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CREATING OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING

December 2009

Communication Friendly Spaces™ Toolkit Launch!

The updated CFS™ toolkit was launched at Portsmouth's Communication, Language and Literacy Conference last week. This publication aims to help those working with children and young people to re-consider the role of the learning environment in terms of improving speaking and listening skills, emotional well-being and general engagement. It blends research and practical ideas to help readers to audit and improve the environment they offer. The toolkit contains 20 new case studies from a range of contexts. Also featured in the toolkit are find out more tabs and spaces to record your thoughts and ideas. To celebrate, we are offering 10 complimentary copies to newsletter readers. Please email antonia@elizabethjarmanltd.co.uk to enter the draw. Winners will be drawn at random on 14th December.



Catherine Kickham, Portsmouth Head of Early Years and Elizabeth Jarman at the launch.

Did you Know?

Bronzaft and McCarthy found that children on the quieter side of school next to an elevated railway had reading scores higher than children on the side exposed to the train noise. Taken from the CFS™ Toolkit.

Cranbrook Church of England Primary School:

"We have been so pleased with the effects of CFS™ in our indoor and outdoor classrooms. We have observed positive changes in all our pupils. Children have quiet, relaxed areas to go to and feel that they are heard. Building these small spaces has encouraged good social skills and more speaking and listening opportunities. As adults we have noticed a change in our own attitudes too. Observations are less stressful and easier to manage and we feel calmer and able to listen more attentively to our pupils. We have documented our CFS™ journey in a journal- which is really helpful in sharing developments with colleagues. "



Kathy White and Barbara Piper from the school

CFS™ Bags for Practitioners: Update

We have received some great feedback:

"Really helpful to have the resources on hand to instantly create an area which was different, interesting and enabled me to focus on the child I was visiting."

Penny Johnson - Health Visitor

"Home visiting can present challenges in terms of helping a child to relax in your company. I used my CFS™ Bag for Practitioners to make a space which we all enjoyed! It helped me get to know the family quicker and made my observation richer."

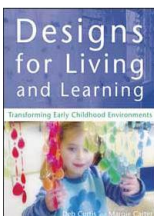
Donna White - Speech and Language Therapist

For further information on CFS™ Bags for Practitioners please visit

<http://www.elizabethjarmanltd.co.uk/bagsforpractitioners.php>



Our recommended book of the month



Full of images illustrating well presented resources, which are 'worth investigating' - inspirational!
Available from Amazon: Designs for Living and Learning: Transforming Early Childhood Environments ISBN-13: 978-1929610297

"Children deserve to be surrounded with beauty, softness, and comfort as well as order and attention to health and safety. Childhood is a time of wonder and magic when dreams and imagination get fuelled, and issues of power are explored through adventurous dramatic play and physical risk taking. These are avenues for children to use in exploring their fears, fascinations, and desires to be strong and autonomous. "

(Hoffman, 2004 in Curtis and Carter, 2005)