



Linking with Schools and Groups

Encouraging School Visit
School trips are not as much fun as they used to be! But they can be...

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Do they want to come?

- Teachers feel the need to justify a trip. They may love the idea of a visit to a play centre, but unless they can tick one of the many boxes they have to complete, it will be the last place they end up visiting.
- When they arrive, many teachers may wish to rush through the organised activity, as they can see the benefit and enjoyment the children get from playing in the centre, but this is hard to sell without them actually being there!
- It is vital that you offer a professional pack, and justify the activities with easy to follow links to the Curriculum
- Is this easy to do? Yes, if you follow some basic steps

Step 1- Seek Expert Advice



- Contact LEA, ask to meet the Early Years & Specific Needs Advisors
- Invite local teachers to an Open Evening, give out questionnaire
- NYBEP or equivalent, arrange workshop to establish what local schools need, and ask teachers to offer their ideas about how the centre could be used
- Join local Partnership
- Contact Extended Schools and Early Years Services
- Buy expert advice, a teacher may be interested in the research project

Once established there is a need, and what it isdo some research!



- Curriculum information can be found on the website, see next slide for examples
- Look at what you have, and think of ways it can be used
- If you think the main equipment cannot be utilised then think about using other parts of your business; catering, party process
- Try to keep it simple
- If you do not have any background knowledge it is best to seek the opinion of a teacher/advisor before you launch the activity
- Offer a free trial session to a local school, ask for the children's opinion as well as the teachers

Primary-teaching resources, if it is good enough for schools...



- [@school](#)
@school gives pupils, parents and teachers immediate access to thousands of resources and online activities relevant to Key Stages 1 and 2, special needs and early years.
- [AccessArt](#)
AccessArt is a collection of online workshops and arts-education activities aimed at all ages.
- [BBCi Schools: Key Stages 1 and 2 resources](#)
A range of useful websites covering art, geography, history, languages, literacy, numeracy, PSHE, science, and other subjects.
- [BBCi Schools: Revision](#)
BBC multimedia revision services with websites, TV programmes, books and CD-ROMs which can be used together or separately.
- [Channel 4's Learning](#)
Online educational resources for teachers, pupils and home learners and a complete guide to over 400 hours of Channel 4's programmes for schools.

Continued...



- [Curriculum Online](#)
This DCSF website is an online catalogue of thousands of multimedia resources, linked to the National Curriculum. Many are free, the rest can be bought with a school's eLC (electronic learning credit) money.
- [EducationGuardian.co.uk](#)
EducationGuardian.co.uk is the *Guardian* newspaper's online news and information service for the world of education.
- [Electronic Telegraph: Internet for Schools](#)
Internet for Schools is a free service provided by the Electronic Telegraph, to help teachers and students get more out of the Internet.
- [English Resources](#)
A site containing free resources for teaching and revising English language and literature with over 250 resources to download.
- [Independent Education](#)
The *Independent* newspaper's online news and information service for the world of education.
- [Learn.co.uk](#)
Learn.co.uk is a learning resource for homework, revision, or preparing lessons.

Continued...



- **[My Money](#)**
This offers primary teachers free resources, activities, engaging videos and interactive games to help teach financial capability
- **[Nuffield Primary Design and Technology](#)**
The Nuffield Primary Design and Technology Project is developing materials to support design and technology teachers.
- **[The Primary National Strategy](#)**
This website explains what the Primary National Strategy is, what the key initiatives are, and outlines the priorities for numeracy and literacy.
- **[Primary Resources](#)**
Lesson plans, worksheets and activity ideas for primary-school teachers.
- **[Spark Island Learning Adventures](#)**
Spark Island contains more than educational activities designed to help ages 3 to 12 improve their learning.
- **[Times Educational Supplement](#)**

Once you have an activity planned , how do you engage with schools???



- Try to make one of your activities transportable! We take our Party booking session to local schools
- Offer you services to NYBEP or equivalent to do road shows! Creepy Crawlies have done many science and mathematics workshops around York, seeing up to ten schools in one day! All are set for either key stage 1 or 2, and staff adapt the level for different age groups. Good idea to have some easy filler options
- We hosted the science Fair last year within our site. Twelve different science activities organised, and 160 children attending
- Open evenings for teaching staff ongoing, with information packs to take away
- Email schools with offers and events
- Offer your mascot, face painters free for school fairs
- Adopt a local school

Plan to make it easy



- Schools want the visit to be as simple to plan as possible
- Offer a risk assessment, and the opportunity to visit free to complete their own
- Arrange for the teacher to receive worksheets and activity content before the visit, with information about how it links to their curriculum
- Suggest follow up activities
- Offer a catered option
- Send details about parking arrangements
- Arrange for a member of staff to greet the school while they are still on the bus, to talk to the children about the rules of play, once inside they will not listen!

Plan to make it easy



- Offer a corner/room for base. Give them named buckets for belongings, if two classes visiting offer four buckets, two per class, boy/girls
- Give the teachers a quick overview, and housekeeping. Ask for feedback, but perhaps after the visit
- Provide teachers with a cup of coffee/tea....you will get a repeat visit if you look after them!
- If time is allowed for play, perhaps let them have fifteen minutes when they first arrive!
- Ensure the coach driver has refreshments!
- Ensure that the activity is kept on schedule, and not too long.

For Discussion: What activities can we do?



- Party Booking Process
- Pizza Making
- Healthy Cookies
- Puppet Bag
- Eduseek