

Monthly Communications - June 2010

Local Updates

East Staffordshire:



Tamworth Early Years Children's Centre Basin Lane
Tamworth B77 2AH



The Saturday Club

For Dads and other male carers, this club takes place on the third Saturday of each month, 10am -12pm. It costs just £1.00 per family and this includes refreshments. Interested? To book your place simply contact the centre or ask at reception. If you need further details please ask to speak to Ray or Dawn.





FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES:

July 10th - **Joint Dad's Event**- Tamworth Sure Start Children Centres are joining together so that you can meet lots of Dads from other centres. Held here at the Centre, from 10am - 1pm, lunch will also be available at a small charge. Please look out for the larger flyer!

September 18th - **Exploratory Play** - come along and be amazed at how much children enjoy exploring natural resources. Warning: They may get messy!

October 16th - **The Recycle Challenge**- let's see what creations you and your children can make with all those recyclable materials that we throw away each week.

Phone: 01827 53343 Fax: 01827 52968

Email: office@tamworthearlyyears.staffs.sch.uk

Website: www.tamworthearlyyears@staffs.sch.uk

Supported by



National Updates

The BBC on fatherhood: a season of TV programmes NOT TO BE MISSED!

Fatherhood in an historical and contemporary context is celebrated in a season of TV programmes encompassing documentary, science, drama, and entertainment, to be screened on BBC4 in the week following Fathers Day in the UK. Among other things, these programmes re-write the history of modern fatherhood, looking beneath the social stereotypes - frequently based more in myth than in reality - which have shaped our thinking about men in families.

Look out for these wonderful programmes from Monday 21st June on BBC4. Find out more from the [BBC website](#). Overseas viewers who do not receive this TV channel should be able to watch these programmes online on the BBC website in the week following transmission.

Programmes in the season

A Century Of Fatherhood - a three-part series - begins the whole BBC 4 season of programmes at 9.00 pm on Monday 21st June. This three-part series uses moving testimony from dads of all ages (and their children) to chart the revolution in fatherhood in Britain and provide a unique insight into 100 years of dramatic change.

The Fatherhood Institute contributed substantially to this programme - and our Head of Research, Adrienne Burgess, appears in it, as do several fathers who came forward because we sent out a 'call for participants' to our database.



The Biology Of Dads. This programme is scheduled for the Tuesday evening (22nd June). In it child psychologist Laverne Antrobus investigates the psychology of families, revealing the extraordinary biological changes that occur in fathers. **This programme features the Fatherhood Institute's HIT THE GROUND CRAWLING peer-support programme for expectant fathers - the course in this programme taking place in Burntwood.**

Disappearing Dad. Fathers in literature are often missing, marginalised or regarded as an embarrassment. Novelist Andrew Martin takes a light-hearted journey through three centuries of literary fatherhood.

Lennon Naked. John Lennon's role as a father, and the impact of the brief and unhappy reappearance of his own father into his life, is the focal point of this drama, in which Christopher Eccleston stars.

Fathers and Sons: The Waughs. Alexander Waugh reflects on the father-son relationships in this great literary dynasty.

Men About The House charts the evolution of the role of the British father as seen through the lens of situation comedies from the Fifties to the modern day.

Extracts from these programmes could make powerful items to be used in training or in the classroom.

Precise programme times will be given on the BBC website. To find them, go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/tv/guide/>

Happy viewing!

This week is the first ever Fathers' Story Week...

Over 2,000 primary schools, nurseries, children's centres, pre-schools, libraries, childminders and even prisons are taking part in Fathers' Story Week – all designed to help fathers to get more involved in their children's education.

Fathers' Story Week is run by the [Fatherhood Institute](#), in partnership with a wide variety of [educational and charitable organisations](#), to help schools develop new ways of engaging with fathers.

Activities going on between now and Sunday range from a 'Teatime Tales with Dad' cookery-and-reading session in Kent, to a 'Real Men Read' week in Pontypridd, South Wales and a 'Dads Discovery Day' in Hull. In London one nursery has planned an exciting week of fun filled events including a session with a professional coach from Arsenal football club.

Fathers' Story Week is set to be an annual event, so [sign up now](#) to receive information about next year's event. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#). And if you're looking to make your school, nursery or setting look a bit more father-friendly, don't forget to invest in some of our fantastic [Fathers and Family Learning posters](#).

What are the top 3 things the Families Taskforce should do for fathers? Have your say!

Following last week's announcement by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg of a [Childhood and Families Taskforce](#), we are developing a detailed submission to ensure Taskforce members develop policies with the best possible prospects for **involved fatherhood and shared parenting**.

Here are some first thoughts about our 'top 3' policy priorities:

1. Shared parenting and the system of parental leave

We need to be working towards a longer, and better-paid, system of reserved leave for fathers in the first year following a baby's birth – to help cement into place the early paternal involvement which research shows is associated with a huge range of positive child outcomes; and to help redress the gender pay gap (currently 22% in the UK, compared to an EU average of 17%).

2. Better relationship support

The ability to develop a 'team' approach to parenting can help create more stable, satisfying parental relationships and thus prevent separation and divorce. Where relationships do break down, we need better mediation services and court processes which enable separating parents to reach the right decisions about how they can both continue to be actively involved parents.

3. Engaging men in childcare and education settings

Proposed changes to Sure Start have the potential for more effective engagement with more vulnerable families, which could increase child wellbeing and safety, and reduce social inequalities. But to be really successful, there must be an emphasis on systematically engaging with men in these families. So all professionals in these agencies (including health visitors) need to understand the importance of engaging with both mothers and fathers, and must be competent to fulfil that role. We also need more men working in the children's workforce (currently only 2% of the workforce are men).

What would be the 'top 3' things you'd like the Taskforce to do? We'd love to hear from you...send in your ideas to [Fiona McAllister](#) by close of 1pm on Thursday 24 June and the best answer wins a £25 Marks and Spencer gift voucher.

Read our [Six Signposts for Fatherhood](#) and our policy briefing '[Our work and the Coalition programme for government](#)'.