

education otherwise®

Learning On The Move

**Home Education Around
the World - Belgium**

Qualitative Primary Research

Taking GCSEs

Book Review

EO Business

£3

Newsletter - Spring 2012

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

***The deadline for inclusion in the Summer 2012 issue is 1st May
(news items, 15th May, children's/penpals 20th April)***

Please mark your material 'for publication', and include your name, address, phone number and email address, as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution. Details may be withheld from publication on request. Email contributions will be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgment, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If no acknowledgement is received, or in case of queries, please contact the NL Co-ordinator (see below). Please also ensure that your EO membership is up to date before submission.

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PLEASE NOTE – DEADLINE FOR CHILDREN'S SECTION & PENPALS – 20th April

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Welcome

I apologise for the late appearance of the March newsletter. The gathering and AGM have meant extra work for trustees (that includes me – and since the AGM I have taken on the role of Chair so that Shena can concentrate on the work of Membership Secretary) and at the time of writing we have still not been able to co-opt members to fill the vacancies. I hope that we will have done so by the time you read this.

Please note that I shall not be at my own computer continuously - my daughter is expecting her second baby at the end of March/early April, and I am in great demand for 'granny-duty'.

Contributions from members are coming in, though still not the flood I'd like to see! Please do write in with your comments, either about the subjects in this issue or about anything else you would like to see in the newsletter. You don't need to write a full-length article; a letter would be fine! And we finally have a volunteer to co-ordinate letters and articles – thank you Tracy. Please see inside front cover for her contact details.

Anne Rix 1st March 2012
(Acting NL Co-ordinator)

*Front Cover photo taken by
Tom Brendan
moortoseaphotography.yolasite.com*

Contents

ARTICLES

Resurrection – Our journey so far	4
Learning on the Move	5
Qualitative Primary Research	6
Land's End to John O'Groats – Life Stages	7
Taking GCSEs	8
HE Around the World - Belgium -	10

NOTICES - NEWS - EVENTS	11
--------------------------------	-----------

SEND ROUND UP	12
----------------------	-----------

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES	12
----------------------------	-----------

BOOK REVIEWS	13
---------------------	-----------

EO BUSINESS	14
--------------------	-----------

LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS	15
------------------------------------	-----------



Resurrection – Our journey so far

It has been a turbulent year for us, full of change and lessons learned. A year ago we decided to take our eldest son out of school and begin our journey of home education. Sending him to school had been a difficult decision for us, due to the fact that I was home educated and we were not comfortable with the idea of any formal schooling before the age of seven. My eldest son was, however, very insistent upon the idea of school and making friends. We are very much a family who think that the child's wishes for their own journey through life are valid and important, so we reluctantly agreed, but the resulting effects upon our son were more difficult than we ever imagined.

The first school year was not too bad as he was at Nursery, so only at school for three hours a day and then at home in a familiar environment for the afternoon, so it was easier to re-stimulate him with family based activities. Although he was quite badly bullied by another mother during this first year and then consequently by her son, we managed to help him through and encourage his natural resilience. As a home educated child, I felt at a slight disadvantage throughout this time, because I did not feel that the school situation experienced by my son was normal, but had nothing with which to compare it. All I could do was to fight his corner against the school and ensure his continued happiness and stimulation at home.

The real change came in the first three months that he was in Reception year. Six and a half hours a day, five days a week! No more time for family based activities and little time for anything apart from school. In a conversation with his grandmother, my son whispered, "It's too many minutes". Everything bright and beautiful in my son was soon gone. He was bullied, ignored and frightened. Again, I tried to fight his corner with the school but as this system of education is seen as normal, no one listened. I was told by the school that he would get through it and that everything was fine and just to give him time to adjust. But everything was far from okay.

My son stopped eating, did nothing at home apart from sleep and scream. He became very ill and more or less stopped talking. His abilities went from above average for his age to practically

nothing. He became thin and miserable, yet refusing to leave the school. He said he didn't want to let them win. Finally, after nearly a month off due to two severe bouts of Bronchitis, caused by a heating failure in the school that parents were not told about, I asked him if he wanted to go back to school after Christmas and he cried and said no.

It was the best decision he and I ever made together. He spent nine months refusing to learn anything, which was at times frustrating. He spent most of last year angry with me and the rest of his family for not being there. He blamed us for not knowing what was going on, even though I had asked his teacher every day. His anger and aggression have been hard to take at times, but after a year, we are finally beginning to see glimpses of that bright and beautiful boy again. He is now beginning to talk about his experiences at school. He has done some learning, taking himself from level one reading books to level four in the space of six weeks – his choice, not mine. He taught himself to count to a hundred in the space of two days. He's stopped again now, on his own terms, and is getting to know that all his learning is on his own terms. I know that all that information is safely stored away and the time will come when he wants to learn something else and I'll be there waiting to support his next level of choice.

The most awful consequence for us as parents has been facing the reality of the school experience and how quickly my son was damaged and how long it has taken for him to begin to recover. He is nearly six so young enough to overcome his experience and open up to life again, but the guilt will live with me for the rest of my life. We could not have known what would happen and I'm just so grateful that my own home educating journey gave us a valid alternative to the school system. I fear for other children who are affected in the same way, yet have no way out! With thanks to Iris, for taking the time to call me. It was an honour and a privilege and a great support.

Jai, Herts

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Learning on the Move

For the past seven years I have home educated my son, whilst living and travelling in a Motor Home. When we set out I did not know how long we would continue with this lifestyle, but find now that it is hard to live any other way.

It was a risk to take both from an education and social point of view, as my son would have no peer group, so to speak of. This soon proved not to be a problem as he learnt to socialise across age groups and adapt himself to any situation. His ability to play with children his own age and above was fuelled by his imagination. His conversation skills also enabled him to conduct an interaction with adults as well as children.

I wanted to give my son as many experiences as possible that first year, so we wintered in Aviemore, in the Highlands of Scotland. Everyone thought I was mad from every viewpoint, but in fact it turned out to be the best way to gain new experiences. Firstly; coming from the south of England snow was not high on the agenda of weather types, so to experience real deep snow would be like a dream come true. Secondly; the pace of life is much slower and there are a lot more undeveloped landscapes to explore.

This proved to be a very special time for us, which we fondly remember even now. We met Santa on a steam train, got to have one-to-one with the mini bus driver when we visited the wildlife centre, and snow from the 16th December. This was thick, deep, beautiful snow, which could be sculpted and played with, even on Christmas day.

