

# LinkLife



Issue December 2009/January 2010

As part of our role as a Sure Start Children's Centre we have two Outreach workers whose role is to engage with families with additional support needs, to work with specific groups such as those who may find it difficult to access services and support, teenage parents, and families from black and minority ethnic groups and ensure they access the services they need.

## Outreach Worker

Julie Reynolds has nearly 20 years experience of working with diverse communities in support, outreach and community development settings.

She is based at The Weir Link and works closely with

families with children aged 5 and under, both individually and in group settings, such as Baby and You and Weir Crafty.

Over the next two months we also have two trips organised one to Hyde park winter wonderland in December and one to The Science Museum in January. We will also be holding a debt counselling session and regular pram walks.

Julie has strong links with other early years providers in the area such as the Maytree Nursery & Children's Centre, & Agnes Riley Gardens One O'clock Club. She also works closely with NHS Lambeth, midwives and local health visitors and other support services such as Family Action,

Stockwell Partnership and Contact a Family.

If you would like to meet Julie and learn more about the services offered at our centre why not drop by or come to one of our Friday, Socials at 12.30pm.



## About the Weir Link

The Weir Link is a Lambeth Children's and Community Centre serving the communities in and around the Weir Estate.

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## Outreach

### Father 's Outreach Worker

Tony Miller has lived in the borough of Lambeth for most of his life. Over the last 20 years he has been working extensively in Brixton and other parts of the borough, reaching out to those who are disenfranchised and those who have been marginalized by society. He has also worked with various different council departments and a range of partner agencies, supporting families whose children may be at risk of involvement in gangs or who are affected by gun or knife crime.

He has also provided marriage and pre-marital counselling services and run a range of workshops aimed specifically at men.

As a newly appointed fathers ' outreach specialist worker overseeing 15 children centres in south Lambeth Tony is currently running two programmes within our local area, both aimed at strengthening the bond between fathers and their young children.

### Dads ' Link

This drop-in session consists of 1 to 1 counselling, parenting support, nutrition and health advice and also advice and support around employment. Free internet

access is also available at these sessions. The Dads ' Links surgery is open every **Monday from 3:30pm-5pm**. Crèche facilities are available for this session and must be booked two working days in advance.

### `Dads RUS`

This is a stay and play session for fathers and their toddlers. The session is run fortnightly on Saturdays between 10am and 12am at the Agnes Riley Gardens One O 'clock Club. This event provides fathers with a chance to meet other dads and to network amongst themselves.

If you would like to make an appointment to speak to Tony please contact him on 020 8675 2481 or email [tony.miller@theweirlink.org](mailto:tony.miller@theweirlink.org)



**Tony Miller, Fathers ' Outreach Worker**

## Parent & Carers Forum

We are looking for parents and carers with children 5 and under to get involved with our Parents & Carers Forum. This group will be helping to direct our services and identify issues of interest. The group will meet once every four weeks to discuss ideas for activities and plan our future programmes. It will be an opportunity to discuss the things that matter to you and influence decision making.

The first big decision to be made in the New Year will be the name of this group and to decide on the best time to hold the meetings. There will also be announcements about activities, events and workshops over the coming months.

This is your centre and we want you to have a voice.

So come along, tell us what you would like to see happening at The Weir Link and help us to keep your views at the heart of what we do.

The next meeting will be held on:

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009 10.00-12.00

## Triple P Parenting Programme



The Triple P Parenting Programme is a chance for parents to find out about the power of positive parenting with the Lambeth health visitors. The four week course will help to take the stress out of parenting using practical answers to everyday parenting concerns. Find out how to build a positive relationship with your child. Help your child to develop to their full potential. Learn how to use discipline strategies that work.

The next course will start on Tuesday, 26 January. For more information or to enrol please call Julie Reynolds on 020 8675 2481

## The Weir Link Nursery Celebrates Children in Need

We had great fun raising money for Children in Need on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

Children were invited to dress up specially for the day and we had firemen, princesses and lots of lovely costumes.

The Weir Link Surgery was open early and Doctors Amy, Israt and Gabriela made sure all the poorly toys were feeling better.

At lunchtime we enjoyed some of Carole's delicious food. In total we raised over £160 for Children in Need.



**Dr Gabriela applies a bandage to a doll with a serious arm injury.**

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## Celebrate Navidad (Christmas) with the Latin-American Community

Christmas is celebrated all around the world. To Latin-Americans it is a very special time, the time to meet every member of the family, to enjoy their traditional Christmas food and for the children to make instruments and sing villancicos (carols) in front of the Pesebre (nativity set) until Christmas day when El niño Dios (baby Jesus) is born.

The Weir Link Children's Centre is supporting Latin-Americans to celebrate this Christmas traditionally. There will be an opportunity to meet other members of their community, adults and children will be creating El Pesebre (Nativity set) and together they will sing in Spanish a repertoire of villancicos from Latin-America.

This is a great opportunity to forget about the weather and to warm up singing villancicos.

The sessions will run every Tuesday after school from 3:30 to 4:30 on November 24<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> between 2:00 and 3:00 we will have our final celebration.



### Contact Us

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Email  
info@theweirlink.org  
www.theweirlink.org

Opening Times  
Monday-Friday  
09.00-17.00

## Trip to Hyde Park Winter Wonderland



Set in 20 acres of historic parkland Winter Wonderland offers a great Christmas day out, with themed attractions set out under thousands of twinkly lights.

See Father Christmas for free in his very own Santa's Village. He will be welcoming children with a surprise gift. If you would like to come along on a group trip we will be travelling by public transport on Thursday, 10th December at 9.30 returning at 2.30. Bus fares will be paid for those who book in advance. For more information or to book please call Julie Reynolds on 020 8675 2481 or email julie.reynolds@theweirlink.org.

## Weir Link Festive Celebration

Join us for Christmas Carols, seasonal snacks and a visit from Father Christmas for festive celebration which include Christmas Carols, Seasonal Snacks and Father Christmas in his very own grotto. This event will take place on Friday, 18 December at To book a place please call Julie Reynolds on 020 8675 2481.