

The Clore goes **interactive!**

THE FAMILY LEARNING TEAM'S recent event at the National Galleries of Scotland's Clore Education Centre was a great success. The event entitled, 'Involving parents in their children's learning: a model of partnership work with parents' was aimed at headteachers, community based adult learning staff and others who were keen to develop work with parents.

The interactive event consisted of participants receiving a set of questions about Family Learning which they were invited to answer by exploring two rooms of artwork, artifacts and reference materials. Family Learning guides were on hand at the several display stations to provide clues and information.

Nancy Somerville, Family Learning Team Co-ordinator, said,

The main aim was to demonstrate how we work in partnership with parents. We also wanted to show how Family Learning theory works in practice, the range of work the practitioners do, how the team fits into the Education department as a whole and what other organisations we work with.

We designed the session to enable people to focus on what areas of Family Learning they were interested in or wanted to learn about.

More than seventy people came along and the success of the event was reflected in the comments from the participants: "A fantastic combination of theory, practical work and conversation with practitioners".



Another said, "Enjoyed the non-traditional approach. Was treated like a professional - and an adult. I could zone in on my specific areas of interest".

The interactive format of the session worked well and it is hoped that the event will be repeated so that more people have the opportunity to find out about Family Learning.

Family Learning in Edinburgh was established some twelve years ago and works with parents and carers, of nursery and primary school-aged children, to support their children's learning. It forms part of the Community Based Adult Learning Team within the Community Education Service.

If you would like to know more about Family Learning contact Nancy Somerville. Tel :0131 200 2000 ext 4002.

Email: nancy.somerville@educ.edin.gov.uk

Web: www.familylearning.edin.org



ESOL

Tutors Wanted

In order to develop more literacy and numeracy provision for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) learners in areas of the city where there is currently little provision or for beginner learners for whom there is a long waiting list, we are keen to build up a pool of tutors who are interested and available for further work.

You must be an experienced community based literacies group tutor and also have an ESOL qualification. There may also be development opportunities for co-tutoring where a literacies group tutor and ESOL qualified tutor work together with a group.

If you are interested, please email Gillian at CLAN by **Friday 25 February** detailing your contact details, qualifications and experience and whether you are interested in co-tutoring. Email: gillian@clanedinburgh.org



Repro at
Resource Base

Would you like to produce your own colourful posters, smart booklets, packs and reports? As part of CLAN's work to improve the quality of programmes, we offer a range of ways to reproduce your documents:

- enlarging/reducing documents to A3 or A4 size
- converting A4 documents to A5 folded and stapled booklets
- copying, printing and scanning in black and white or colour
- laminating documents in A3, A4 and A5 sizes
- four-hole punching or comb-binding to produce packs

We can work with images and text originally produced on a Mac or PC and passed to us via floppy disk, CD-ROM or email. We can also help you give your work a more professional look using desktop publishing programs.

Please note that these services are free to CLAN Resource Base members (unless a very large number of items are needed, when we would agree a contribution to the costs of materials).

The Resource Base is located at McDonald Road Library (just off Leith Walk). For more information contact Helen Elias or Catherine Macrae. Tel: 0131 652 3938. Email: resources@clanedinburgh.org

Training Sizzlers

For literacies practitioners working with the CLAN partnership. Whether you're a volunteer tutor or a tutor who's been tutoring for a few years or if you've just recently got work as a literacies tutor – these exciting training opportunities are a must for you. Hurry and get your place booked!

● Dyslexia (Strategies) Part 2

For participants who have an awareness of dyslexia. Covers learning styles and strategies, including group exercises, mind mapping and other ICT.

Date: Wed 9 March, 5.00 - 7.30pm

● Introduction to scotopic sensitivity

What is it? How does it affect people? How does the screening work? What can you as a tutor do to help?

Date: Tuesday 22 March, 6.45 - 9.15pm

South Bridge Resource Centre (Conference Room 1), Infirmary Street. Trainer: Paula Whight

If you would like to find out more about the above workshops contact Gillian.

Tel: 0131 270 6070. Fax: 0131 270 6074.

Email: gillian@clanedinburgh.org

ICT WORKSHOPS

● Learning via the Web

Covers useful web sites; downloading, opening and saving software files; evaluating interactive material and understanding licences.

Dates: Monday 7 March, 5.00 - 7.30 pm OR

Thursday 7 April, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm

● Developing numeracy

Allows you to try out different types of software including conceptual and practice material and simulations. We will look at good practice issues.

Dates: Tuesday 8 March, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm OR

Monday 21 March, 5.00 - 7.30 pm

● Working on spelling

Allows you to try out software introducing rules and patterns and providing practice. We will look at good practice issues.

Dates: Thursday 24 February, 10.30 am - 1.00pm OR

Thursday 24 March, 2.00 - 4.30 pm

For ICT sessions contact Helen or Catherine.

Tel: 0131 652 3938.

Email: resources@clanedinburgh.org

Workplace Literacy



Vickie Hobson is the CLAN Workplace Learning Tutor Organiser based with the Workers' Educational Association (WEA). Her job is to set up tuition and courses in the workplace. Much of her time is spent talking to managers in different organisations and employers to encourage them to think about

offering learning opportunities to workers. Sometimes individuals approach her directly looking for literacy or numeracy support and, with their permission, she will talk to the employer and see if courses and groups can be set up and time off given to attend.

So far she has worked with groups and individuals in various departments of the Council (including Housing, Social Work, Environmental and Consumer Services and Leisure and Recreation), and with the Royal Mail, Remploy Limited, Lothian & Borders Fire Brigade and other companies, offering a variety of courses from an SQA accredited Communications course to short letter writing courses to Building Confidence in Writing through an Introduction to Computers.