The other advantage to being in Aviemore and particularly the campsite we landed at was that we met a ski instructor who encouraged us to learn to ski. So during February and March my son learnt to ski on the Cairngorm Mountains. I on the other hand could not muster the courage to balance on lolly sticks!

This time spent in such beautiful surroundings gave us a basis from which to start. Writing was mastered with the help of a daily diary recounting the previous day's events accompanied by a picture. This was achieved by me writing down what my son wanted to write, and then he would copy what had been written. We started with capital letters as these were easier to master than the shapes of small letters. The diary continued for about two years, when it became a dreaded chore, by which time my son was using his writing skills for making up stories and poems.

On the physical exercise front, we walked daily through the nature reserve or up towards the mountain, through woods, across moorlands, by the sea, rivers or lochs, often taking a picnic with us for sustenance. Riding a bike also expended energy and built up muscles, and of course the skiing which helped with all aspects of movement.

One of the best qualities learnt was manners, and even now I get compliments on how polite my son is. This quality has enabled him to gain more knowledge and experience from experts such as guides in stately homes, artists, bronze workers, groundsmen looking after city treasures like the Edinburgh flower clock. In the beginning he would address all women as 'mam' and men as 'sir', which always went down well.

Each year I have set a particular goal, depending on his developmental needs, to be achieved before the end of the year. In the beginning it was to learn to write, but now we are focusing on skills which will help as he enters adolescence and adulthood.

Learning, I have found, comes in many forms; some more mundane than others. It is a continuous process of gathering information, feelings and experiences, and having a sense of accomplishment when goals are achieved. I have no formal education plan but tend to flow with whatever knocks at our door, learning from daily life through observation, discussion, experience and osmosis and just being wherever at the right time. This freedom to learn works well for us, although the down side is there is no respite. From the moment we wake till sleep takes us away, learning is occurring in some form or another, which can be very demanding if one is the only adult aboard. However, I am reaping the benefits, as last week my son cooked his first meal. He made a simple pasta dish of his own concoction, which thankfully worked, and coffee truffles, which unfortunately did not. The other bonus was I still had a van in one piece and he cleaned up after himself.

I know it would not be within everyone's limits to live like this but an alternative lifestyle has added bonuses to inspire learning in the least likely places.

Tracy, Kent (base!)

Qualitative Primary Research

Home Education, Safeguarding and Registration of Elective Home Educators

A summary of a dissertation that was submitted for an MSc in Social Work Autumn 2011 by Sheena from England. (The researcher does not identify herself further on this summary in order to protect the anonymity of those who participated in the focus groups).

Following the removal of the home-education clauses from the Children, Schools and Families Bill 2009, there are still concerns that local authorities do not have sufficient powers to safeguard electively home educated children. Subsequent reports have recommended reviewing the information provided by local authorities of their role in monitoring and supporting elective home educators. This research asked the question: how can the local authority provide elective home educators with suitable information and support that would encourage all home educated children to be registered with the local authority?

In contrast to previous research, this study used a qualitative bottom-up methodology that enabled home educators to provide their views about what information and support they possibly want from the local authorities. Focus groups were used in conjunction with content analysis of the local authority websites in an English region. The common findings from the discussion were used as analytical framework through which to ascertain whether the local authorities were providing relevant information and support.

Part of the differences between home educators and local authorities arise from their interpretations of the term "safeguarding." The local authorities base their understanding through the current political-legal situation that children can negotiate the risks and inequalities of a post-modern society and achieve an economically successful adulthood if they are safeguarded throughout their childhood. The home educators use a socio-cultural understanding that safeguarding is solely preventing abuse.

The study found common factors that would influence home educating families to engage with the local authority. The home educators want provision of services rather than monitoring and surveillance. This includes financial support for

venues that could be available for local authorities and home educating families to meet with each other. Home educators are influenced by the reputation of the local liaison worker. They need an understanding at all levels: national, local authority and individual workers, that home education is a culturally diverse method of educating children that is not a replica of school.

Currently the local authority websites in the region analysed do not adequately reflect the needs, wishes and views of home educators and thus do not encourage them to believe that they will have a mutually trusting relationship with the local authority if they register their home educated child. The home educators perceive them as being discriminating and providing a message that they are a risk factor rather than a resilience factor for their child.

The findings of this research suggest that home education has become mixed up with children missing education. This has enabled home education to become a scapegoat for parents and professionals who struggle to safeguard some children.

This research suggests that the local authorities could provide elective home educators with suitable information and support, if nationally the attitude to home education was to change. Home educators want resources that empower them to support their child, underpinned by knowledge that they are the experts on their culture. Whilst it is not possible to conclude that such factors would result in all home educated children being registered with the local authority, these factors would better enable local authorities to carry out their duty to safeguard all children.

All parties need to shift the focus of home education from adults' rights and duties to the child's rights and participation.

This study was limited because it was a small-scale project but it could be used to inform further research and/or pilot studies. Throughout the research, Sheena successfully balanced three roles: social work student, ex-home-educator and researcher.

Sheena (address supplied)



Land's End to John O'Groats – Life Stages

Over the last couple of years, I realised that I would be 50 years old this year, and my eldest daughter would reach 16 years old. We discussed spending some time together this year before we moved on to the next stage of our lives.

Originally it was to walk from Land's End to John o'Groats, but we soon realised that it would take over three months to walk. I was unable to take that much holiday, so we decided to cycle.

Some people manage over 1000 miles in 10 days. We decided last year that we would do the cycle over 19 days, plus one day to get there and one day to get back. Unfortunately, life changes, work is not as expected. My daughter, who has always been home educated, was meant to be taking two GCSEs over the year, but is now taking four.

We have also made the decision to make it a charity ride. Our local Adventure Playground has lost funding over the past couple of years. The local people of Gainsborough have supported them since then, but there has been a severe reduction in services. I chose this char-

ity because the playground manager said the support of the local community was so great that she felt unable to ask them for any more. My daughter thought it would be a great idea to ask the rest of the country for money. All monies raised will go to Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association
<http://gapa.btck.co.uk/>

We aim to do the ride unsupported starting on 23rd June. We are going to camp along the way. We would be grateful for support from Education Otherwise members. This may be just the opportunity to camp in your garden for one night. We intend to cycle our daily sixty miles early in the day, so we would have the opportunity in the afternoon or evening to speak with your local home education group or adventure playground.

