

education otherwise



CAT (Christine, 4)

Newsletter Spring 2016

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Please mark material '**for publication**' and include your name, address, phone number and email, 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 a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If no acknowledgement is received, or in case of queries, please contact the Publications Secretary (see inside back page). *Please also ensure your EO membership is up to date before submission.*

Deadline for the Summer issue is 10th May 2016

Please send contributions via Section Editors or Newsletter Co-ordinator:

Anne Rix (Acting) eonl@educationotherwise.org

[Postal contributions to: EONL Co-ord, PO Box 63, Swaffham, PE37 9AT]

~~~~~ *N.B. postal system may be subject to forwarding delays* ~~~~~

### Section Editors

**REVIEWS: Kerri** – bookreviews@educationotherwise.org

Or EO Reviews, PO Box 63, PE37 9AT

*Got an idea for a section you'd like to edit? Contact Publications Secretary (inside back page)*

Or eonl@educationotherwise.org

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### Co-ordinatorial/message from EO Chair

C'm on folks – surely there's someone out there who'd be willing to take on the job of NL Co-ordinator? I feel as though I've been doing it for ever! I did a single one in the late '90s (that's the last Century!!!!) and then took it on as a regular voluntary job in 2002/3 ... I've done it on and off ever since. Volunteers come and go, but it keeps landing back in my lap. And because I want to keep supporting EO even though my children are in their 30s and I have grandchildren, I pick it up whenever anyone else drops it. But really, you can't expect us 'EOldies' to keep running the show forever. So please, give some thought to taking on some of the routine, boring, administrative work that is needed to keep EO afloat ...

#### **STOP PRESS - Help please!**

*Due to recent retirements, we are now below the minimum of 8 trustees required under EO's Governing Documents, and must recruit at least one additional trustee. We could really do with a few new trustees who are prepared to knuckle down and help keep the EO infrastructure running. We are particularly short of skills in IT infrastructure, database, etc. but there are other boring administrative jobs that need active*

*people to pick up the work - you need experience of HE/EO, time available, and the ability to make a molehill out of a mountain! For more information please just drop an email to: trustees@educationotherwise.org or any individual trustee.*

*Anne, April 2016*

### **Reader Contributions**

How lovely to have the contributions from children recently – more please!

Thanks again to our regular contributors – and to those who surprise us with something new ...

Do you write a blog or post on email/FB groups? Please consider also sending your thoughts to the newsletter, to share in a more permanent form and provide inspiration for others. Short or long(ish!) letters, articles, ideas for activities, how home education works for you – anything HE-related is interesting for other families.

Send to: [eonl@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eonl@educationotherwise.org)

Or: PO Box 63, Swaffham, PE37 9AT

## EO VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

### **Local Contacts and Helpline Volunteers**

Always needed! If you've had support from EO in the past and want to give something back; or you now have enough experience of home education to share with others and want to experience the 'glow' you can get from supporting new home educators, please get in touch to find out more. Contact: [e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org)

### **Revising Website Pages**

Do you have expertise in a particular section? Notice anything out of date (there's probably lots!)? Do tell us – but please, if possible, offer also to revise and update the section or article. Contact: [publications@educationotherwise.org](mailto:publications@educationotherwise.org) (That's me, too! I retire in October ... Anne)

### **Newsletter Co-ordinator**

You've read it all before – just ask for details from [arix@educationotherwise.org](mailto:arix@educationotherwise.org)

**TRUSTEES NEEDED – SEE LEFT/ABOVE**

### Educating on the kitchen floor

Learning at home means doing things differently. Some fun methods of learning are easier to do in a comfortable setting, with fewer people.

Now my kitchen floor is not particularly comfortable, but it is covered in hard wearing tiles, which are not too big. We found it excellent for a sort of makeshift air hockey game using jam jars and bottle lids. At times, my kitchen has also become an aerial map of an airport with the aid of some masking tape. Although unusual as a form of blackboard, it totally works and is a lot of fun.

We have mostly used it for maths; drawing out square numbers and hundred squares. Times tables have been stepped out, walked out or jumped out, depending on how high the number is. We also had great fun learning about area and perimeter with some masking tape and chalk. Graphs and co-ordinates work well too. It might be unconventional, but it's fun and it works. Cubic roots would have been a lot harder without it.

*Ruti, Leicestershire*

### HE Around the World - Denmark

Home schooling in Denmark is not only legal, but a guaranteed right of parents anchored in the Danish Institution (§76 of Chapter VIII). However, that law is also somewhat unspecific, simply stating parents have a choice to educate their kids at home (apart from at state and private schools).

It is a small country, though, and estimates of actual numbers range low, from 250 families (HSDLA) to 1 % of all students (Wikipedia). Maybe this is because Danes pay higher taxes, so everything related to education is free and even supported by grants – and if you choose to home educate, not only do you pay high taxes like everyone else, but on top of that your own expenses for home ed. Another reason there are so few people home educating could be that usually both parents work to maintain a high standard of living, and stay-at-home mums may not be so highly regarded (and quite rare).

Permission to home educate has to be applied for in written form before the education is about to begin (registration with local commune and education department), but is usually granted. It is helpful, but not required, if the parents who are planning to teach can prove they have a certain level of education (not necessarily a teaching degree, but university education) and are able to give valid reasons for their choice. SEN kids can also be taught at home, and there is even a support and assistance scheme in place to provide for their needs.

Depending on the local council, there may be an annual exam in certain subjects like Danish, maths, English, social sciences, history, natural sciences. If the exam should prove that an education is not sufficient, a re-test is offered after 3 months.

Overall, nothing exciting seems to be happening in the Nordic country, but luckily there are also no plans to change the peaceful status quo.

*Corrinna Spellerberg*

Links:

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeschooling\\_international\\_status\\_and\\_statistics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeschooling_international_status_and_statistics)
- HSDLA, a (Christian, sometimes controversially viewed) home ed law support organisation: <http://www.hslsda.org/hs/international/Denmark/default.asp>
- <http://hjemmeundervisning.dk/> (Danish, use Google translate; does not seem to be regularly updated, latest news from 2014)
- <http://hjemmeundervisning.dk/> (Danish, use Google translate; you need to sign up; forums)
- <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=125969#K8>: law on home education (not much regulation here, but that can be a good thing ...)



## Time to go foraging!

It's that wonderful time of year when the garden is waking up – and the wild food is making an appearance.

We are lucky to have a big garden and keep a lot of it wild; we have an abundance of wildlife to go with it.

### Nettles

← [*Urtica dioica*] are now available for making soup, and I have put them in quiche, rice and pasta dishes, as well as cups of tea.



### Wild garlic/Ransoms #

[*Allium ursinum*] →

The fresh young leaves can be eaten raw or cooked.

Last year I dried some leaves for use over the winter.

### Dandelions

← [*Taraxacum officinale*]

The leaves we use raw in salads and to make tea.



### Primroses\*

[*Primula vulgaris*] →

we use the flowers to decorate cakes we have made – they look really pretty on the icing.



Enjoy! Carol & Amber, Dyfed

\* N.B. Only from your own garden!

*To prevent excessive damage to the species, picking of primroses or digging up primrose plants from the wild is illegal in UK (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Section 13, part 1b).*

# But don't confuse it with Meadow Saffron (*Colchicum autumnale*) which is poisonous.

Photos (C) Diane Earl, from <http://gallery.nen.gov.uk/gallery0-.html>

## Musings of a Permanently Frazzled Mum: New Beginnings

Happy New Year to you all! Actually, since Easter was several weeks ago, my greetings are probably a little out-of-date. So, how did you all enjoy Christmas? Here in the Permanently Frazzled home, we had a wonderful time once our relatives had gone home (there's only so much criticism I can take about how I use the oven I've used perfectly well for the last 6 years, before my festive smile starts to crack) so 28th December onwards was just as a Christmas holiday should be: plenty of home-baked goodies, cold afternoons spent snuggled up playing board games, and munching on sweets in front of Christmassy films. So many people gave us biscuits, cakes and sweets that we still have some left now, in April! And my Easter eating was a lot more restrained than usual as well: hubby and I shared just one egg, one that was free-from everything possible, but this year, I occupied my hands by decopatching lots of wooden Easter shapes to post to relatives, rather than by reaching for calorific 'treats'. Usually, I devour all things sugar and spice relentlessly until the cupboards are bare, but a strange thing has happened this year...

