schedule of activities, please contact Sarah on (01484) 361206 or e-mail sl.marshall@ntlworld.com

Leeds Ten-pin bowling and weekly meeting. For more information, please contact Emma on (0113) 217 2795 or e-mail emma.birkenshaw@gmail.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 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

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

Mid Glamorgan - Rhondda Cynon Taff

meetings on a Friday, contact Lisa 01443 772278

PEMBROKESHIRE

EO swim & sauna: Haverfordwest pool, Dew St. 3pm, 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
Llanddeusant monthly meeting. Contact Laura 01545 580528

GWYNEDD

Bangor and area home ed network, meetings for craft spanish climbing chemistry music outings and other, social activities also Montessori sessions. Local contact: Heather 01248 352336

Tregarth Creative Learning and Support group meet every Wednesday at Tregarth for craft, social and other activities. Free weekly newsletter of events. Phone Julie (Gwynedd) 01286 678181 or e-mail jdchapmanmaurice@aol.com 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, WestCheshire/NE Wales. local newsletter of events please send your details and £2 payment to: HENWOS, Berlan Gron, Llanycil, 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@gmail.com tel 0113 2172795

Emma will add you to our volunteer database and contact you with information when help is needed.

Small Groups:

Strategic Planning Group: Phil Hicks, Martin Wise, Emma Birkenshaw, Laurie Charlton, Sarah Cook, Fizz El-Sawah, Gail Borrows, Jill Fisher, Lynda Hitchman, Jacqui Houlding, Joss Nowell, Julie Ridley, Leslie Safran Barson

Steering: Sarah Cook, Phil Hicks, Martine Frampton, Jane Bathgate, Martin Wise,

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

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

Publications: June Wilson-Billing, Gail Borrows, Beth Ley-Greaves, Jacqui Houlding, Lynda Hitchman

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

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

Scotland Group: Ann Samuel Till, Fiona Chaff, Rebecca Kail, Jill Fisher, Jane Bathgate

Child Protection: Anne Wade, Janet Simpson, Jane Bathgate, Pam Bellinger, Jenny Stevens

Grievances and Complaints:

Pauline Butterworth 6 White House Croft, Long Newton, Stockton on Tees, TS21 1PJ 01642 570786 Pollyb47@aol.com

Lynda Hitchman, 22 Lewis Drive, St Germans, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3FB 01553 617551 database@education-otherwise.org

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: (VACANT) *Volunteers please!*

Wales (S): Celia McDonagh, Cardiff,
07763 729055 celiamecdonagh@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

South West: (Acting) Kay & Simon Smith,
Cornwall 01726 842057
smithsontour@myway.com

South East: (Acting): Ann Newstead, Kent
01689 826504 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.co

EO Email Lists & Forums

EO runs four email lists with Yahoo Groups. One is for **general** discussion and would normally be the first port of call for someone seeking advice and peer support. The second is for **Single Parents** for them to share the unique problems they have. Third is for home educators living in **Scotland**. Finally, the Children's List for the **children** of members only. All four lists may be joined via the EO Home Page at www.education-otherwise.org

There is also a **Members Area** on the website with several discussion forums. To join the Member's Forum, send an email to forums@education-otherwise.org giving your preferred User Name which should be between four and fifteen characters, your Full (real) Name, the email address you wish to have associated with the forum and either your EO Membership Number or your full postal address. 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
Emma Birkenshaw (Yorks. West) 0113 2172795
emma.birkenshaw@gmail.com

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

Pauline Butterworth (Cleveland) 01642 570786
pollyb47@aol.com (LC Co-Ordinator)

Laurie Charlton (Leics) 0116 2591051
lauriecharlton@hotmail.com (M: 07837 061126)

Sarah Cook (Cumbria) 01768 896019
sarah@croggies.freeseve.co.uk (Chair)

Fizz El-Sawah (London Middx) 01895 422138
fizztryingtohomeed@hotmail.com

Martine Frampton (Gloucs) 01608 812411
martine-frampton@macunlimited.net (Treasurer)

Phil Hicks (London Central) 0207 2294385
phil@hickslondon.com (General Sec.)

Celia McDonagh (Wales) 07763 729055
celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk

Anne Rix (Devon) 01237 451535
anne@annerix.demon.co.uk (Enquiries Sec.)

Janet Simpson (Lincs) 01427 617313
HE@hubblesimpson.co.uk

June Wilson-Billing (Dorset) 01202 827945
educationotherwise@mac.com (Publications Sec.)