At present our intended route will be Land's End to Gloucester, Gloucester to Kendal, Kendal to Edinburgh, Edinburgh to Inverness, Inverness to John o'Groats. If you feel you can offer us your support, please contact me on janet@hubblesimpson.co.uk

Janet, Lincolnshire

TAKING GCSEs

This year has seen significant changes in the provision of GCSE subjects for Private Candidates and I have seen a considerable increase in the number of contacts that have been made.

These changes have reduced the number of subjects available unless candidates are able to work in cooperation with an examination centre in the administering and marking of Controlled Assessments. This has removed the coursework options. Additional changes limiting modular exams and re-sits are due over the next few years, As a rough guide the following options are available:

1. Maths GCSE is available to private candidates. Maths specification 4360*AQA. This is the one with 3 units. Linear Maths is also available.
2. English Language and Literature are both available if you take the AQA certificate (IGCSE) 8705 and 8710.
- The written options have to be taken for Private Candidates. 8705HW and 8710HW
3. The other subjects, History, Geography, Sciences and French are only available to private candidates where a centre is prepared to allow candidates to take the controlled assessment and to mark it along with their own candidates.
4. ICT at GCSE is not available but there are other ICT qualifications which are offered at some FE Colleges to outside candidates.
5. Psychology, Sociology, and Religious Studies are available to Private Candidates.

The above makes reference to AQA but similar options are available with the other examination boards.

In my communications with EO members I have always made the following observations:

The websites below include lots of links to regulations, entry issues, centres that accept private candidates, specific subject information and relevant forms. Using these sites as a base you can explore the specific

syllabus requirements of all the range of GCSE. Each syllabus includes information relating to private candidates.

Many are simply not available, some are available if a centre can assess and host the Centre Assessed Element. A few have no coursework/CAE and can be taken at Centres. Be careful with the supplementary guide as some of it is for GCE (A level) rather than GCSE.

When selecting courses it is important to find a host centre that offers the same exam board/s that you intend to use before you embark on a course of study. This can be difficult and quite costly. Each board has a list of suitable centres and there are links to these lists in some of the sites I have included.

When studying from home you can find past papers, chief examiners subject reports and guides for students as well as teachers. A goldmine of helpful information. All these things can be found on the sites. There are some other courses which are more vocational, if you want information on these, but the new attitude to examinations now mean that these will be more written based assessments in the future.

http://web.aqa.org.uk/admin/p_private.php

<http://www.edexcel.com/i-am-a/student/private-candidates/Pages/default.aspx>

http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/learners/ocr_39366_learn_private_cand_guide.pdf

It is unfortunate that a significant number of enquiries are made a few weeks before the entry deadlines (21st Feb for June exams) causing confusion and panic.

I do have great pleasure in reporting that there are many success stories with EO candidates at GCSE and GCE, and that home education is in no way seen as a disadvantage for University Entrance. Colleges are however more difficult and often become tangled in legislation relating to funding and age boundaries. I have been able to personally intervene where a College has misinterpreted the regulations or where I have been able to demonstrate advantages for a college in

a flexible approach. Recent tightening of funding rules has made things more difficult and created some unfortunate anomalies.

I have very mixed experiences reported by members who have used distance learning centres. It would be useful to collect more information about individual experience and meet with the organisations. I am happy to receive emails on this subject, as I am with anything related to my brief as College Contact roger.scaife@gmail.com

I would also like to ask members who have contacted me to inform me of positive and negative outcomes to their problems so that I can continually update my advice. It has been very useful to be able to demonstrate to intractable colleges that other colleges have found a way forward and that in the vast majority of cases experiences with EO students have been successful and “value added”.

Interesting contacts with individual students seeking recognition for their alternative education have also brought positive results demonstrating an open and flexible understanding of the value of home education as a preparation for University.

The information below arrived recently from AQA and confirms what I mentioned above. This information is important and should be sent to all members!!!

GCSE Reform

Following Ofqual’s announcement in December 2011 about GCSE Reform, we can confirm that:

All GCSEs are to become terminally assessed in England

A requirement for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) will be introduced to English literature, history, geography and religious studies.

Modular to linear

GCSE exams are to become linear in England. From summer 2014, this means that 100% of the assessment must take place in a single exam series.

Controlled Assessment

For subjects that include a Controlled Assessment unit, there are some small changes:

As with other units, students must enter the Controlled Assessment unit in the series in which they certificate

Students can still do their Controlled Assessment tasks at any time during their course

Where the tasks change each year, students must do a task which is valid for the year of certification

Students who re-take a whole GCSE may re-use their previous Controlled Assessment mark, as long as it has been moderated and aggregated, or may do the Controlled Assessment unit again.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar

GCSE English literature, history, geography and religious studies will have a requirement for the assessment of spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG). This will apply to any exams taken after September 2012. The changes mean that 5% of the total marks will be awarded for SPaG.

AQA communication. Feb 2012.

The effect of the above is that any remaining specifications where candidates can build up modules over a period of 2 or more years will stop in 2014. If it was fine for Mr Gove, it is fine for everyone now.

Can you imagine the effect this is going to have on the results? Many students in schools and EO have benefited from collecting modules because they have a different learning style to the system which benefited those – often coached and from “educated” families – students (some 20%) who succeeded in the wonderful old system. Vocational qualifications have also been slimmed down and their status reduced.

Changes are being made to specifications and I will keep you informed of specific developments which will make it easier or more difficult for EO members.

Roger Scaife, EO’s College Contact
roger.scaife@gmail.com



Home Education Around the World - Belgium -

Several desperate families from Germany have in the past taken refuge with their western neighbour, Belgium, in order to escape German education authorities. So surely the rules for home education must be more relaxed across the border? Well, it is quite a diverse picture, and like everything in Belgium, divided up according to the three language boundaries (Dutch, French, German).

Even though education in Belgium is compulsory till the age of 18 (part-time from 15 years on is possible), schooling is not. Wikipedia offers definite numbers for home schooling, however only for one of the three language communities: "For the year 2005—2006 the number of home schooled children in Flanders rose to 580 out of a total of 1 million." One website even states that the Belgian Constitution from 1831 grants parents the right to home school their kids, with Article 24 offering parents a "free choice". However, a new law has been introduced in 2003, which now imposes certain educational standards on home-educated children and opens up possibilities for inspections by the authorities.

There is also an official registration scheme in place, and parents have to sign a "Declaration of Home Schooling" and work closely together with the inspectors. The wording of this statement is

however controversial, because it is rather arbitrary, and consequently some parents have objected to signing it. Any cooperation with the government in educational matters also poses an additional threat for Belgians: With two negative reports, children may have to attend school once more, again based on an arbitrary statement by the inspectors.