Everyone knows how Lent is all about giving things up – chocolate, alcohol, crisps, whatever – well, this Lent I seem to have unknowingly developed a couple of new addictions. The first one started back in January, when I decided that this was the year I needed to lose weight and get fit (after all, I've had countless people tell me, kindly, how it becomes harder to lose the weight, and easier to put it on, after the age of 40) so I treated myself to some new dancing games for the Wii that I reckoned myself and the kids could jiggle around to until it's warm enough to get outside. Whilst scouring the virtual shelves of eBay, I came across another Wii game called 'Fitness Coach' that needed no particular equipment and no particular prior fitness level.

Having not done any exercise since leaving school, and having talked my way out of as many PE lessons as possible, this was new territory for me. I figured that the game was cheap enough for me not to feel too wasteful if it ended up joining the Pilates and Yoga Wii games sitting on a shelf collecting dust, and pressing 'purchase' gave me an immense feeling of satisfaction that this was the year I was going to take exercise seriously.



I started off fairly half-heartedly, with just a couple of 15 or 30 minute sessions a week, but I found that I had noticeably more energy on the days I exercised, so I managed to talk myself into 3 sessions a week. When I started losing weight (and inches yippee!) that was it, I was hooked, and now show up for sessions with my personal trainer, Maya, at least 5 days out of 7! I've even treated myself to some proper sportswear so that I look the part (ok, well, look like a chubby version of a sportswoman), and have thrown myself energetically into the family sports sessions that I had previously avoided by standing at the side, chatting, much to my friends' amazement, and the kids' amusement. I'm constantly apologising to whichever kids I end up being on a team with (sorry, you seem to be landed with me, but whatever skill I lack, I'll make up for in competitive spirit) and bless them, they really are an understanding bunch and don't seem to mind having to keep explaining the rules to me.

Remember at school, when there was a kid who was always last to be picked for the sports teams, who would stand and stare at the ground standing waiting for their self-esteem to be further destroyed by the rejection, someone whom no-one really wanted because they were a liability on the pitch rather than an asset, a kid who was only ever included because a teacher was around and the teams had to have equal numbers? Well, I was that kid (schools can be cruel places, can't they!) and I reckon that it's my childhood experiences with sport that have largely put me off exercising since, so I'm as surprised as anybody how much I'm loving being more active now.

My gang are taking it in turns coming to help me with my fitness sessions, moving the step and mat into the right positions, and passing me my little dumb-bells and water bottle when needed. It's also managing to be educational for them as they're frequently asking what that movement does, or which bit that will help tone up. Mind you, it's been educational for me too: Maya likes to give encouragement throughout the workout, and will often say 'Focus on your obliques – feel them strengthening as you repeat the exercise' or some other body part – and after me shouting at the screen several times early on that 'I would think about my obliques if only I knew where they were', I figured it was probably something I could do with knowing.

The gang are enjoying sharing my excitement when I do a fitness test every 10 workouts and we all crowd round the screen to see the bar-charts Maya has created to show my progress: strength and flexibility getting bigger, weight and cardio getting smaller! For anyone who knows me, it's obvious that I've still got a long way to go, but I'm moving in the right direction, and on the days when I don't manage to squeeze in a workout, I'm strangely more irritable than normal, so I guess I've got to keep on going, even for the sake of my long-suffering family. What used to chip away at my already fragile self-esteem, now seems to be having the wonderfully-opposite, positive effect of actually boosting my self-confidence, and improving my fitness to boot. I don't think I'm doing too badly for an asthmatic, exercise-allergic, ALMOST middle aged, weight-retentive mother anyway.

My second addiction... well, forget FaceBook, forget Pinterest, 'Rightmove' is the place to spend your time! I never would have guessed that poring over the pictures and layout of someone else's home could be so absorbing. I'm not simply giving into my incredible, innate nosiness, but doing research for a possible house move.

We've recently had our home valued for changing the mortgage, and were delighted to find that after many turbulent years for the housing market, we are finally out of negative equity. A very poorly relative died shortly before Christmas as well, and kindly remembered us in her will, so coupled with the bit of equity we now have, moving house is finally a possibility for us. I've always been adamant that this is our forever home, even with all its imperfections and costly jobs that old houses often need doing, but I have started having the very unfamiliar feeling that there may come a day when it's time to move on. We're also wondering whether it might be useful for us to be on a bus route, for in a couple of years' time when the boys may finally be trustworthy enough to get on a bus and go somewhere without me. As they get older and the boys possibly go off to college, while the girls are still home-edding, life could become a logistical nightmare, so it's something we want to consider before we reach that stage.

Initially, we presumed we'd stay in our local area, but having had a glimpse into the Welsh housing market, we're becoming increasingly tempted by a move from east to west. With my dad in Shropshire, living in Wales would be so much handier for us to see him, especially as he's aging and his health is becoming more problematic. At first, the gang were horrified at the idea of leaving their friends behind, but we've managed to reassure them that Welsh leisure centres will do swimming lessons, that Wales will have drama teachers, that I can even set up Eureka! 2nd if necessary, and I've promised them I'll find out where all the home-edders are so that we can be sure of having a community to join. Fortunately, they've warmed to the idea, and are now spending extortionate amounts of time peering over my shoulder, joining in with a chorus of 'Oooo, I like that garden' or 'Wow, us boys could sleep up in the attic rooms' – they're pretty easily pleased!

As part of our research we'll be heading to Wales for our annual August camping holiday, probably basing ourselves in mid Wales, so that we can easily flit between the north and the south for our



investigation. So, we may well meet some of you then if we can find any home-eddy events happening during the summer. We're easy to spot: 4 energetic, noisy ragamuffins with enormous quantities of blond hair; hubby limping along as if he's about twice his age if he's having a rheumatoid arthritis flare-up; and a permanently frazzled mummy, with lots of frizzy, greying hair, and well, a rather permanently-frazzled expression....

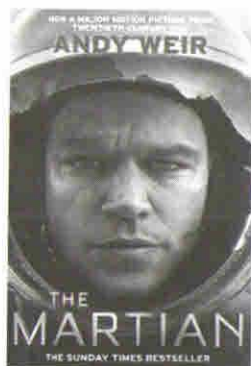
Must run, got an appointment to keep with a young lady called Maya!

*(name and address supplied) [images from openclipart.org]*

## Book & Resource Reviews & EO Amazon Store

This issue we have some great reviews for you – a top selling book, a parenting book, a cultural experience and a fantastic toy. We love getting reviews from our readers so if you and your family have enjoyed a book or toy please considering writing a review.

Please send your reviews to [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org)



**The Martian**, by Andy Weir, Price: £7.99 paperback

*Reviewed by Beth*

I was pleasantly surprised with this one. It was not only really good & really well written but also really, really funny.

**The plot** is full of suspense. But also quite personal. I find suspenseful books can be quite focused on the plot, and the characters can be unlikeable.

**The characters** (well, mainly Mark) were so well built that I felt I was reading an autobiography.

**The writing** is outstanding. Personal, yet informational. And also really hilarious.

**Something I liked...**has to be the humour! I didn't know a book like this could include puns like that. I laughed out loud at points. Not a good one to read in public!

**Something I disliked...**at the start, was the confusing science. It's needed, but I found it hard to read. Especially with distractions, such as background noise.

My rating is... ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ...5 out of 5 moons. I can't wait for the movie to come out on DVD so I can watch it! I really feel this will be great on the big screen. I'd definitely recommend this one to any reader, especially if you enjoy autobiography-style writing.

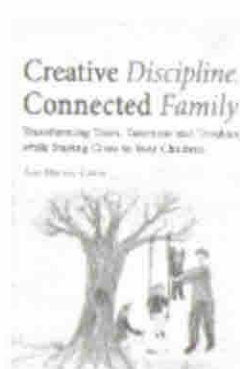
**Creative Discipline, Connected Family** by: Lou Harvey-Zahra

ISBN: 978-178250-213-5 Price: £14.99

*Review by Tammy*

When I had my second child 11 years after I had my first I thought that I had no need of parenting books. My eldest and I had had our ups and downs but I thought that by and large I knew what I was doing. Boy was I wrong! My youngest is the polar opposite of his big brother and my parenting skills seemed woefully inadequate once he became a toddler. I was extremely pleased therefore, when this book arrived for review.

The author, Lou Harvey-Zahra is mother and teacher and runs parenting workshops and has a gentle yet authoritative style. Her definition of an authoritative parent is "one who administers fair, consistent and understandable limits, taking into account the factors behind the behaviour and actively teaching and guiding change. They encourage childhood freedom, while maintaining limits on unsafe actions." This is something thing that I strive to but don't always achieve.



