



## *Family Links*

transforming schools and families

### **Jane Ellor – Parenting Co-ordinator, Newport**

Family Links Nurturing is one of the parenting programmes delivered widely across the City of Newport, particularly in identified Flying Start areas. Flying Start is a Welsh Assembly Government initiative initially until March 2011 aimed at making a decisive difference to families with children aged 0 - 4 years of age living within identified communities across Wales.

The core elements of the Flying Start initiative are:-

- Intensive Health Visiting
- Parenting support
- Language and Play
- Free part time childcare

In Newport, all Flying Start playgroup staff working with young children are given the 2-day training in the Nurturing Programme. All Flying Start parents are offered a place on the programme in their local area and groups are facilitated by Flying Start/Sure Start staff trained as Parent Group leaders. Our Dad's officer also runs a rolling 10-week Nurturing Programme. To ensure that every parent and child receives consistent messages we have also trained many other early years practitioners working with younger children such as Sure Start.

We continue to train our Early Years staff in the Nurturing Programme because we believe it makes a difference to the parents and children and it helps our staff. They are able to use the strategies in the playgroup with children but also in their professional and personal lives.

An added benefit of offering our Sure Start/ Flying Start staff the 2-day training is that they actively help us recruit parents onto the 10-week course. Within Newport we actively support the delivery of the Nurturing Programme as it supports parents by building confidence and self-esteem and develops friendships.

With their new-found confidence, they like to participate in courses post the Nurturing programmes. Genesis a European-funded project aimed at getting people back into learning, self improvement and work is often the next step parents take when looking at other initiatives to participate in. The Family Information Service provides any information parents need on services within their local areas to help them make informed decisions. Genesis staff are trained in the Nurturing Programme and deliver courses for service users as a rolling programme.