The actual testing at various age stages and all other details concerning education are handled differently by the three language communities:

- Wallonia (French-speaking): Tests are compulsory at certain ages, even though there is still a lot of confusion about them.
- Flanders (Dutch-speaking): The department of education has to be notified of the parents' decision to home educate; several minimum requirements have to be adhered to, such as securing the right of the child to develop its personality and talents as well as that of the state to uphold basic human rights and certain cultural values. Exams are optional, but proof of study can only be gained by passing an exam with the official board.
- German-speaking part: Home educators must be registered with the Ministry of Education; a primary education final certificate can be issued after an exam has been passed; inspections are possible and must be tolerated. Parents need to guarantee the proper instruction of their children.

Websites:

www.hslda.org/hs/international/Belgium/default.asp

www.expatica.com/be/education/school/expats-and-home-schooling-31671_8433.html

(an older website for expatriats that throws light on the Belien case in 2006)

www.myhomeschoolingweb.com/planning/laws/belgium/

(site does not give a date, so unclear as to how recent data is)

Groups:

www.freewebs.com/shapehomeschool/

(Christian, Belgian branch of an American military base near Cheivres; offer standardised testing)

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

(Yahoo group, particularly for the border regions)

NOTICES - NEWS - EVENTS

13th Studland Bay Camp Dorset Friday 13th to Friday 20th July 2012

Chrystia and Keith & Joshua warmly welcome all Home Educating families.

Come and meet adults and young people with years of home education experience.

- A wild and beautiful area of pine forest and lowland heath
- 4 miles to the sea, dunes and bird sanctuary
- Dorset steam railway nearby to the beach at Swanage
- Free outings to Corfe castle
- Cycleways and paths through the woods to the sea
- Camping in a large field backed by pine woods and nearby stream
- Access to facilities at adjoining Burnbake campsite
- We bring cargo nets, rope swings and large army tent
- You bring bikes, drums, instruments
- We sing together and play instruments around a fire on some evenings
- There is a mid week bring and share meal
- Morning acapella / gospel / taize & children's singing; some sharing meetings

Cost for week £120 a family (concessions and daily rate available) Teenagers welcome with families only. Information & booking:

Chrystia & Keith Hertogs

75 Kent House Rd., Sydenham, London SE26 5LJ
Tel: 020 8776 8597

Fifth Broadoak Home-Ed Camp, Dorset

Continue at a family camp near Bridport
Friday 20th to Sat 28th July

Home-educators and land co-op families camp in a beautiful field ringed with hills. Dew pond, wood for open fires, compost loos, gas shower, rope swings, cargo net, gardening, paddling pool, trips to the sea, morning meeting and singing, crafts. Gentle, quiet, amazing stars, space, fun, hedgerow play. Help build a clay pizza oven and a water slide, saw wood, keep the fire ...

Information and booking as above

Cost: £5 per adult per night

The John Betjeman Poetry Competition 2012

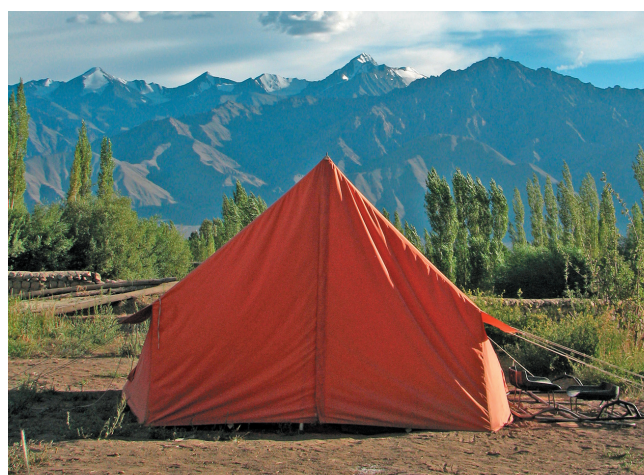
The John Betjeman Poetry Competition is open for entries from 10-13 year-olds until a closing date of 31st July.

Each child is invited to send in (by post or online) one poem on the theme of 'place'. You can choose anywhere that is important to you – from your bedroom to somewhere you visited on holiday, from your favourite park to your favourite building. The subject of your poem could be a city or a garden or a beach or a street. We are asking you to capture in words what that place means to you.

Winners of the poetry competition are invited to read their poems aloud to an audience of judges, entrants, teachers and parents as well as sponsors and press, at an awards ceremony held on National Poetry Day, Thursday 4th October, on the upper concourse of St Pancras International, next to the bronze statue of Sir John Betjeman. This year the prize of £1000 (shared between the winner and their local library or writers' group) will be presented by an emcee (to be announced shortly) and our judge Grace Nichols will read some of her poems.

The winner, runner-up, and second runner-up will each win four standard class tickets from St Pancras International to Paris, Brussels or Lille. The top six entrants will win prizes of £50 book tokens.

The competition is free to enter and an online entry form can be found at
www.betjemanpoetrycompetition.com



SEND Round Up

Education Otherwise Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Report

Jo Deeley has now joined us and will be helping Andrew and Denice with the different EO SEN roles.

Many of us may be affected by the ongoing reforms. EO are signed up members of DWP, who produce the Benefits and Work guides to DLA and other benefits, tribunals, etc., which we can provide to members who need this information. Contact Denice.

The SEN and disability green paper will be out soon and may create more changes for us: www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen

If you would like to share with us any interesting information or stories you may have, connected with home educating and special needs for the newsletter SEND section, please do so. Contact Jo.

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Denice:

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Jo:

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01293 510064

----- Volunteer Vacancies -----

LOCAL CONTACT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If there's no Local Contact in your county why not volunteer to be the one. The job can be as much or as little as you make it. Some Local Contacts are content just to phone the new member and welcome them to EO, telling them of local meetings. Others organise local meetings or outings, and many are willing to give help and support to local members in their dealings with the LA. Many of these aspects can be shared by local members rather than being the responsibility of the Local Contact.

EO needs Local Contacts for the following areas: -

Cheshire

Durham

Hertfordshire

Leicester

Middlesex

Northampton

Northumberland

Rutland

Shropshire

Suffolk

Wiltshire

And most parts of Scotland except the Highlands and Islands.