She believes that a foundation consisting of connection with family, rhythm to family life, play and good food is essential to settled and happy interaction in a family. She spends some time talking about each of these four areas before covering her ten creative discipline techniques.

The key to each of these techniques is to stop and ask yourself why they are happening and to try and look at the situation through your child's eyes before responding. It is important to try and look at the motive behind the behaviour and what the child is trying to communicate. Stopping and taking a moment before responding can help ensure that your action helps to resolve the situation.

The 10 techniques are:

1. Start with asking 'why?'
2. Redirect
3. Change the environment
4. Say no in a different way
5. Games and giggles
6. Power of positive reinforcement
7. Giving children a positive role
8. The best role model
9. Clever choices
10. The quiet removal and quiet word

The final part of the book deals with a host everyday challenges we face as parents, such as nappy changing, hitting and biting, whining, traveling with children and dealing with anger. Each topic is dealt with thoroughly and in an easy to understand manner using the above techniques.

All in all I found this an excellent book that has helped me to be a more mindful parent to both of my sons. The book is mainly aimed at helping younger children but works equally well with teens. I really recommend this book and will be dipping back into it on a regular basis.

**A Suitable Boy** by: Vikram Seth ISBN: 978-1780227894 Price: £10.99

Review by Karen



We recently finished re-reading the stunning "A Suitable Boy". As on the last reading, Seth's humorous, talented, touching and vivid evocations of situations and characters have stayed with me weeks and months later, and I find myself periodically slipping back in my mind's eye to India in the 1950s and missing it all.

Reading "A Suitable Boy" as a family chapter book involved some judicious editing in places (our girls are 14 and 11) but it was none the worse for that and I found nothing in it gratuitous.

I really love this book: Vikram Seth has such skill in eliciting empathy and helping you feel really part of that family and society. Throughout it elicited passionate discussion of character, situation, politics, motives, choices and morality.

This is the second time my husband has read this to me. The first time was when our eldest daughter was a baby. It was very interesting. Both girls were fairly outraged at the ending, and on first reading I had felt much the same. On this second reading I felt deeply that the ending Seth had chosen was exactly right and the very happiest outcome: right and on so many levels.

*[The story is based on the search for a marriage partner]*

**N.B. Books reviewed in the EO newsletter are available from the 'EO Amazon Store' via tab on EO Website – but maybe not right away!**

#### **KAPLA Blocks**

[from around £25 for 100 blocks (illustrated next page) – but see educational group loan offers]

Review By Kerri

Rushing around the Scottish Learning Festival in Glasgow at the end of September 2015, I was unable to convince my daughter to move from one particular stand that had a large number of rectangular wooden blocks. Keeping a close eye whilst browsing at the adjacent stands, I watched as she followed the

instructions in a book and created a seat that she was able to sit in herself without it collapsing. She then knocked it down and started on another project, completely engrossed in what she was doing and oblivious to my 'we need to go in a minute' call. The lovely man on the stand explained that the blocks were KAPLA blocks and had been invented by his father to create models for engineering projects. The company provides a bag of 1000 with four books to schools for a free two month period. I explained that I home educated my daughter and asked if it would be possible to have a trial set to take to the group that we attended and to other home educating families. Lo and behold, a few weeks later 1000 blocks arrived together with a bag and four books.



Since then I have taken the blocks to friends' houses and the home education group we attend and the children all absolutely love them, spending hours building towers, bridges and some of the more intricate designs. The favourite design at the moment is building a tower as high as possible to try and touch the ceiling and another that surrounds a couple of children in a 1000 block circular tower. Almost as much pleasure is had knocking the blocks down and then starting again. It is amazing to watch all the children working together and the sheer delight on their faces when each design is completed. There have been several 'Please can we keep them?' from children and we have left the blocks on numerous occasions overnight after pleading faces.

In a world that is full of technical gizmos and noise, the KAPLA blocks are truly wonderful for developing co-ordination and teamwork skills and will keep children of all ages engrossed for hours. I would thoroughly recommend them for home education groups. The bag of 1000 has plenty for all to use at the same time and the four books have a vast range of designs at various skill levels for all ages. The blocks themselves are amazingly simple, but well made and very sturdy with no breakages to date. To find out more contact KAPLA at (UK) Freephone 0800 587 0133 or [kapla@kaplaplanks.co.uk](mailto:kapla@kaplaplanks.co.uk) or visit their website at <http://www.kaplaplanks.co.uk/schools/> to see the schools offer that is also available to HE families. KAPLA have said that they are possibly going to have another HE offer in the near future. Have fun!

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*If you have a book or other resource that has inspired you and your children, why not drop a line to the reviews section of this newsletter, and share your discovery with other EO members?*

**\*\*\*\* NEW REVIEWS/AMAZON CO-ORDINATOR \*\*\*\***

Many thanks to Tammy who has looked after the EO Amazon Store and Book Reviews for some years, and is now retiring. Welcome to our new Reviews/Amazon co-ordinator, Kerri, who is taking over from Tammy. The email will be the same as before: [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org)

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**CAREER OPPORTUNITY FOR H.E. YOUNG PEOPLE**

*EONL doesn't normally publish items from outside EO, but this message via EO Enquiries sounded so interesting that we thought we should pass it on ...*

At the moment Kingswood is actively recruiting for the Activity Leader [PAID] Apprenticeship programme from across the UK.

Our Apprentice Activity Leader programme is the perfect starting point for you if you're considering a career in the outdoor, leisure or education industries. Not only will you gain invaluable experience that will equip you for your future career but you will also achieve an Apprenticeship in Activity Leadership including externally recognised qualifications, in house training and an NVQ Level 2 in Activity Leadership.

No experience is necessary, just a passion for wanting to work with young people and inspire them to learn in the outdoors. You'll need plenty of energy, commitment and enthusiasm as well as the ability to confidently communicate with all our guests including the young people and their adult party leaders.

### ***And We Pay for It!***

We sponsor you to achieve these qualifications and you will also be paid a monthly apprentice training salary and be provided with subsidised accommodation and an optional food scheme. All we ask for in return is that you can commit to one year and work hard to give all our young visitors the best time of their lives. For more information and to apply please use the link below.

<http://www.kingswoodjobs.co.uk/centre-jobs/activity-leader/>

## **EO SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) News**

*New to Home Education (or considering it) due to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.*

Even before the changes to the SEND code of practice, home educating because of special educational needs and disabilities could be far from straight forward. In future newsletters, for those who are very new to home education, we will be looking at the complexities involved with starting to home educate where Special Needs are involved, starting with deregistering:

### **Deregistering**

Deregistering can sometimes be the hardest thing to do, no matter how bad things have got. There can be excuses made up about why you cannot deregister, hoping that you do not know the law; Home education may not even be a thought, or may not even be known about; but it can be just what is needed to stop whatever is not working out for the child, establish that pause in time for child and parent/s to let the dust settle and then have time to wipe the slate clean, before moving on.

If the child is not deregistered from the school, then you will not be home educating in the way that you can, as laid out in section 7 of the education act of 1996 England and Wales. A letter needs to be sent to the Headmaster or the proprietor of the school, asking for the child's name to be deleted from the register in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulation 8 (1) (d) 2006 as the child is now receiving 'education otherwise than at school' (see an example in the link below). Special Needs Schools are more complex, since LA permission is required for deregistration (see link).

Once the deregistering has been completed, the pressure may carry on for a while for yourself and/or the child to meet or attend appointments involving the Local Authority. Whilst the parent may decide to comply, there is no obligation for the child to go along to anything arranged by the LA or to be interviewed by the LA. We will look further into this in the future EO newsletters.

### **Recent SEND in the news**

In the news recently was the article 'Suddenly I'm teaching my child A-levels in the kitchen', which may give some insight into how the transition is going from the statements to Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) but it also highlighted some of the difficulties which can arise from conventional schooling for those who may need that extra support:

Thea's story mentions that she was 'mocked' for making mistakes due to a hearing difficulty. Those moments gradually started to take away her self-belief. Due to being deaf and having been very ill, her learning came to an abrupt stop and she had difficulty in finding a way of catching up.

Some of the school equipment (whiteboards, etc.) interfered with Thea's hearing devices. There would also be times when her hearing aid would just stop working, which could cause Thea to be unable to hear or communicate with anyone all of the day at school. The school wanted to help but were just unable to, even though 'all' staff had been trained in regards to Thea's hearing problem.

