



Eureka! The Museum for Children, Halifax
Wednesday 14 November 2007
£25 GEM and MLAY members
£35 non members

Inspiring Learning Opportunities for Early Years Audiences

- How can we maximise the opportunities for successful early years provision within our organisations?
- Do we even know what early years professionals and families are looking for?
- Who's out there to help with new developments?
- How can we ensure that we are meeting the needs of our early years audiences whilst facing very challenging barriers?
- Will they break stuff?

If you would like answers to these questions and have lots of your own, then this day could be for you. Hear case studies from organisations who have created inspiring programmes and resources for the early years and take part in an informative practical session with suggestions which will support your own plans.

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| 10.00 | Arrival and Refreshments |
| 10.15 - 10.30 | Welcome Liz Smallman, Education Manager at Eureka! and GEM Convenor (joint) Yorkshire & Humberside
MLA-Y update |
| 10.30 - 11.15 | 'Setting the context for the early years' (case study)
Becky Johnson, Play and Early Years Director, Eureka! |
| 11.15 - 12.00 | 'Developing projects for fathers with children under 5 using museum collections' (case study)
Ken Tears, Assistant Outreach Officer (Gateshead), Tyne & Wear Museums |

Becky will talk about the development of early years at Eureka!, how young children learn and what educators and parents look for when they visit. Becky will also outline recent and future changes with national strategies and legislation including the EYFS.

Ken will talk about how to interpret museum and art gallery collections when tailoring projects for fathers with under 5's. He will also talk about examples of other partnership projects with the Tyne & Wear Museums Outreach Team.

12.00 – 12.45 **‘Early years children as partners for consultation’ (case study)**
Elee Kirk, Education Officer, Thinktank, Birmingham’s Science Museum

Elee will talk about a project carried out in association with the children’s consultants Playtrain, which involved using nursery aged children to evaluate one of Thinktank’s education resources, using methodology inspired by Reggio Emilia.

12.45 – 1.30 Lunch

1.30 - 2.15 **‘Talking to the animals’ (case study)**
Amanda Heath, Learning Development Officer, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery

How can museum collections and their interpretation facilitate communication between the under 5s and their families? Amanda will talk about an innovative NESTA funded project and the importance of consulting with families which has informed progress so far.

2.15 – 3.00 **‘Little People, Big Ideas – building early years partnerships’ (presentation and practical session)**
Jan Barratt, Education Manager, Crich Tramway Village

Jan will present a practical approach for Museum workers that will help to explore ways of developing sustainable resources through working in partnership with early years’ groups.

3.00 – 3.15 Refreshments

3.15 – 3.45 **‘Supporting your plans for the early years’ (practical session)**

An opportunity to break into smaller groups with one of our speakers to discuss your own plans for the Early Years.

3.45 - 4.00 **‘Evaluation of the day and feedback on GEM and MLA Yorkshire’**

A chance to evaluate the day and share your thoughts on how GEM/MLA-Yorkshire can meet your training and professional needs.

4.00 – 5.00 **‘Stay and Play!’**

You are welcome to stay and play in Eureka!’s early years galleries and Creativity Space with children from our nursery and their supporting adults. Have you ever climbed in to a magpie’s nest? Can you create a magical butterfly and watch as it flutters away? Are you brave enough to stroke the coyote? Who knows where your imagination will lead you . . .

5.00 **Close**