For more information and to volunteer (N.B. all EO volunteers are eligible for a reduced membership subscription, and receive a complimentary paper copy of the newsletter), please contact our Local Contact Co-ordinator

Lei Ashe,

lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org

Book Reviews

This issue features a review of *What your Year 1 Child Needs to Know: Preparing your Child for a Lifetime of Learning*, edited by Hirsch and Briggs and published by Civitas. The review is by Jax, a home edding mother of three. She is a dedicated blogger and keen to share ideas and resources with other parents. We would love to hear about any books or resources that you and your family have enjoyed or would recommend. Please send all reviews to bookreviews@educationotherwise.org.

Title: What your Year 1 Child Needs to Know: Preparing your Child for a Lifetime of Learning

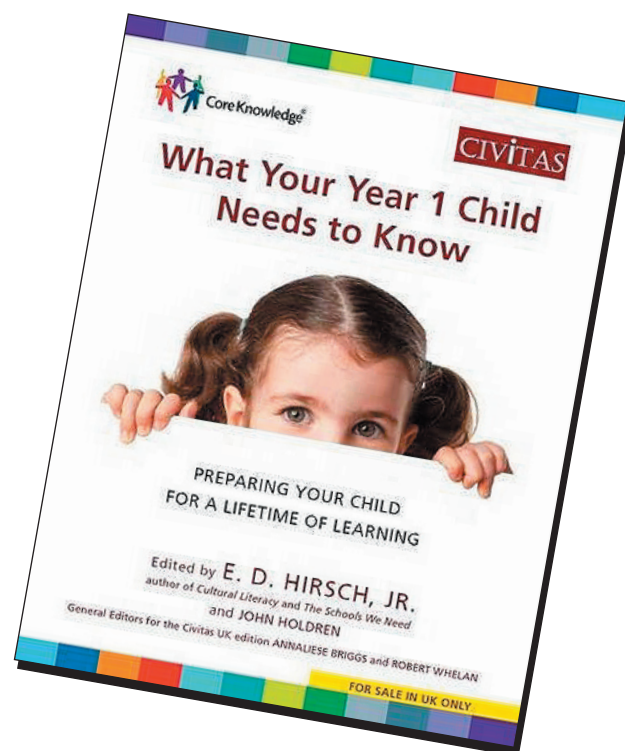
Editors: Hirsch and Briggs

ISBN: 978-1906837235

Price: £16.00

People often ask what their responsibilities are with regard to curriculum or standards. And actually, there aren't any. That legal definition, of an education suitable to age, ability and aptitude, doesn't specify a curriculum that needs to be followed, and in fact private schools don't have to follow the National Curriculum either. I think many home educators do keep an eye on it, as if you have to satisfy informal enquiries from your local authority it can be easier if you've some idea of what your children might be doing in school and where they stand in relation to it all. But I don't know anyone who follows it slavishly really, and often there are a variety of pick and mix approaches even within one family.

Of course, faced with days and days of entertaining and educating children ahead of you, lack of curriculum can be rather intimidating. There are, however, a wide variety of approaches out there, just waiting for you to google and find them. If you like reading aloud, you can go the www.sonlight.com way (it's described as a Christian literature based curriculum. If you aren't religious it is possible to miss out the very Christian bits, so worth checking it out anyway.) There's also "www.farhq.com/ which works around a classic children's book which you read every day for five days in a row, and then build other activities around the story.



Recently I was contacted by Core Knowledge, a Civitas project, offering me a copy of their book, *What Your Year 1 child Needs to Know*, to review. It's based on an American resource, which does show to some extent, but adjusted to be compatible with the National Curriculum targets in this country. I found the section on learning to read a bit odd – it doesn't actually offer a method, instead assuming that the reader will be familiar with the approach. However, there are lots of dedicated resources for learning to read, and if the book was being used by a school-using parent it would certainly supplement the school approach well.

What I did like, a lot, were the stories, poems and literary resources that take up a lot of the book. There are lots of familiar classics, with the proper drawings, and it's a great resource of the type of thing that is good for children around this age. Readalouds and so on, great things for sharing. And the book goes on with resources and activities for history, geography, science, music, maths and visual arts. I'm not sure it would be a complete home education 'bible' as it were for year 1, but it certainly would give the unsure parent something to base their own ideas around, and fill the days when inspiration doesn't strike.

Of course, it's a very traditional approach, and if you prefer unschooling, Montessori or Waldorf you will want to look elsewhere. But as a starting point for what to consider as base knowledge, it's pretty comprehensive, and definitely worth the price.

TRUSTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY GATHERING & MEETINGS

The AGM scheduled for 11.30 am on Saturday 11th February had to be adjourned, as unfortunately there were not enough SUMs at the gathering to form a quorum – even if we'd dragged in the one with 'flu from the car, and twisted the arms of the various friends and partners who were entertaining children etc. we would only have managed 17. That's just 3 short of the 20 we need. Unfortunately, this means that EO has had the additional expense of reconvening the meeting the following week, 18th February, with a second round of travelling expenses for trustees attending. While the AGM business is normally straightforward, it is also an opportunity for members to vote for who should become a trustee, and to comment on the accounts for the previous financial year (in this case, year ended 30th June 2011).

We particularly appreciate the effort made by those SUMs who did attend on 11th, especially those who travelled on the day specifically for the meeting and contributed to the discussion at the Open Council Meeting which was held on the same day. It's a pity that more members didn't attend and take advantage of the activities provided at the gathering venue. Perhaps someone who came will write a report on the social aspects of the gathering for the next newsletter – but we noticed that the teenagers present seemed to find plenty of activities (besides helping with the washing up!).

NOVEMBER GATHERING & MEETINGS

We hope that more members will be encouraged to attend the next gathering, which will be at the same venue over the weekend of 23rd to 26th November 2012. There will be a further AGM – having two in one year is inevitable if we are to catch up with the presentation of accounts to members within a reasonable time of the end of EO's financial year (30th June 2012). Also, the weather is generally better in November than in February.

There will also be an OCM, i.e. a meeting of trustees where any EO member can attend, and speak. Any member put something on the agenda, can make their views and concerns known to the meeting, and can ask the meeting to consider doing something. Normally the AGM is held for a short while within the OCM.

NUMBER OF TRUSTEES AND GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

One of the difficulties we are having is finding enough people to fill the role of trustee, since our present M&As (Memorandum and Articles of Association) require a minimum of 14. As we had only 12 elected trustees since the reconvened AGM, we will – yet again – need to co-opt a further two, just in order to be able to take the necessary decisions regarding running EO.