When Thea reached the time of doing 'A' levels, her health had suffered so much that she was unable to attend the school, but she tried to carry on by doing homework supplied from the school. Then the school decided that her health was too bad for Thea to carry on doing the work any longer, bringing an end to the qualification. This was the point that Thea 'begged' to be home schooled.

### Change to EHCP

Although the change over from statements to Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) should be finalized by July 2016 (The Children and families Act 2014), families seem to be suffering from the changes.

Sally Wheatman, who has been on 'Question Time' recently, complained of the difficulties now affecting her son, due to the EHCP. Sally has received so many responses from other families, in similar situations, that she now thinks there could be 'thousands' of children experiencing extra difficulties like her son.

Thea's situation seems to be improving, as a 'tutor company' has been accepted for help, as part of an EHCP. However, according to a survey, Thea's EHCP is an exception to the rule, as eighty percent were declined a 'personal budget'. A survey done by The National Deaf Children's Society indicates that LAs are less likely to help.

### References

SEND code of practice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

Education Act 1996: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/7>

Special Schools Deregistering:

[http://educationotherwise.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=73](http://educationotherwise.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=73)

Deregistration letter example:

[http://www.educationotherwise.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=300&Itemid=260](http://www.educationotherwise.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=300&Itemid=260)

SEND in the news (EHCP):

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/dec/15/alevels-ehcp-special-educational-needs-deaf>

Children and Families Act 2014: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted>

Department for Education SEND (England only) :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send>

National Deaf Children's Society: <http://www.ndcs.org.uk/>

Feel free to contact us if you would like to get involved with EO SEND:

[e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org)



### EDUCATION OTHERWISE PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR LOCAL HE GROUPS

This benefit for Local Home Education Groups run by EO members continues at £10 per year *or part year* from 1<sup>st</sup> September; you can join at any time of year. As it is subsidised from EO funds (which means from the subscriptions EO members pay) there are some terms and conditions – for example, we ask for 3 EO family members from different households to sign up to take responsibility for the group and to keep in contact with us.

Please note that your group must comply with the description agreed with the insurance company, in accordance with the general understanding of a Home Education Group, i.e.:

- *A group of home educating families co-operating to provide mutual support, sharing information and resources, and meeting for social and educational activities and/or outings.*
- *Activities are free (or at small contribution to cover costs) i.e. non profit making.*
- *Parents (or other named adults) attend with their children, who are of mixed ages.*
- *Usually, activities take place at a variety of venues, are organised by different parents and open to all local HE families.*

Further information from the Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator <[lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)>

# EO SIGNED-UP MEMBER (SUM) FORM / GUARANTOR DECLARATION

## EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

### Make Sure You Have a Vote at EO General Meetings

Only Signed-up Members are entitled to vote at EO General Meetings. These include Annual General Meetings (AGMs) where Trustees are elected, and Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) which may take place between AGMs. Even if you are unable to attend a meeting yourself, you can still have a vote by appointing a proxy to vote on your behalf.

*N.B. Please Complete Form in BLOCK CAPITALS and sign both sections*

I (FULL NAME) ..... Membership Number: .....

of Home Address (print in full): .....

.....  
wish to become a guarantor (Signed-up Member) of Education Otherwise Association Limited ('the Association').

I confirm that I am over the age of 18 and a paid-up family member of the Association. In the event of the Association being wound up I agree to contribute up to £10 in payment of any debts and liabilities it may have incurred.

I understand that the details I give on this form will be entered on to the Association's Register of Members and that under the Companies Act 2006 it is possible for someone to request sight of or a copy of this Register for a proper purpose. The Association may then disclose the details on this form.

I further understand that in the event of my ceasing to be a paid-up family member of Education Otherwise, or if at any time I resign as a SUM by written notification to EO's correspondence address, I will cease to be a guarantor and Signed-Up Member of the Association one year later.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

### Communications by email

I consent to Education Otherwise sending or supplying any document or information (including any notice) to me using electronic means. My email address for this purpose is:

Email address (please print clearly): .....

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Education Otherwise will continue to send any correspondence related to your Signed-up Membership to the email or postal address given on this SUM form until the Association is advised in writing by the SUM of resignation or that the address on the Register of Members should be changed. Such changes should be notified to Education Otherwise SUMs, at EO's Registered Office Address (check current with website).

Please return this form to: EO SUMs, Bridgend, Meadow Lane, Swaffham, PE37 8LE



## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

**HE families** – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing. Note also that not all groups are run by EO members. Further information on the groups listed below is available via the Local HE Groups area of the EO website. If you know of a group that's not listed, please ask the organiser to enter it at [www.educationotherwise.net](http://www.educationotherwise.net)

**Group organisers** – please remember when giving details of events, that this list (both in Newsletter and on main area of website) may be seen by people who are not members of Education Otherwise, and adjust your information accordingly.

Please also notify us promptly of contact & other changes via the Local Groups Co-ordinator: [ealg@educationotherwise.org](mailto:ealg@educationotherwise.org)

### England

#### Bedfordshire

**BedHed** – An informal group of home educating families in and around Bedford <http://bedhed.org.uk>

**Busy B-Hes** – Weekly drop-in offering chats and support; activities. Pauline 01234 720819 / 07976 026167 [p.curl28@btinternet.com](mailto:p.curl28@btinternet.com)

**Christian Home Ed** – Scott and Rachel, [scottandrachel@ntlworld.com](mailto:scottandrachel@ntlworld.com)

#### Berkshire

**Berkshire Home Educators** – for HE families in & adjoining Berkshire

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/groups/berkshirehomeeducators/>

**Expanding Horizons**: trips, activities, regular meet ups and information for other Local groups.

[www.expandinghorizonsuk.com](http://www.expandinghorizonsuk.com) Contact Rebecca: 01494 882484, [expandinghorizonsuk@gmail.com](mailto:expandinghorizonsuk@gmail.com)

**Heroes-HE** – weekly Home Education Club at animal farm, with workshops, etc. [www.heroesberkshire.co.uk/homeeducators.html](http://www.heroesberkshire.co.uk/homeeducators.html)

#### Bristol

**Bristol Home Education** – A local support group Bristol area. [www.bristolhomeeducation.moonfruit.com](http://www.bristolhomeeducation.moonfruit.com)

**Bristol Home Education Learn Place (HELP)** Contact Catherine: [catewhite@hotmail.com](mailto:catewhite@hotmail.com)

**Bristol Home Education Co-op** – contact point for HE activities in Bristol, including FREE weekly Co-op meet up with crafts, activities & socialising. Yahoo group for event details, information & support: Contact: [BristolHEC-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:BristolHEC-owner@yahoo.com) Or 0117 9553582

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

**Home Education in Bristol and the South West** – local website with information and links for groups, events and activities in Bristol and the surrounding areas + national info & resources.

Contact: Therese, [alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com](mailto:alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com)  
<http://alternative-education-bristol.moonfruit.com/>

#### Buckinghamshire

**Free Range Education** – range of educational events and activities in Milton Keynes & North Bucks Sarah: 07725 039981

[www.freerangeeducation.org](http://www.freerangeeducation.org)

**High Wycombe home ed group** – Friendly weekly group meet up with activities. Contact: [cm2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cm2002@yahoo.co.uk)

**Home Education Milton Keynes** – informal non-hierarchical group for HEs in Milton Keynes & surrounding areas. <http://www.he-mk.org.uk>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MadCows-MK/join>

**Milton Keynes Home Educators Network (MKHEN)** – Educational and social activities and events, online support groups, mentoring and an active relationship with the LA. <http://www.mkhen.org.uk>

Georgianne 01908 662256 [sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk](mailto:sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk)

**MK-CHEF** – HE support group for Milton Keynes. Affiliated to Home Service but you do not need to be a Christian to join.

