



Sure Start

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UPDATE ON CONFERENCE

**Sorry folks!
– It is full already**

MANAGER'S NEWS

The Annual Report will be out soon. Last year's statistics are interesting. We dealt with over 600 families: 220 women came to our range of YM2B, YM+, TOPPMums and MumsRUz groups across West Lothian, most of whom were under 25.

You Said:

'Can we have more aqua-natal classes?' (ante-natal swimming)

We Did:

We are discussing this with West Lothian on the Move. The main problem is transport to the nearest / most suitable swimming pool

You Said: 'More please!'

We Did:

We spotted the need for more support in the Bridgend area so there is a new group for Young Mums starting there this term.

Sure Start Information Sessions

- ☺ Wednesday 24th September 08
 - ☺ Friday 31st October 2008
 - ☺ Wednesday 26th November 08
- These sessions are for any new staff in West Lothian and will provide information about our services. The sessions are held in the Sure Start Office, Unit G, Kirkton Business Centre, Livingston Village. Sessions start at 9am and last 1 hour approx.

FUN FRIDAYS

Fridays have never been this much fun for under 5s in Blackburn! A group for parents and carers with wee ones ran at the Community Education Centre between February and June this year and attracted over 40 families. Supported by Blackburn Action Group (multi agency group working for early years), which is part of the council's locality planning structure. Fun Fridays was open to anyone in the area with children under 5 and was free. We did activities such as messy play, music, recycling, gardening, crafts and games, along with songs and healthy snacks every week. The group has also had visitors bringing information on Credit Unions, Adult Basic Education, sun safety and hand hygiene.

Blackburn Early Years Action Group includes a Nursery Teachers, Sure Start Worker, Health Visitors, Nursery Nurse, Parent Action Worker, Public Health Nurse and a Home-Start worker.

A regular parent said it was "So great to meet other mums, feel less isolated and be part of something"



SURE START CAREER GUIDANCE SERVICE

Did you know that Sure Start has its own Career Advisers who are available to help parents at whatever stage they are in their career? Parents can speak to a Careers Adviser for support, advice and information about choices available

- If they are unsure about the area of education or employment they are interested in
- if they already know what they would like to do but are not sure how to get there

There are also computer programmes which can help with careers choices.

We hold Careers Drop Ins at different places across West Lothian used by families with young children. These include the Early Years Centres at Bathgate & Whitdale, Livingston Family Centre, Daisy Drop Craigshill and other community venues. We can also set up individual guidance meetings.

If you would like to find out when there is a Careers Drop In near you please contact Moira Dods or Val McKay at Sure Start.

STOP PRESS: JULIE TAYLOR IS WEST LOTHIAN'S TOP VOLUNTEER MANAGER '08

Meet The Team



Paula Huddart
Manager



Karen Love
Senior Social Worker



John Rogers
Social Worker

Our Career Advisers



Moira Dods



Val Mckay

Student Social Worker



Roddy Downie

The Early Years Family Workers



Maureen
Gamble



Donna
Williams



Lorna
Fox



Karen
Cunningham

The Early Years Development Workers



Kate
Malcolm



Mhairi
Hall



Denise
Black



Rosalind
Witcombe



Julie
Taylor



Peter
Johnstone



Susan
Duffy



Nancy
Cameron

And The Admin Team



Carolanne McGinty



Beth Sime