We are hoping to address this by starting a consultation with members on (a) reducing the number of trustees and (b) revising our M&As completely. Some years back the Charity Commission recommended that we should adopt a completely new set of governing documents more or less 'off the shelf', and that 5-8 would be a suitable number of trustees. Due to the wide geographical spread and variation in experience and views amongst EO members, we feel that a rather higher number might be appropriate, and 7-11 has been suggested; but what do YOU think? And how do YOU think our governing documents should be revised? Janet Wilkinson is co-ordinating a Working Group on these issues, and any interested member is welcome to contribute. Please contact her at jwilkinson@educationotherwise.org

INSURANCE

The Local Group Insurance scheme has been much more awkward to set up than we had realised when we notified members that it would be available, and we apologise for the delay in providing official documentation and definite procedures for organisers to follow. Unfortunately, the trustee who started this negotiation was unable to finalise detailed wording of schedules to cover EO local group activities with the insurance company. Another trustee has now taken this on, and is in touch with them. The initial contact and discussions were by telephone, and there has been some misunderstanding as to exactly what is required, but we are confident that this will be settled by April. Trustees are also working out exactly how the scheme will be administered in practice, what paperwork will be required from Local Group organisers (who need to be current individual family members of EO) and the form of the certificate.

I hope that the delay is not holding up normal group activities.

Anne Rix, for EO trustees.

LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

HErs – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing. Note also that groups are not always run by EO members. Further information on the groups below is available via the Local Groups area of the EO website, and others will be added as and when their contact details have been verified.

If you know of a group that's not listed, please ask the organiser to enter it at www.education-otherwise.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 changes via the webmaster at www.education-otherwise.net

England

Bedfordshire

Christian Home Ed - Scott and Rachel, scottandrachel@ntlworld.com

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

Busy B-Hes - Weekly drop-in session offering chats and support and activities., Pauline, 07791 850545, pauline@kc2001.fsnet.co.uk

Berkshire

Berkshire Home Educators - Educators Meetings for families living in Berkshire and adjoining counties
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/groups/berkshirehomeeducators/>

Bristol

Bristol Home Education - A local support group, Bristol area
<http://www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk/>

Bristol Home Education Learn Place (HELP)

Carla 01179 354389 carla-maria@blueyonder.co.uk

Buckinghamshire

Free Range Education - Range of educational events and activities in Milton Keynes and North Bucks., Sarah Whiteley 01908 309903
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/freeranged/>

High Wycombe Home Educators - group for all home educators in and around the High Wycombe area.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/highwycombehomeeducators/>

Home Education Milton Keynes - An informal, non-hierarchical group for home educators 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 Local Authority.
<http://www.mkhen.org.uk>, Georgeanne Scott 01908 662256
sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk, mk_hen@hotmail.com

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

Cambridgeshire

Cambridge Home Educating Community Activity List - summary of sessions and regular groups in Cambridge www.educationchoice.org.uk
Karen Rodgers 01223 573220 karen@karenrodgers.co.uk

Cambridge Home Educating Families (CHEF) - A group of parents/carers who HE or are considering HE. www.cambridgehomeeducators.org.uk/
Morag Nevey 01223 464918 morag2000@hotmail.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
<http://www.southcheshirehe.btck.co.uk/>

Cornwall

Cornwall Home Educators - A group of dedicated and enthusiastic home educators from across Cornwall.
<http://cornwallhomeed.wordpress.com/about/>

Home Grown - S E Cornwall HE Group - Drama & Spanish nr. Liskeard.
Katherine Revell 01752 851091

PZ Home Ed - Meets Monday p.m. for workshop during term time.
Ruth 01736 350887 ruthboulton@phonecoop.coop

Cumbria

Cumbria Home Educators - Meets fortnightly near Kendal and in Penrith. Trips and interesting activities around Cumbria and further afield
<http://www.communigate.co.uk/lakes/cumbriahomeed/>

Derbyshire

Derby Home Education Group (DHEG) - Meets weekly. Gym club, fun physical movement and team games at a sports centre with an instructor. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/derbyhe/>

Home Ed Buxton Area - Local meetings and activities. We also welcome those who are thinking about educating elsewhere than at school. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeedbuxtonarea>

Matlock HE - Local meetings and activities. We also welcome those who are thinking about educating elsewhere than at school.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/matlockhe>

Devon

Buckfastleigh Wildspace - Nature study and gardening group based at Buckfastleigh Town hall. Welcomes HE families.
<http://www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=279900>

Dart Valley Home Ed Network - Out and about visits: natural history, history, photography and more. Members-only internet group.
Hannah and Gordon 01803 762788 lindnich@tesco.net

Exeter Home Education Community - Wednesday drop-in; GCSE; green woodwork, permaculture, pottery & more.
<http://exeterhomeeducationcommunity.co.uk>
Neil 01363 82314 n.bedford@btinternet.com

Home Grown Kids - Website, activities, forum and newsletters HE/ flexischools or interested in home education.
<http://homegrownkids.wetpaint.com/>
Jo 08445 868843 northdevon-lc@educationotherwise.org

South Devon Home Education Group

<http://www.southdevonhomeeducation.co.uk/>
Helen 01803 390639 helenlloyd-hoare@blueyonder.co.uk

Teignbridge and Torbay Home Educators - Social events and educational visits. <http://www.teignbridgeandtorbayhe.co.uk>
Julia Pollard 07905 293223 Julia@classroomfree.co.uk

Teignbridge HE Group - Informal social and educational meetings in Teignbridge and surrounding areas.
Andrew and Denise andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk

Dorset

HEED - Weekly meetings - Poole/Bournemouth. An open, friendly group - Everyone welcome, for further information contact:
Carol Stone 01202 677066 carolstonehe@yahoo.co.uk

Home Educators of East Dorset (covers all Dorset)
Website with details of various groups meeting in Dorset.
<http://www.he-ed.org.uk>

HERA, group based in Creekmoor, Poole. Weekly workshops and activities + outings and events. www.heradorset.shutterfly.com Sarah 01202 600065, sarahandthai@aol.co.uk Tracy 01202 650013

Durham

Yahoo group for County Durham - Get-togethers are often arranged between members in various areas of County
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/County-durham-homeed>

Essex

Haverhill HE group - Covering South Suffolk/North Essex.
Eve 01440 788228 or 07768 763913 wixde@yahoo.co.uk

Portsmouth Home Education Group - Group HE or interested in HE, in & around Portsmouth
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/portsmouthhomeed/>

SEEDS - Meets every term time afternoon for sports/play and for a full day activity once a week. Southampton.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1/>

Southend HE Group - Meets weekly. Lots of outings and activities.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southendhomeeducation/>,
southendhomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk,