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/mk-chef>

**South Bucks Home Educators** – (& surrounding areas) Contact Taryn: [tarynearley@googlemail.com](mailto:tarynearley@googlemail.com)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/southbuckshomeed>

**Expanding Horizons** (see Berkshire).

#### Cambridgeshire

**Cambridge Home Educating Community Activity List** – summary of sessions and regular groups in Cambridge. Karen: 01223 573220 [www.educationchoice.org.uk](http://www.educationchoice.org.uk) [karen@karenrodgers.co.uk](mailto:karen@karenrodgers.co.uk)

**Cambridge Home Educating Families (CHEF)** – for parents/carers who HE or considering HE. Morag: [morag2000@hotmail.com](mailto:morag2000@hotmail.com)

01223 464918 <http://www.cambridgehomeeducators.org.uk/>

**Cambridgeshire Home Educators** – Website all about HE-ing in Cambridgeshire including local groups and how to contact them. [www.cambshomeed.co.uk](http://www.cambshomeed.co.uk) Jane: [cambshomeed@gmail.com](mailto:cambshomeed@gmail.com)

#### Cheshire

**Mid Cheshire Home Educators** – Bi-monthly meetings and regular outings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mche>

**South Cheshire Home Educators** – Jacqui,

[southcheshirehe@gmail.com](mailto:southcheshirehe@gmail.com)

<http://www.southcheshirehe.btck.co.uk/>

#### Cornwall

**Home Grown** – S E Cornwall HE Group – Alternate Mondays in Liskeard: classes in drawing & draughtsmanship/drama for ages 8-15. £6 per session. Contact Kath: 01579 340591

**Lostwithiel area HE group** – Started 2013 – range of HE activities, all welcome! Contact Samantha: [samsawinna@hotmail.com](mailto:samsawinna@hotmail.com)

#### Cumbria

**West Cumbria Home Education Group** – friendly group, members from all over W.Cumbria, structured or free range – All welcome!

[www.facebook.com/groups/WestCumbriaHE/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WestCumbriaHE/)

Contact Tallie: [metallenat@aol.com](mailto:metallenat@aol.com)

**West Cumbria Home Educators** (including Keswick) – mutual support for HEs in West Cumbria:

[WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com](mailto:WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com)

#### Derbyshire

**Cherfield Home Education Grop (CHEG)** – weekly meetings and days out for all ages: Contact Sandy: [sandymariott@gmail.com](mailto:sandymariott@gmail.com)

**Derby Home Education Group (DHEG)** – Weekly, Gym Club at sports centre with instructor.

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

**Home Ed Buxton Area** – Local meetings/activities for HEs and those considering HE

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

#### Devon

**Buckfastleigh Wildspace** – Nature study and gardening group based at Buckfastleigh Town hall. Welcomes HE families.

[www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=279900](http://www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=279900)

**Dartmoor and SW Home Education Group** – Based in S. Dartmoor, local and area groups & resources, plus promotion of your groups.

<http://dartmoor-sw-he-group.yolasite.com/>

Contact: [dartmoor.sw.he.group@gmail.com](mailto:dartmoor.sw.he.group@gmail.com)

**Dart Valley Home Ed Network** – Dut and about visits: natural history, history, photography and more. Members-only internet group. Hannah and Gordon 01803 762788 [lindnich@tesco.net](mailto:lindnich@tesco.net)

**Exeter Home Education Community** Wednesday drop-in: GCSE, green woodwork, permaculture, pottery & more.

[nbedford@btinternet.com](mailto:nbedford@btinternet.com) Neil 01363 82314

<http://exeterhomeeducationcommunity.co.uk>

**FLAGS Home Education Group** – Exeter, every Friday. Friendly group for children of all ages. Contact: Lisa 07969299543 or Sue su.gold777@yahoo.co.uk

**Freedom Fields EHE** – Weekly social group for families [http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK\\_HomeEd/](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK_HomeEd/)  
**NDHE (North Devon Home Educators)** – Meeting up for local trips and activities. Contact: [ndhomeed@gmail.com](mailto:ndhomeed@gmail.com)

**South Devon Home Education Group** – near Totnes <http://southdevonhomeeducation.yolasite.com/>  
Contact [Ambuka.ambuka5planets@yahoo.com](mailto:Ambuka.ambuka5planets@yahoo.com)  
**Stover HE Group** – Informal educational and social meets in local and surrounding areas. [stoverhegroup@gmail.com](mailto:stoverhegroup@gmail.com)

## Dorset

**Bournemouth HEED** – Weekly Monday meetings. Contact Carol: 01202 677066 [carolstone@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carolstone@yahoo.co.uk)

**Bournemouth & Poole Home Educators** – Bournemouth/Poole area for play dates and visits to places of interest/museums/etc. [http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth\\_and\\_PooleHomeEducators/?yguid=419936795](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth_and_PooleHomeEducators/?yguid=419936795). Contact Emma: [bmth.home.ed@gmail.com](mailto:bmth.home.ed@gmail.com)

**HEoND (Home Educators of North Dorset)** – Friendly group meeting regularly in Sturminster Newton. Contact June: [bugchick@mac.com](mailto:bugchick@mac.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/NorthDorsetHomeEducation](http://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthDorsetHomeEducation)

**HERA** – friendly group meets weekly in Poole. Provides support for HE families/prospective HE. Contact Tracie: [scallieuk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scallieuk@hotmail.co.uk)

## Durham

**County Durham Home Educators** – contact, information, activities, get together and trips. <https://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/durham-home-educators>. Contact: Emma, [emmadfisk@gmail.com](mailto:emmadfisk@gmail.com)

**Durham HE** – Yahoo group. Get-togethers arranged in various areas of County <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/County-durham-homeed>

## Essex

**Essex Home Education Yahoo Group** – Members organise HE events and meetings in Essex, and offer support, advice and encouragement to other Home Educators. Contact Lou: [louise.thorn@googlemail.com](mailto:louise.thorn@googlemail.com)

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/essex-he-e-group/info>

**Haverhill HE group** – Covering South Suffolk/North Essex. Eve 01440 788228 or 07768 763913 [wixde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wixde@yahoo.co.uk)

**Southend HE Group** – Meets weekly. Lots of outings and activities. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southendhomeeducation/> or [southendhomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:southendhomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk)

**WIGWAM Epping Forest** – A weekly informal drop-in group. Eleanor Stapleton 07866 701442 [elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk)

## Gloucestershire

**Cirencester and Cotswold group** – Meetings plus will answer HE queries. Pam 01285 721008 [pamela.perryman@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.perryman@gmail.com)

**Forest of Dean HE group** – Bridge and dam building, river clearance, fire building, woodland walks etc. Contact Roxy: [cdsnhf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@googlemail.com)

**GlosHE.org.uk** – HE links and local resources in and around Gloucestershire. [www.gloshe.org.uk/](http://www.gloshe.org.uk/)

**Glos Otherwise Club** Fiona 01684 290087

[brookesfam@triscali.co.uk](mailto:brookesfam@triscali.co.uk)

**Stroud email list** Nick: 01453 840036 [nick.weir@localfood.org.uk](mailto:nick.weir@localfood.org.uk)

## Hampshire

**ActiveEO** – West Sussex and Hants <http://www.activeeohc.com/>  
self-help group for home educators living near the south coast:  
Contact Cate: [bevmats@btinternet.com](mailto:bevmats@btinternet.com)

**Basingstoke Under 10s** – Academic club plus regular meet ups in different locations. Contact Vanessa: [education@zee2a.com](mailto:education@zee2a.com)

**East Hampshire Home Education Group (EHHE)** [social.activities@zee2a.com](mailto:social.activities@zee2a.com)  
mainly for 5-11 yr but all ages welcome. Fields & playground.  
