

Diversity Group – Early Years Seminar

Our Diversity group had a very successful seminar with 15 attendees and 2 guest speakers, Caroline Hughes, Speech and Language and Elaine Gardner, Registered Dietician.



This was an extraordinary event because all the parents have English as an additional language, but were able to participate in the workshops/group and discuss freely.

The group is run in partnership with Community Nursery Nurse, Jo Sibley, Jyotsna Ghosh, Family Learning Co-ordinator and Sure Starts Outreach workers Emma Dewey and Katie Stephens. We run the project at Margaret Wix School, a strong partner to the St Albans Children's Centre. This was the first time many of the parents used a crèche and were obviously anxious. The seminar was organised after several months of working with the parents on a weekly basis. Interpreters were also at hand. We have seen both parents and children grow in confidence, the project has helped parents to access other services and the children to access early years provision.



Future planned events for this group include First Aid and an English 15 week language course. The families have just completed a 6 week Cooking Group which focused, at the parents own request, on cooking English/Western food, nutrition and budgeting.

Some of the parents are looking to become volunteers for the Children's Centre, whilst another parent has worked with us in the crèche to support the bilingual children



The group has been supported by Councillor Witherick who allocated funding through the locality budget, which has enabled us to purchase bilingual equipment/resources for the children and parents.

The Diversity Group project started in September 2010 and started with 1 parent. It has gone from strength to strength.