WIGWAM - Epping Forest, A weekly informal drop-in group.
Eleanor Stapleton 07866 701442 elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk

Gloucestershire

Cirencester and Cotswold group - Meetings, plus will answer HE queries. Pam Perryman 01285 721008 pamela.perryman@gmail.com

Forest of Dean HE group - Bridge and dam building, river clearance, fire building, woodland walks, etc. Roxy.cdsnhf@googlemail.com

Glos Otherwise Club - Beverley 01242 524091 or Fiona 01684 290087
brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk

GlosHE.org.uk - HE links and local resources in and around Gloucestershire. <http://www.gloshe.org.uk/>

Stroud email list - Nick, 01453 840036 nick.weir@localfood.org.uk

Hampshire

Hampshire FRHEBEES - Free Range & Home Educated Bees. West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and activities.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHEBees/>

North Hampshire HE Group - Regular activities and meetings organised suitable for all ages. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NH-HE/>
Jaki 07731 805323 jakiparsons@yahoo.com

Herefordshire

Hereford Home Education - Indoor and outdoor facilities, ages 3-15. herefordhe@gmail.com

Monmouth and Herefordshire Home Educators - Local meets and events, Yahoo! group. Roxy 01989 768128

Hertfordshire

Herts Home Educators - Yahoo! group for Hertfordshire home educators. newhomeeducators@gmail.com

Isle of Wight

The Isle of Wight Learning Zone - A network of HE families based in I of W.
<http://www.iwlearningzone.co.uk/>

Kent

Dragonfly Kidz HE Group (Canterbury & Thanet) - Social group meeting at a Youth Centre with Dance studio, art room, pool tables etc.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dragonflykidzhomeeducationgroup/>
Andrea 07737 806478 or 01304 619278, Steph Gater 01304 814362, stephgater@rocketmail.com

Home Education Network for Autism in Kent - Meets fortnightly for parents home-educating children on the autism spectrum.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Home_Education_Network_for_Autism_in_Kent/

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-kent>

Kent, 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/,Tracey,07947301327,chaggasbug@gmail.com>

SATHE Supporting Autism Through Home Education - A West Kent group open to all parents/carers either home educating, flexi-schooling or considering Education Otherwise for children with autism/sensitivities or learning difficulties.
Contact, Denice Cartwright 07554 386844 S-A-T-H-E@yahoogroups.co.uk
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/S-A-T-H-E/>

Wealden Home Educators' Network - Active network of HE families in the SE of England.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork/>

Lancashire

Boneheds - Help, support, advice and friendship to all families who are home educating (or considering HE) in Bolton, Lancashire and the surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/boneheds/>

Burnley and East Lancs Home School Support Group - Support for parents, activities for children. <http://www.emica.co.uk>
Alyas Khan 07912 283450 alyaskhan@emica.co.uk

Home Ed Leyland - Friendship, help, 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-lo/>

LEAD Home Education - A chance to swap ideas, share stories and arrange local social gatherings.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead_he/

Leicestershire

Syston HE - A fun and lively group for the under 10s.
Vikku vikkiandmartin@googlemail.com

Lincolnshire

Home Ed Lincs - Yahoo newsgroup coordinating HE activities in Lincolnshire. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_lincs/

Lincolnshire Home Education - <http://www.home-ed.ukf.net/index.htm>

North Hykeham HE Group - Thurs 10-11.30ish. Primarily for toddlers.
07870 787328 debi-crow@googlemail.com

London

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

Brandram Roaders - Weekly meetings in term time.
rbyradburn@hotmail.com

Haringey Home Education Club - meetings and other events.
<http://www.hhec.org.uk/contact@hhec.org.uk>

Home Study Groups - A small group of home educating families pooling resources to form tutored home study groups.
Ingie Berrett 02035 668706 ibertritt@gmail.com

London Home Educators - An online, moderated group providing information and resources to home educating families living in and around Central London. <https://groups.google.com/group/LondonHE?hl=en>

Magpie Home Educators (East London) - Phil 020 8500 1053

Monday Study Group - Dulwich, Age 11-16. Maths, English and Science to GCSE. Gina 020 8299 1135

London cont.

The Otherwise Club (NW) - A community centre for HE families.
Leslie 020 8969 0893

WIGWAM - Jubilee Park N9, Informal drop-in group for families with children of any age. Eleanor Stapleton 07866 701442,
elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk

Woodland Club - Dulwich, Age 8-teen. Science, Maths, English, speakers, social afternoon. Gina, 020 8299 1135

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/>

West Norfolk Home Educators - A meeting place for home educators and families interested in home educating.
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators/>

Northamptonshire

Northants HE - Informal group, meets 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 and around Nottinghamshire & bordering counties.
http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Notts_Sheep-Special/

Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire Home Educators - A group for all home educators living in Oxfordshire, but those in neighbouring counties are also welcome to join. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OxonHE/>

England, Regional

Contacts and Events SW - A home education network for the SW, specifically set up to support new HEs, or those new to the area. New input welcomed. Andrew andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk

East Midlands Home Ed Yahoo! Group - forum to help, inform and support HE families in the East Midlands.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/oup/emhe>

East Anglian Home Ed Network, (Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire)
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/East-Anglian-Home-Ed-Network/>

FAREGOS Home Education Group - HE group/email list covering Fareham, Gosport and South Hants.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FareGosHE/>

ActiveEO - Monthly newsletter with weekly events for group members home educating in the Chichester, Bognor Regis, Havant, Portsmouth and Petersfield areas, Julie 01243 552472
<http://www.activeo.co.uk/index.html>

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

Home-EASE (Home Education for all South East) - Group of HE families in SE England, 0753 1677 083. homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk

South East Home Educators (Kent/Sussex)
Meet regularly for trips etc. To join Yahoo! group email:
southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
<http://www.southeast-home-educators.co.uk>

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

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

Birmingham Home Ed - Contact and events for HE families.
<http://www.homeeducationbirmingham.org.uk>

Shropshire

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

Rushbury/Stretton HE Group - Parent and child-led activities as well as people from the wider community, Beverley 01743 718429 or Maria 01588 630314

Shropshire Home Education - For HEs in Shropshire area to chat, arrange meets etc. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shed>

Telford area HE activities - For times and dates of skating, football and drama sessions. Denise 07866 888879

Somerset

Bath HE Yahoo! Group
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/BathHomeEducation/>

FAB Home Ed Group (Shepton Mallett) - Meets fortnightly at Shepton Mallet Scout Hut. Also FAB Times (local email newsletter)
Mandy 01749 347799