Contact Alison: [a.johns@btinternet.com](mailto:a.johns@btinternet.com)

**FAREGOS Home Education Group** – HE group/email list for Fareham Gosport and South Hants.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FareGosHE/>  
**Hampshire FRHEBEES (Free Range & Home Educated Bees)** – West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and activities. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHEBees/>  
Contact Karen: 01425 652721

**Home Education Network Hants**, near Winchester, ages 0-13. Range of activities + regular club. [homeednetwork@outlook.com](mailto:homeednetwork@outlook.com)

**North Hampshire HE Group** – Regular activities and meetings organised, suitable for all ages [jakimparsons@gmail.com](mailto:jakimparsons@gmail.com)  
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NH-HE/> Jaki 07731 805323

**Portsmouth Home Education Group** – HE or interested in HE <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/portsmouthhomeed/>

**SEEDS** – Southampton, every term time afternoon for sports/play + weekly full day activity. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1/>

**South Hants Home Ed** – A support group for home educators <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southhantshomeed/>

## Herefordshire

**Hereford Home Education** – indoor and outdoor facilities ages 3-15. [herefordhe@gmail.com](mailto:herefordhe@gmail.com)

**Monmouth and Herefordshire Home Educators** – Local meets and events Yahoo! group. Roxy 07765 058 777

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

## Hertfordshire

**Herts Home Educators** – Yahoo! group for Hertfordshire home educators. [newhomeeducators@gmail.com](mailto:newhomeeducators@gmail.com)

**Learning Begins In Wonder**. Free and subsidised events, resources and support to HE families in Hertfordshire and surrounding counties. Contact Mandy: [mandy.ansell@aol.co.uk](mailto:mandy.ansell@aol.co.uk)

## Isle of Wight

**Isle of Wight Learning Zone** – A network of HE families <http://www.iwlearningzone.co.uk/>

**IW Home Ed** – Facebook group & yahoo group for any and all home educators on IoW. Karen: [karen@curvespace.com](mailto:karen@curvespace.com) or 01983 568516 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IWHomeEd/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IWHomeEd/>

## Kent

**Dragonfly Kidz HE Group** – (Canterbury & Thanet) social & learning activities, swimming, bowling, days out etc. Wide range of locations around Canterbury/Thanet/Whitstable. All Welcome! Steph: [stephgater@rocketmail.com](mailto:stephgater@rocketmail.com) 01304 814362.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dragonflykidz-homeeducationgroup/>

**Kent ASD Home Ed** – For parents/carers of ASD/Aspergers children who are educating them 'otherwise'.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/asd-home-ed-medway>

**Medway and Maidstone HE activity group - HE OMEGA** – A group of home educating families in Medway and Kent.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-omega/> Contact Esther: [e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk)

**Rochester HE Group** – weekly meetings Tuesday afternoon. Contact Sally: [sally\\_wilton@lineone.net](mailto:sally_wilton@lineone.net)

**SATHE (Supporting Autism Through Home Education)** – West Kent group open to all parents/carers HE/flexi-schooling or considering HE for children with autism/ sensitivities or learning difficulties. Contact Denise 07554 386844

[S-A-T-H-E@yahoogroups.co.uk](mailto:S-A-T-H-E@yahoogroups.co.uk)

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/S-A-T-H-E/>

**South East Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) Meet regularly for trips, hall meets, swimming etc. To join Yahoo! group email: [southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoo.com)  
Or contact Lesley: 07828193668 [lesley294@aol.com](mailto:lesley294@aol.com)

## Lancashire

**Boneheds** – Help support advice and friendship to all families who are home educating (or considering HE) in Bolton Lancashire and surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/boneheds/>  
**Home Ed Leyland** – Friendship, support and advice for all families who are home educating (or considering HE) in Leyland and surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/he-l-1a/>  
**LEAD Home Education** – swap ideas, share stories and arrange local social gatherings. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead\\_he/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead_he/)

## Leicestershire

**HE-AL message board** – details of HE Events in Leicestershire. Site run by local HE groups, but open to all HErs in the Leicestershire area <http://he-al.weebly.com/index.html>

**Leicestershire Christian Home Educators** – monthly meet up every 3rd Tuesday. Free play opportunity in a safe and fun place. HE Off-Peak Pass available: £1.50 per child £5 per family, free drinks. All welcome! Contact Anne-Marie Marshall: [mrsamarshall@googlemail.com](mailto:mrsamarshall@googlemail.com)

**Loughborough Home Ed** – meet for various regular/one off groups, including French and maths in Loughborough. Contact: [nicky-ed@co.asd.me.uk](mailto:nicky-ed@co.asd.me.uk)

**Stoneygate** – Weekly play session; £3.50 per family, including drinks. Large, safe, grassy area. Contact Cat: [catbellinger@gmail.com](mailto:catbellinger@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/homeedleicestershire/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/homeedleicestershire/)

## Lincolnshire

**Home Ed Lincs** – Yahoo newsgroup coordinating HE activities in Lincolnshire. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home\\_ed\\_lincs/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_lincs/)

**Homeschool Lincolnshire** – active and supportive group, 40+ families incl. plenty of teenagers. Monthly events and activities list. Contact Elaine: 01507 328688  
[homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com](mailto:homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com)

**Lincolnshire HE** – [www.home-ed.ukf.net/index.htm](http://www.home-ed.ukf.net/index.htm)

**North Hykeham HE Group** – Weekly meetings, primarily for toddlers. 07870 787328 [debi.crow@googlemail.com](mailto:debi.crow@googlemail.com)

## London

**Adventures with Education (Hackney)** – A home education group based in Hackney London. <http://awe.gn.apc.org/>

**Brandam Roaders** – Weekly meetings in term time. [rubbyradburn@hotmail.com](mailto:rubbyradburn@hotmail.com)

**Home Study Groups** – small group of HE families pooling resources for tutored home study groups. Ingie 0203 566 8706 [iberritt@gmail.com](mailto:iberritt@gmail.com)

**Maggie Home Educators (East London)** – Phil 0208 500 1053

**The Otherwise Club (NW)** – A community centre for HE families. Leslie 0208 969 0893

**WIGWAM Jubilee Park N9** – Informal drop-in group for families with children of any age. Contact Eleanor: 07866 701442 [elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk)

## Norfolk

**Home Education in Norfolk (HENs)** – A group for HE families in Norfolk. Those on the borders also welcome. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeeducatorsnorfolk/>

**The Barefoot Learners** – Games and activities for all ages. Contact Be Cuffin: 07814 592 290 or 01263 73 99 83

**West Norfolk Home Educators** – Meeting place for HErs and families interested in home educating. Lots of activities! <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators/>

## Northamptonshire

**iFlow** – weekly HE community group, NW Northants. Support and friendship; parent-led and professionally-led educational activities. Wide range of resources, community space, sports & outdoor play. E: [welcomeflow@gmail.com](mailto:welcomeflow@gmail.com) W: [www.iflow-he.org](http://www.iflow-he.org)  
**Northants HE** – Informal group meet regularly for various activities <http://www.northantshe.org.uk/>

## Nottinghamshire

**Notts Sheep Special** – Online support group for HE parents of special needs/differently-abled children in Nottinghamshire & bordering counties. [http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Notts\\_Sheep-Special/](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Notts_Sheep-Special/)

## Oxfordshire

**Expanding Horizons** (See Berkshire).

**OHED** – Website with information about HE in Oxfordshire [www.ohed.org.uk](http://www.ohed.org.uk) Louisa: [louisa.southey@gmail.com](mailto:louisa.southey@gmail.com) or 01865 735705

**Oxfordshire Home Educators** – A group for all home educators living in Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties; all welcome. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OxonHE/>

## Shropshire

**Inspire HE Group** – Educational activities in Shropshire. Families from Shropshire and surrounding areas welcome to find out more. Contact Alison: [fellows-weir@megmag.plus.com](mailto:fellows-weir@megmag.plus.com)

**Otherwise Engaged** – Online diary of group activities, cultural events, workshops, resources and projects for Shrops and West Mids based HE families. <http://www.otherwise-engaged.org.uk/home-education.html>

**Rushbury/Stretton HE Group** – Parent and child-led activities & people from the wider community. Beverley: 01743 718429

**Shropshire Home Education** – For HErs in Shropshire area to chat arrange meets etc. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shed>  
**Teiford area HE** – Activities incl. skating football and drama sessions. For times and dates contact Denise: 07866 888879

## Somerset

**Bath HE Yahoo! Group** –

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

**HEY Yeovil** – All HE families welcome. Contact Lyn: 01963 23669 [heyeyovil@hotmail.com](mailto:heyeyovil@hotmail.com)

**North Somerset HE Group** – Weekly children's gym walks outings etc. Yahoo! group for members. Contact Vicky: 01275 848425 [victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk)

**Taunton Home Education Group** – Free play, arts & crafts, games, etc. <http://tauntonhomeed.blogspot.com/>  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tauntonhomeeducation/>

**Wells and Mendip HE Group (Wam)** – meet weekly for 'school age' kids, run by parents; variety of projects and activities. Contact: 01749 675176

**Wiveliscombe/Taunton** – Monthly meetings and regular outings. Contact Maggie: 01984 624651

## Staffordshire

**Mercia Education Group** – Regular, structured meetings, various venues in Lichfield and surrounding area. Academic base, many activities, wide age range. <http://merciaeducationgroup.yolasite.com/>

## Suffolk

**Haverhill HE group** – South Suffolk/North Essex. Contact Eve: 01440 788228 or 07768 763913 [wixde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wixde@yahoo.co.uk)

**lpswich HE Wednesdays** – Shared lunch and activities. Contact Emma: [emma@natyem.co.uk](mailto:emma@natyem.co.uk)

**lpswich town centre group + Book Club** – regular meetings. Contact Lisa: 07538 102322 [llw\\_llg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:llw_llg@yahoo.co.uk)

**Tostock HE Group** – All families welcome to this very friendly group. Contact Jan: 01359 251184 [angustia@btinternet.com](mailto:angustia@btinternet.com)

## Surrey

**Dorking Home Educators** – fortnightly. Social and pre-booked activities, outings & trips. Amanda: [schrodingerst81@hotmail.com](mailto:schrodingerst81@hotmail.com)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/DorkingHomeEducators/>

**Forest Families** – weekly meetings in Croydon. Sharing food, cooking & unstructured play in nature. Contact Maria: [mariaf.reyna@gmail.com](mailto:mariaf.reyna@gmail.com)

**Home Educators Learning Project (HELP)** – educational support, outings. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/HELearningProject/>

**Leatherhead Home Education Group** – Leatherhead and surrounding area regular day trips and activities. Chrissie: 07840285703 [christabelthorpe@hotmail.com](mailto:christabelthorpe@hotmail.com)

**Surbiton Home Ed Group (SHEd)** – occasional field trips, picnics, workshops, etc. Contact Ingrid: [ingrid.meaker@mac.com](mailto:ingrid.meaker@mac.com)

**Sutton/Epsom HE group** – Meets weekly and also monthly for outings. Contact Neia: [neia.glynn@btinternet.com](mailto:neia.glynn@btinternet.com)

**SW Surrey Home Ed** – Group for HE families based in SW Surrey and surrounding area. Weekly gatherings Farnham or Godalming. <http://www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk/index.php>

## Sussex

**ActiveO** – HE Group W Sussex and Hants (see Hampshire)

**Brighton and Hove Home Educators** – Information on HE events and groups in the area. <http://bhhe.wordpress.com/>  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bhhe/>

**Eastbourne EO Group** – Regular gatherings & activities. <http://www.shinies.org.uk/>

**Hastings & Rother Home Educators (HARHE)** – small number of families; activities include Forest School, cycling, daytrips, bowling and swimming. Check website and us or come along to an activity [www.harhe.btck.co.uk](http://www.harhe.btck.co.uk) Catherine: 01424 812213

**HEDGE Home Ed Group** – Hastings/St. Leonards weekly social meetings + trips etc. [www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk](http://www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk) Beshlie: 01424 812870

**JIGSAW** – social events, educational group excursions, curriculum support, etc. Contact: [leliat@gmail.com](mailto:leliat@gmail.com)

