

EARLY YEARS EDUCATION – “COMMUNICATION MATTERS”

Report By: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Wards Affected

Countywide.

Purpose

1. To inform the Committee of the imminent publication of a new Herefordshire training video, *Communication Matters*, on early years education.

Financial Implications

2. The cost of producing the training video has been met from within the approved budget for early years education.

Report

3. A training video has now been completed for use by Early Years Groups, LEA nurseries and school reception classes. The response to previews has been very encouraging, including requests for copies from advisory staff in other LEAs and the DfES. The training video will be launched, with accompanying training manual, during the summer term. The first viewing will be at 5.45 p.m., on the evening of 6th May, immediately before a scheduled meeting of the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership at Blackfriars. Councillors would be very welcome at that first viewing, if they would like to come along. The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership meeting, which follows, is itself a public meeting.
4. The training video provides an interesting and lively introduction to the many good practices that enable children to enjoy and benefit from their first experiences away from home. There are important messages for all who play a part in early years settings – whether as parents or volunteers, teachers or teaching assistants, or as support staff who supervise and nurture children throughout the day. The messages are as relevant to playgroups and nurseries as they are to reception classes in schools.
5. The central focus of the video is communication. It shows how much learning, speaking, listening and purposeful activity – as well as sheer fun and mutual affection – can be packed into each day. The featured items include: children arriving with their parents in the morning, circle and story time, planning boards, pirate trails, talking in small groups, 2-way telephones, snacks at break-time, persona dolls and puppets, building bridges, hunting for mini beasts, and role play at the seaside or the travel agent or the airport.

6. Making of the video has involved the co-operation of twelve early years groups and schools. The video was commissioned from Silva Productions and was produced by the Council's inspector for Early Years, with advice from early years professionals in private, voluntary, independent and school settings.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee note the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.