North Somerset HE Group - Weekly children's gym, walks, outings, Yahoo! group for members. Vicky 01275 848425 victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk

Oake HE Group - Monthly meetings and outings. Maggie 01984 624651

Taunton Home Education Group - Free play as well as arts & crafts, games, various other activities. <http://tauntonhomeed.blogspot.com/>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tauntonhomeeducation/tauntonhomeeducation@yahoo.com>,

Wells Swimming Group - Weekly swimming, Wells Leisure Centre, term time only. Lesley, 01749 689241 mumfordturner@hotmail.com

Suffolk

Book Club - Ipswich town centre, Lisa 07538 102322 llw_llg@yahoo.co.uk

Dennington HE Group - Wide range of activities, all ages welcome. Janet 01728 638795 janetlomas@gmail.com
Meraylah meraylah@meraylah.co.uk

Ipswich Wednesdays - Shared lunch and activities.
Emma emma@nattyem.co.uk

Tostock HE Group - All families welcome to this very friendly group.
Jan 01359 251184 angusto@btinternet.com

Surrey

Godalming HE Group - A group for HE families based in South West Surrey and the surrounding area. <http://swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk>

Home Educators Learning Project - Aims to bring together Surrey based home educators for educational support, social and educational outings. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/HELearningProject/>

HomeEddies - Covers West and East of Surrey. Support, friendship, social get togethers, trips, activities, clubs and classes.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeeddieswest-eastssurrey/>

Parents and Children Together (PACT) - Guildford & surrounding areas newsletter for one-off events and regular weekly activities.
<http://www.pact-he.org.uk/>

Sutton/Epsom HE group - Meets weekly, and also monthly for outings.
<http://epsomandsuttonhomeed.blogspot.com/>
Paul 07506 781796 pauldmsn@hotmail.com

SW Surrey Home Ed - Weekly gatherings alternating between Farnham and Godalming. <http://www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk/index.php>

Sussex

Brighton and Hove Home Educators - Information on HE events and groups in the area., <http://bhhe.wordpress.com/>

Eastbourne EO Group - Regular gatherings & activities. www.shinies.org.uk

Forest Row HE Group - Regular monthly meetings + fun & learning groups at many other times. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHE/>

HEDGE Home Ed Group (Hastings/St. Leonard) - Weekly social meetings + trips etc. www.hedge-education.btck.com Catherine 01424 812213

South Eastern Home Educators, www.southeast-home-educators.co.uk

Warwickshire

Creative Youth Adventure Club (Coventry) - For over 11's working towards Arts Awards. sarah@nellyb.co.uk

Warwick District HE - HE Primarily for children 0-11 though all welcome, Warwick and Leamington. Alison 07782 299181 <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/warwickhe>

Wiltshire

The Outpost Education Centre - Located near Chippenham. Group activities, education workshops, trips, tutoring, events and projects. <http://www.theoutpost.org.uk/info@theoutpost.org.uk>

Worcestershire

Worcestershire Home Educators Network - Meetings usually at least weekly throughout term time at various locations round the county. <http://www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/>

Bewdley HE Group - Weekly meetings, all welcome. Sophie 01299 405669 sophie.butcher34@yahoo.com

Forest School Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster - For all HE families. Sophie 01299 405669 sophie.butcher34@yahoo.com

Worcestershire Home Ed Yahoo Group - Email list for those home educating in Worcestershire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/worcestershirehome-ed/>

Yorkshire

Huddersfield Art Workshops - Monthly, 8yrs plus. Jane 01484 645034 or Mandy 01484 460026

Huddersfield Book Group - Monthly Marsden library. Jane 01484 645034

Huddersfield Home Educators - Monthly themed meetings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyhec/>, Mandy, 01484 460026, meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk
NYHEC (group for HE parents) - Group for parents He-ing in North Yorkshire, nyhec-owner@yahoo.co.uk

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

Yorkshire Home Edders Yahoo! group - A friendly group for home educators throughout the Yorkshire region. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/yorkshirehomedders/>

Yorkshire North + West HE Group - Meets Skipton monthly & Bradford Gym Club weekly. Regular meetings & outings. Judith 01756 791356

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>, Yahoo group (private-by invitation) Anita Kolaczynska 01686 413502 anitakolaczynska@yahoo.co.uk

Isle of Man

Isle of Man, Home Educating Network - An informal group of parents home educating on the Isle of Man. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>, Yvonne.isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org

Wales

Carmarthenshire

Camarthen HE Group - Regular meetings in Johnstown, Carmarthen caroline.milburn@yahoo.com

North Carmarthen HE Group - meetings for friendship & play. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ncarmarthenhomeed>

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

Glamorgan

Bridgend Home Education group - The group is free and families from across South Wales are welcome. <http://www.bridgendhomeeducators.org>, Rachel, bridgendhomeed@aol.com

New Foundations HE - Meets Cardiff, Thursdays 10-4. All activities are free. <http://www.newfoundationshe.com>, 02920216502

Newport Home Education Group - Group Rogerstone 1-4pm £4/family. Fiona fionataylor910@btinternet.com

Gwynedd

Langower HE Group - Weekly meetings. rowenna73@hotmail.com

Tregarth Creative Learning & Support - Regular meetings, free weekly newsletter of events via email. www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk, Julie 01286 678181 jdchapmanmaurice@aol.com

Monmouthshire

Monmouth Home Educators - Meets at Rockfield Community Centre. Roxy 01989 768128 cdsnhf@googlemail.com

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

Montgomeryshire

Shiny Happy Children - Regular meetings in Llanfyllin and surrounding areas. Katie llanfyllinHE@gmail.com

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

Powys

New Leaf HE Group (Newtown) - Occasional meetings for varied activities, all ages. siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk

Wrexham and Surrounds Home Education (WASHE) - Activities around Wrexham area. <http://washe.co.uk/>

Wales, Regional

South West Wales - Elective Home Education Wales - Linking HE families across Wales. <http://www.ehew.co.uk>

Wales, Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester - For information about group activities in the Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester area contact local EO member Roxy 01989 768128 cdsnhf@googlemail.com

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PLEASE NOTE EO'S NEW ADDRESS FOR
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Memberships

Membership enquiries, address changes,
membership cards, new member admin.:
please contact the Membership Secretary:
membership@educationotherwise.org
or PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT

AND NEW WEBSITE:

www.education-otherwise.net

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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.s.a.e. to:

Education Otherwise
PO Box 3761, Swindon SN2 9GT
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www.education-otherwise.net

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