**South Eastern Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) see Kent  
**Wealden Home Educators' Network (WHEN)** (SE England) see Kent.

## Warwickshire

**Creative Youth Adventure Club (Coventry)** – monthly HE Group for all ages, activities and social get together. Also Arts Awards. Contact Sarah: [sarah@nellyb.co.uk](mailto:sarah@nellyb.co.uk)

**Warwick District HE** – Warwick/Leamington. Primarily for 0-11 but all welcome. Weekly meet for play etc. + trips etc. Contact Alison: 07782 299181  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/warwickhe>

## West Midlands

**Cradley HE Group** – small group of families meeting weekly for friendships and craft activities in Cradley Heath. Contact Kate: [katehstrickland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katehstrickland@yahoo.co.uk)

## Wiltshire

**Salisbury Plain Home Education Circle** – Parents who use the National Curriculum as guidance, but believe that best education comes from experience. Contact Dee: [dee.dilloway@yahoo.com](mailto:dee.dilloway@yahoo.com) 07753 260317

## Worcestershire

**Bewdley HE Group** – Weekly meetings, social/activities etc. all welcome. Sophie 01299 405669, [sophiebutcher29@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sophiebutcher29@yahoo.co.uk)

**Worcester Home Educators** – Meetings usually at least weekly throughout term time at various locations round the county. [www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/](http://www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/)

**Worcestershire Home Ed** – Yahoo Group Email list for Worcs HERS <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/worcestershirehome-ed/>

## Yorkshire

**DHE Doncaster home educators** Yahoo group for families in the Doncaster and surrounding areas. Contact Cheryl: 07825 914340 [cheryl0407@aol.com](mailto:cheryl0407@aol.com) <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/DHE/>  
**HENNEY (Home Education Network North East Yorkshire)** Regular meet ups around Scarborough and East coast area. Contact Lisa: [lisa\\_riley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lisa_riley@tiscali.co.uk)  
[henney-owner@yahooogroups.com](mailto:henney-owner@yahooogroups.com)

**Huddersfield Art Workshops** – Monthly 8 yrs plus. Jane: 01484 645034

**Huddersfield Book Group** – Monthly Marsden library. Jane: 01484 645034

**Huddersfield Home Educators** – Monthly themed meetings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyhec/> Contact Mandy: 01484 460026 [meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk)

**NYHEC (group for HE parents)** – for parents HEing in North Yorkshire. [nyhecawner@yahooogroups.com](mailto:nyhecawner@yahooogroups.com)

**North + West HE Group** – Meets Skipton monthly and Bradford Gym Club weekly. Regular meetings and outings. Judith: 01756 791356

**Rotherham Home Education** – friendly informal group for HERS in & around S.Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RothHE/>  
Contact Pauline: 077764 06409 [collecandydog123@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:collecandydog123@yahoo.co.uk)

**SYHEC – Yahoo!** group for parents HEing in South Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/syhec/>

**Wakefield District Home Education Group** – Bowling, Ice skating, visits etc. Contact Tracey: [wakefieldHE-owner@yahooogroups.com](mailto:wakefieldHE-owner@yahooogroups.com)

**Wildlings** – Meet weekly for in & outdoor fun, friendship, crafts, Montessori materials. HE Group for children under 8. Huddersfield. [www.wildforlearning.org.uk](http://www.wildforlearning.org.uk)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wildlings.home.ed/>

**Yorkshire Home Edders Yahoo! group** – Friendly & active group with visits & workshops for children 8-16. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/yorkshirehomedders/>

## Regional Groups (England)

**East of England – East Anglian Home Ed Network**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/East-Anglian-Home-Ed-Network/>

**East Midlands – East Midlands HE Forum** – inform & support HE families in E.Midlands. <http://groups.yahoo.com/oup/emhe>

**North East England – North East Home Educators** (new 2015) Thriving group with several activities in the region happening every day! We welcome new members. Contact Treena: [treenafenwick@gmail.com](mailto:treenafenwick@gmail.com)

## South East

**FLAGS (Kent/Surrey/Sussex)** – Active group (Kent/Surrey/Sussex) meeting weekly during term time <http://www.flags-education.org>  
Karen 01732 864524 [karenlow@uwclub.net](mailto:karenlow@uwclub.net)

**ActiveO** – HE Group based in West Sussex and Hampshire [See Hampshire for details]

**Home-EASE (Home Education for all South East)** – Group of HE families in SE England. 0753 1677 083  
[homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk)

**South East Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) See Kent for details.

## South West

**Home Education Centre (Devon/Dorset/Somerset)** – Meets two days a week. Workshops, sports activities and support. <http://www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk>

**HERs and Events SW** – network to support new HERs or those new to the area. New input welcomed. [southdevonlc@gmail.com](mailto:southdevonlc@gmail.com)  
<http://thecontactssandeventssw.yolasite.com>  
**HE in Bristol and SW** – see *Bristol*

## West Midlands

**HELM** – home education group located mainly within the Birmingham, West Midlands area. Any and all home-educating parents welcome.  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM\\_home\\_ed/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM_home_ed/)

## Isle of Man

**Home Educating Network - Isle of Man** – informal group of parents HEing on the Isle of Man. *Yvonne*, [isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org)  
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>  
**Home Education on the Isle Of Man** – Contact: Dawn, [sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk)

## Wales

**Cardiganshire** – Lampeter home-ed group meets one afternoon per week. Social with occasional activities. Contact Mia: 01570421529 [hislittlelightofmine@phonecoop.coop](mailto:hislittlelightofmine@phonecoop.coop)

## Carmarthenshire

**Camarthen HE Group** – Regular meetings in Johnstown Carmarthen *caroline.milburn@yahoo.com*  
**Carmarthen Home Ed** – Social group meeting weekly for play and chat, indoor and outdoor activities for all ages. Contact: Sarah, [birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk)

## Conwy

**PLANT Conwy** – Weekly get-togethers in the village of Conwy for Home edders - all welcome. Contact: *lily@ogge.co.uk*

## Denbighshire

**Froncysyllte HE group** – Fortnightly group meets 10-4pm. Social play and chat. *vivodsam@gmail.com*

## Flintshire

**Flintshire Home Education** – Regular meet ups activities & support. [flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk)

## Glamorgan

**Bridgend HE Community** – free play, GCSE classes, Arts Award, John Muir Award, outside speakers, activities etc. Contact Emma: [emmzr75@gmail.com](mailto:emmzr75@gmail.com)

**Cardiff Home Education Group** – Meets Mondays during term time, in Pontcanna. Social group children all ages, everyone welcome. Contact Sarah: [cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com](mailto:cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com)  
[www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com](http://www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com)

**New Foundations HE** – Meets Cardiff weekly. Varied activities, all free. <http://www.newfoundationshe.com> 07913 955583  
[newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](mailto:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com)

## Gwynedd

**Creative Learning and Support** – Now meet every Wed, pm in Bangor. Contact Julie on 01286 678181 or Sarah on 01248 355182  
<http://www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk>