If you would like to know more about how this works, or if you are currently attending a group in the community in your own time, but think your employer might support you to attend in work time, get in touch with Vickie at the WEA.



Vickie Hobson, Workplace Learning Tutor Organiser, Workers' Educational Association, 34B Thistle Street North West Lane, Edinburgh EH2 1EA. Tel: 0131 225 7170.

Email: v.hobson@weascotland.org.uk Web: www.clanedinburgh.org/workplacelearning

Workplace Literacy Tutor Training

Weds: 23 and 30 March, 9.30am-1.00pm

The course is for experienced group tutors of literacy/numeracy who would like to tutor in the workplace.

It will show how the Scottish model of literacies provision can be adapted to workplace delivery and explore some of the issues around workplace literacies delivery and strategies for dealing with them. By the end of the sessions, prospective tutors will have:

- explored the differences between workplace and community tutoring
- discussed the idea of literacies as complex capabilities in the context of the workplace
- identified the stakeholders and their issues
- built a learning programme for a workplace group using a case study approach

To find out more contact Vickie at the WEA.

Reminiscence and Dementia Training Day

Friday 11 March, 10.00am-4.00pm
The Salvation Army, 1 East Adam Street, Edinburgh
Trainer: Charlie Murphy

The training will look at the value of reminiscence work in working with people with dementia. It will look at how to get started and the use of triggers to stimulate memories. It will include how to run a session as a group and on a one-to-one basis, and how to use different themes. The training will use a variety of methods including some presentations, some practical exercises and opportunities for small group and individual work. There will be time for participants to share experiences and to discuss challenges that they face in working with people with dementia.

The cost will be £45/£20 concessions. A hot lunch will be provided. To book a place contact John McCaughie at the Living Memory Association. Tel: 0131 667 0761. Email: john@livingmemory.org.uk



Living Memory Association
101 St Leonard's Street
Edinburgh EH8 9QY

Learner's story

Malcolm Blythe



Malcolm Blythe was unemployed when he saw an advert for The Big Plus in the Jobcentre and felt he could do with working on his grammar and spelling. He subsequently joined a CLAN group on a Friday afternoon for two hours and this gave him the confidence to join the full-time Adult Returners course at Stevenson College. On Fridays he still works on his spelling in a CLAN class.

Malcolm particularly likes the challenge of coming back to learning and the fact that he has met so many new people of all ages and backgrounds and although he hasn't broadcast it, the change to his life since starting to learn is enormous.

In August last year, Malcolm had the confidence to join an amateur dramatic group. The group put on a modern Christmas pantomime based on the 'Cinderella' story called 'Cinders and the X-Factor'. He played the main part of Sharon Osbourne's husband - Ozzy Osbourne!

Hazel Lyons, his drama tutor at Wester Hailes Rep Council, encouraged Malcolm to join another of her courses - an Adult Learning Project (ALP) group at Jamboland (Tynecastle Park) called 'Glory & Dismay: the story of football in Edinburgh'. This twelve-week course involved writing, interviewing and researching the beautiful game and Malcolm's piece was chosen as an example of how to write.

For the future, Malcolm might like to pursue his keen interest in history with a view to becoming a tour guide but maybe not! He feels now that the world is his oyster.

He would like to see more opportunities for learners just to be able to drop into centres to learn or get the support and encouragement to learn, rather than having to make appointments.

MORE BYTES The next edition of Beans will be out in March. If you would like to contribute, send your contribution to Fiona Holmes, CLAN Edinburgh, 1-3 Canon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5HE. Tel: 0131 270 6073. Fax: 0131 270 6074. Email: fiona@clanedinburgh.org Web: www.clanedinburgh.org

web resources

www.ldrc.ca

The Learning Disabilities Resource Community has a very useful site for practitioners who want to understand more about learning disabilities and learning strategies and styles. The site has plenty of information for tutors and several interactive activities for learners (described as projects) on learning to learn, multiple intelligences and perception.

The learning awareness exercises help learners understand themselves as learners and how to become "experts" on their own styles and abilities, whilst encouraging those with learning disabilities to "work around" these.

The site's multiple intelligences inventory is based on Howard Gardner's multiple intelligence theory. It is designed to help learners identify their many intelligences and the tasks that complement or challenge their own abilities. More exercises cover thinking styles and how people can learn strategically from the errors they make.

For learners with poor reading the perception exercise on scanning could be especially helpful. It is based on the evidence that skilled readers process words as visual "chunks," rather than individual letters.

As the site points out, "It is the processing of individual letters, rather than visual chunks, that is at the root of most reading disabilities." The exercise helps learners appreciate the factors influencing the ability to recognise words.

You have to register to use the site, but this is free.

www.thestudyplace.org

The Study Place is a Web-based authoring tool that offers adult educators a simple way to create and deliver online learning activities to their learners. The tool was designed to help providers work with hard to reach learners whose work schedules, family obligations, lack of transport, etc. make it hard to attend classes for sufficient time or on a regular basis.

The Study Place is a very flexible tool and no programming skills are required. You can put together a course by creating original lessons or finding ready to use ones. You can edit or delete activities within lessons and write instructions or advice on your course home page and within activities. You begin by choosing a theme, skill area, level and activity type for your lesson. The activities available are: read a text, multiple choice quiz, true / false quiz, cloze (gap filling) task, writing assignment, view picture, visit web site and listen to sound file. Each 'lesson' can consist of up to three activities. Only the student or group of students you register can access your course and their work can be saved to a portfolio or emailed to you. To see how it works, look at the student or teacher tour; you can also log on as a student using **beans** as your student sign in and **Macrae** as your teacher's name.

The Study Place could be used as part of a class, for homework, for missed lessons or as a way of developing self-directed learning. The Resources section includes interesting articles on adult learning principles and strategies.

You have to register to use the site, but this is free.