Martin Wise (Cumbria) 01539 732918
martakes@dsl.pipex.com (Vice-Chair)

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 or 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 7PN 01202 827945
educationotherwise@mac.com

(EO website shows items currently in stock, or phone to check before ordering)

Website & Email Lists Jacqui Houlding
01925 654856 jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk

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: (Acting) Cal Bailes

23 Belsay Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE45NX

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.freeseve.co.uk

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

College Contact: Vacant – *volunteer please!*

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 sue_white@lineone.net

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

Newsletter Coordinator: (Acting) Beth Ley-Greaves, Kensington Cottage, Gravel Pit Rd. Wootton Bridge, IoW, PO33 4RB 01983 248860 beth_lg@hotmail.com

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

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

Publications Secretary: June Wilson-Billing (see Publications, foot of left column)

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

Enquiries Secretary: Anne Rix, Hembury Orchard, Frithestock, Torrington, EX38 8JT 01237 451535
anne@annerix.demon.co.uk

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@phoncoop.coop

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

Chairperson: Sarah Cook, The Old Cottage, Croglin, Carlisle CA4 9RZ 01768 896019
sarah@croggies.freeseve.co.uk

Vice-Chair: Martin Wise, Mill Beck, Linnet Grove, Kendal, LA9 7RP 01539 732 918 martakes@dsl.pipex.com

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:

**PO Box 325
KINGS LYNN PE34 3XW**

Helpline 0870 73 000 74

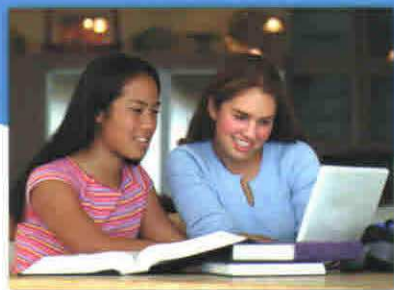
Web Site: <http://www.education-otherwise.org>

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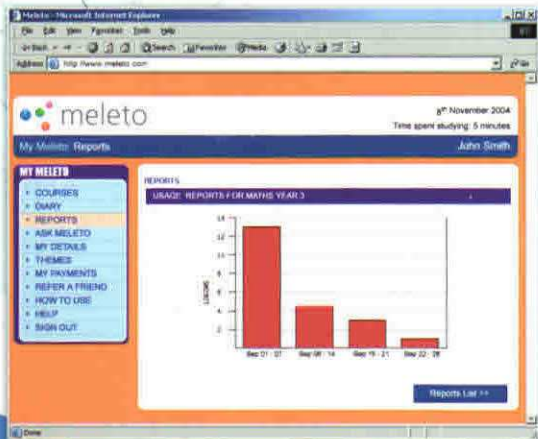
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LESSON

- STUDY SESSION 1
- STUDY SESSION 2
- Real Life: Pets
- Theory
- Example
- Practice
- STUDY SESSION 3
- STUDY SESSION 4
- LESSON REVIEW

REAL LIFE: PETS

Both Tom and Jerry have 4 goldfish each. How many goldfish do they have altogether?

LESSON AIM

11 Multiply two numbers

REMEMBER:

- Times (or multiplication) means adding a number over and over again. For example 3×5 means adding the number 3, five times: $3 + 3 + 3 = 3 + 3$
- Any number times 0 is always 0. So $2 \times 0 = 0$, $3 \times 0 = 0$, $4 \times 0 = 0$, $5 \times 0 = 0$ and so on.

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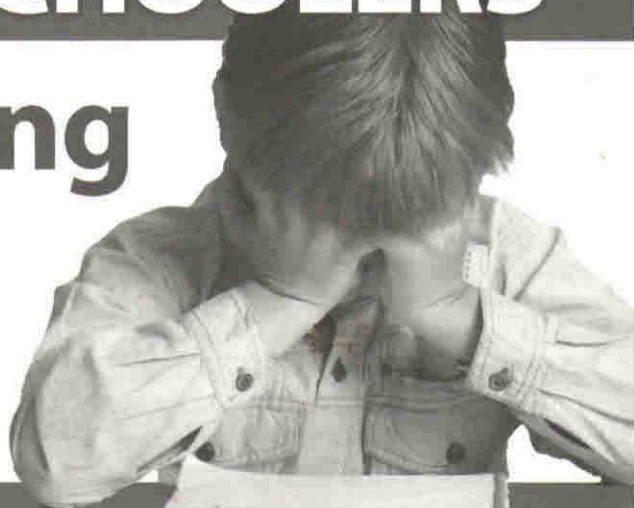
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