**Langower HE Group** – Weekly meetings.  
[rowenna73@hotmail.com](mailto:rowenna73@hotmail.com)

## Monmouthshire

**Abergavenny HE Group** – monthly meetings at Abergavenny on first Wednesday of each month. £3 per family. Contact John: [jahn.cranno@btconnect.com](mailto:jahn.cranno@btconnect.com)

**Monmouth Home Educators** – Meet weekly for fun and friendship, arts, crafts, games and sports. All ages welcome. Check for dates and times. Contact Roxy: 07765 058 777

**Usk Home Education** – Monthly (Thurs) meet other HERs in the area for fun and games and cups of tea. Contact Roxy: [cdsnhf@gmail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@gmail.com) or 01989 768 128  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HerefordshireHE/>

## Neath Port Talbot

**Wise Up Community HE Group** (Port Talbot) – Support and information for home educating families and those considering home education. <http://www.zoneseven.co.uk>  
[ianna.violet@hotmail.com](mailto:ianna.violet@hotmail.com)

## Powys

**New Leaf HE Group** (Newtown) – Occasional meetings for varied activities all ages. [siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Shiny Happy Children** – Regular meetings in Llanfyllin and surrounding areas. Katie: [llanfyllinHE@gmail.com](mailto:llanfyllinHE@gmail.com)

## Regional Groups (Wales)

**Cymru ALN - HE & EOTAS: (Wales, Special interest and SEN)** New Wales-wide support group for Home Educators of children & young people with Additional Learning Needs, (SEN). Contact: [cymrualn@gmail.com](mailto:cymrualn@gmail.com)

**Elective Home Education Wales** – Linking HE families across Wales. <http://www.ehow.co.uk>

**Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester** – for information about group activities in the Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester area: local EO member Roxy 01989 768128 [cdsnhf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@googlemail.com)

**New Foundations** – HE group and charity offering social & educational activities and support in Cardiff and South Wales. Every Mon 10am - 3pm. All HE families welcome.  
[www.newfoundationshe.com](http://www.newfoundationshe.com)  
*Jayne: newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com* Or 07913 955583

**South Wales Home Educators Network** – Email list for Home Educators in and around S Wales to arrange get-togethers/events, share ideas & news and offer support.  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swhen/>

## Channel Islands

**Home Education Jersey** – Home education group. Contact Jess: [homeeducationjersey@gmail.com](mailto:homeeducationjersey@gmail.com)

**Guernsey Home Educators** – Group of home educators and those sympathetic to home education in Guernsey. Contact by email to [contactleguernsey@gmail.com](mailto:contactleguernsey@gmail.com)

## Northern Ireland

**HEdNI (Home Education Northern Ireland)** – Umbrella group for the whole of Northern Ireland, where a diverse community of smaller local groups and individual home educators can come together for peer support & information, to advertise and find events, and make connections. Contact Sarah: [sarah@hedni.org](mailto:sarah@hedni.org)

## International (UK based)

**HE-DS (Home Educating a child with Down's syndrome)** – Linking families who are home educating a child with Down's syndrome. <http://www.oakwellbarns.co.uk> Facebook group (private, by invitation) Contact by email to: [oakwellbarns@gmail.com](mailto:oakwellbarns@gmail.com)

## Please Note ....

**HE families** – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing. Note also that not all groups are run by EO members. Further information on the groups listed above is available via the Local HE Groups area of the EO website. If you know of a group that's not listed, please ask the organiser to enter it at [www.educationotherwise.net](http://www.educationotherwise.net)

## Who does What in EO

### Current Trustees [Council Members]

*trustees@educationotherwise.org*

#### Jonathan Adams

*jadams@educationotherwise.org*

#### Julie Arnold (Treasurer)

*jarnold@educationotherwise.org*

#### Shena Deuchars (Membership Secretary)

*sdeuchars@educationotherwise.org*

*membership@educationotherwise.org*

#### Fe Mukwamba-Sendall

*fsendall@educationotherwise.org*

**Anne Rix** (Chair, Publications Sec., Acting Co. Secretary, Acting NL Co-ord, Buckstopper-General!)

*arix@educationotherwise.org*

#### Edwina Theunissen (Enquiries Secretary)

*e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org*

#### Kathleen Thompson

*kthompson@educationotherwise.org*

Sadly, Trustees Beckie and Vicki have had to retire – we thank them for the work they did while trustees. It would be great to hear from members who are able to give some time to helping out with EO's essential services and administration.

*STOP PRESS!* Jill has also just resigned so we need to co-opt at least one trustee urgently. Please see notice on first page ... Anne, Chair

N.B. Email to: [trustees@educationotherwise.org](mailto:trustees@educationotherwise.org) goes to all trustees

Address for general correspondence by letter:

Education Otherwise [insert Dept. If known]

P.O. Box 63, SWAFFHAM, PE37 9AT

**WEBSITE:** [www.educationotherwise.net](http://www.educationotherwise.net)

**Webmaster:** Tom

*webmaster@educationotherwise.org*

## Membership

Membership enquiries, address changes, membership cards, new member admin: please contact the Membership Secretary:

*membership@educationotherwise.org*

or by post to:

EO Membership, PO Box 63, Swaffham, PE37 9AT

## Other Useful Contacts

**Anti-Bullying Contact:** Kathleen Thompson  
01942 89 77 79

**GCSEs at Home:** Louise 08445 003 688

**GCSE/Exams email list:**

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-Exams-GCSE-A\\_AS\\_Levels-OU-Others/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/)

**HE Exams Wiki:** [www.home-education-exams.org.uk](http://www.home-education-exams.org.uk)

**Exam Centres list:** [http://he-](http://he-exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding_an_exam_centre)

[exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding\\_an\\_exam\\_centre](http://he-exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding_an_exam_centre)

**Concessions Contact:** Lynsey Scott

*concessions@educationotherwise.org*

**Concessions Co-ordinator:** Cornelia Theunissen

*c.theunissen@educationotherwise.org*

**Dylexia Contact:** Iris Harrison

*irisharrison6@aol.com*

**Enquiries Secretary:** Edwina Theunissen 01978

661882 *e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org*

**EO Stalls:** Habiba Willow [habibawillow@gmail.com](mailto:habibawillow@gmail.com)

**Flexi-schooling:** VACANT

**Local Contacts Co-ordinator:** Lei Ashe

*lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org*

(or via Enquiries Secretary)

**Local Group Insurance:** Anne Rix

*lgic@educationotherwise.org*

**Local Groups Listings:** Kennell Family

*eolg@educationotherwise.org*

**Newsletter Coordinator:** VACANT (Anne Rix Acting)

*eoni@educationotherwise.org*

**Publications Secretary:** Anne Rix

*arix@educationotherwise.org*

*publications@educationotherwise.org*

**School Anxiety Support:** VACANT

**Single Parent Contact:** Sam Kruger 08445 003794

*singleparent@educationotherwise.org*

**Special Needs:** Alisa: 01458 448286 / 07401 421903

*send@educationotherwise.org*

**SEND email list via:** <http://www.he-special.org.uk/>

**Treasurer:** Julie Arnold

*treasurer@educationotherwise.org*

**Volunteer Co-ordinator:** Wendy Knight

*vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org*

# 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.

Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

P.O. Box 63, SWAFFHAM, PE37 9AT

*\*\*\* NOTE NEW PO BOX NUMBER \*\*\**

Helpline 0845 4786 345

Web Site: <http://www.educationotherwise.net>

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