

## Puffins Training

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Celebrating excellence in  
childcare.



Puffins of Exeter & Puffins Training Ltd

## Competition

This month we have a  
caption competition. Write  
a caption for this photo!

Send or email your answers to Lindsey Ayling  
lindseyayling@puffinsofexeter.com by 9th  
May.



## Birthdays in April...

Aisling Skilton- 10th  
Kate Bailey—12th  
Bianca Fenton—19th  
Teri Glanville—24th

Hope you all had/have a  
great time!

**Many congratulations** to  
Amanda Cunliffe & Abi Draper,  
from Haldon House, Josie  
Puckey from Winslade, Matt  
Watson, Chloe Storey & Stacey  
Burns from MLG and Sara Forde  
& Aimee Jarman from Manston  
Terrace who all passed their  
Communications level 2 tests

recently, and to Emma Bry-  
ant who passed her L3 tech-  
nical certificate external  
exam.

### Dates for your diary

24th April—learner rep meeting  
28<sup>th</sup> April - 5pm Full assessor mtg  
27 May—Open day, Exeter  
28 May—Open day, Torquay

### DYP Workshops:

30 April—celebrations  
7 May—home visits & transitions  
21 May—Cooking

All start at 2pm at the Stables, book with Katherine-  
lamb@puffinschildcare.com, 01392 496017

If you have any ideas for DYP workshops, please let Gemma  
know on gemmarolstone@puffinschildcare.com



# Training Magazine

## April

**Welcome!** It has  
been an extremely busy  
month for everyone.  
Thank you to all those  
who took part in our re-  
cent OFSTED, we re-  
ceived some very good  
feedback. The report will  
be published very soon so  
you will be able access it  
on the internet.  
We are quickly coming to  
the end of the training  
year and many of you are  
working hard to get as-  
signments and units fin-  
ished. It is really impor-

tant to keep ap-  
pointments with  
your assessors as  
they are all very  
busy at the moment  
and will find it hard  
to get another ap-  
pointment within  
two weeks.

We are pleased to see that  
many of you have been tak-  
ing advantage of your  
learning zones, we hope  
they have been useful to  
your training. We would be  
grateful of any feedback  
as we are always looking to  
improve our service.



Good luck to all who are  
going for new job posi-  
tions in the nurseries and  
remember if you would  
like any help with writing  
CVs, letters or interview  
tips please contact  
Lindsey for any careers  
advice.

## Did you know ...

... **that you can get  
help to give up smoking?**  
If you want to give up  
smoking, you are far  
more likely to succeed if  
you have some support  
from family, friends, col-  
leagues or support agen-  
cies. The NHS have a  
website with lots of in-  
formation—  
www.gosmokefree.nhs.uk  
and a helpline number—

0800 169 0 169. Many  
products that can help  
you stop smoking are  
available on prescription.  
If you are serious about  
giving up, Puffins may  
help with prescription  
charges or incentives—  
just email Gemma or  
Gillian, or ask your man-  
ager to speak to us.  
"Quitting smoking isn't

easy, but when you see  
the drastic improvements  
to your life and health it  
is really motivating.  
Smoking is unattractive  
and costs you loads of  
money. Just imagine  
yourself being smoke-  
free. Feeling great and  
having that extra money  
in your pocket!" (from  
NHS website)

## Puffins Training

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### Special points of in- terest:

- ☺ Ofsted visit goes  
smoothly
- ☺ Key skills sessions avail-  
able

### Inside this issue:

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## Level 2 News



*Phoning local suppliers ...*

Level 2 learners have been working hard on the UK skills challenge. They have been planning a charity fete that will be held at the Stables. Three groups will then submit details of their hard work to the UK Skills Challenge, and will have the opportunity to present their work to the judging panel in person. The actual fete will be held on Saturday 31st May 2008—so put the date in your diaries!

*Planning ideas ...*



## Assessor news

If you are interested in becoming an assessor, and would like to undertake the assessor qualification, please let Sue know as we hope to be able to train more people in the near future.

As we reach the home straight for this year's qualifications, it's important to make sure that everyone is on target for NVQ completion. Level 2 apprentices need to have had 6 units completed by the

end of May, and level 3 advanced apprentices need to have had 7 units completed by the end of May.

If any assessors or learners are worried about meeting these targets, then please contact Sue who will try to ensure that you have additional support.

Finally, a word about professional discussions. Learners can find it difficult to be assessed using a

professional discussion they have the "answers" prepared in the form of notes beforehand. However, it should not be necessary to have written notes—assessors should use questions during a professional discussion to fill in any gaps left by other assessments. So no more notes!

## Level 3 News



*The main room at Pixies Holt*  
The residential weekend took place at the beginning of the month, with a great time had by all. Everyone got really involved

with the activities, which made it very rewarding for the tutors. Unfortunately, we woke up to a snow storm on Sunday morning and had to cut the visit to Pixies Holt short to make sure everyone got home alright.

Thanks to the L3s for their feedback—it's not too late to

let us know how you found the weekend—email us or use the comments box at the Stables.

*L3s wait for their eggs to drop ...*



## Improving your key skills

Some of you will probably have noticed that we're having a drive to get as many staff as possible to level 2 in Communications (English) and Application of Number (maths). We are running a series of workshops over the next few months which are designed to help staff revise for the national test.

Many of you are already booked on these courses—but if you

aren't, you can join in provided your manager approves your release from nursery—just let Sue or Gillian know which day you want to attend.

The days and times are:  
Tuesdays, 08.30 am to 10.30 am for Maths;

Tuesdays, 5 pm to 7 pm for English;

Thursdays, 08.30 am to 10.30 am for Maths;

Fridays, 08.30 am to 10.30 am for English

*A recent English workshop ...*



## Mentor news

I'd like to say a big thank you to all mentors that have attended the last two mentor meetings. Sue and I were able to pass on some very important information to you all about Ofsted. To all of you that were interviewed another thank you for all your hard work and comments made to the inspectors. We had some excellent feedback from them about the efforts you make in the nurseries, and as soon as the report is

published we'll be able to share their comments with you all. Please remember that just because Ofsted have been and gone this doesn't mean that all this hard work needs to stop so please keep it up! We've had far more positive feedback from learners this year than ever before, so we know your efforts are really valued.

Very soon I will be running some mentor training, this is

open to all the new mentors and any of you that missed the training first time round. Details will be out very soon.

Tracy

## Our courses next year ...

We are already starting to plan for the courses we will be running from September, and we hope to include an exciting new L3 qualification in the Early Years Foundation Stage practice, as well as some training in team leading for our existing or potential room leaders.

There will be open days for potential apprentices at the Stables and

in Torquay during the school half term—27 May in Exeter and 28th May in Torquay. If you have any friends or relations that may want to find out about training with Puffins, or if you would like to be involved or think you would be able to come and talk to prospective learners about your own experiences, please contact Sue or Lindsey.

We will soon also have some places available on our level 4 NVQ programme, please make sure you let Sue know if you're interested. You need to have a level 3 qualification and key skills at level 2.