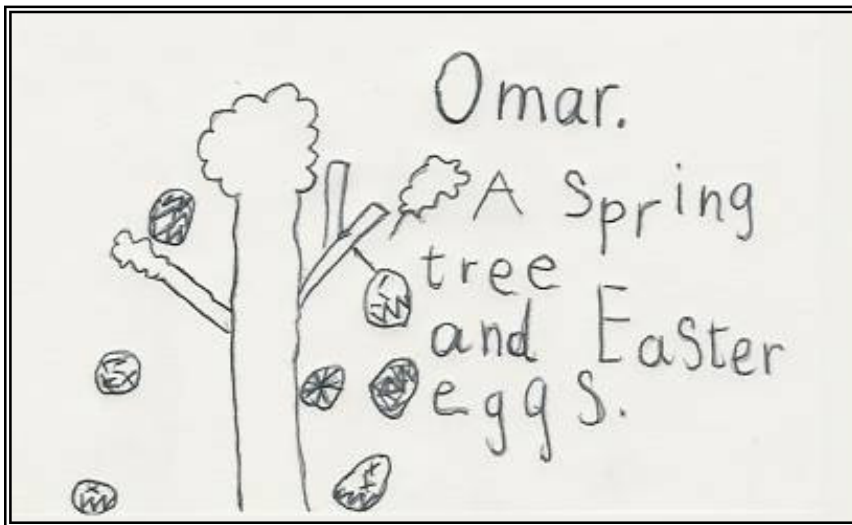


Focus



Newsletter
April / May 2003

“Learning support for young lives”



An Illustration by a
Year 3, Springboard
child at Oliver
Goldsmith Primary
School.

Focus on Springboard for children

We hope you enjoy reading our new bi-monthly newsletter. We have decided to give it a new look and to provide you with more regular updates on the work Springboard for children is doing. The idea behind this new design is to have a more consistent layout but with all the same news and features.

The name ‘Focus’ is a fresh idea to highlight the different areas of work Springboard does and the important aspects of the life of Springboard we want to bring to your attention.

We have included news of the exciting changes and developments which Springboard for children is currently experiencing, and also the stories of the children’s courage and progress in spite of the difficulties they face.

Our Mission



Springboard for children provides a literacy lifeline to children with learning difficulties in inner city primary schools.

Our Aims

- Springboard for children is about serving children in our inner cities
- It is about helping disadvantaged children to acquire basic skills in literacy so that they can reach their full potential
- It is about raising their expectations of themselves and life
- It is about strengthening their hope

Adrian Pritchard, Chief Executive Officer

Firstly, my thanks to Helen Webster for all her hard work in re-vamping the newsletter. She really has worked very hard on it and she has every reason to be proud of this first edition in the new style.

The last five months have been very hectic with a wide range of reforms beginning to take shape. We now have a working party that is looking into how we collect, store and manage our data so that we can be properly accountable to our client schools and our funders. Another group is designing a range of accredited volunteer and professional development programmes. I expect to be able to implement the recommendations from the data group early next term and I aim to be able to start the development programmes in September.

We are currently busy negotiating with up to 5 new schools for September. I am also trying to forge relationships with Lambeth and Lewisham LEAs and a fund-raising partnership with another local charity called Place to Be.

We also have some high-profile visits in the offing. We have just hosted a visit from SHINE who is one of our key funders and on the 19th March we welcomed Estelle Morris MP to Oliver Goldsmith School.

As ever, my thanks to you all for your support and encouragement.



Focus on schools

Springboard for children currently works in eight schools, seven in Southwark and one in Lambeth. Each school is very different and Springboard's presence in each one varies considerably. This profile is to give you an idea of Springboard's involvement in the schools and the positive effect it has in each one.

Focus : Eveline Lowe Primary School

Eveline Lowe is now the second largest primary school in Bermondsey with approx 375 children on the school roll. It is fortunate to have pupils from a wide variety of social and ethnic backgrounds. The children speak a variety of languages and bring to the school the experiences

and knowledge of many cultures.

SPRINGBOARD PROFILE

No. of children: 11

School Coordinator: Claire Tripp

No. of Literacy Tutors: 2

No. of volunteers: 2

Hours in school: 3 x mornings per week

Teaching space: Springboard occupies a permanent space in a mobile classroom in one of the playgrounds surrounding the main building.

School Relationships: We have a good relationship with the SENCO who supports all our work in this school. We also have strong links with the classroom teachers who are aware of our presence and help within the school.

The children: They really enjoying coming and respond well to individual attention. We have found that the children we teach here have good behaviour and are eager to learn. Although there are some who are un-motivated due to a lack of confidence in their own ability and need extra encouragement to believe in themselves and make more progress.

"I began teaching at Eveline Lowe in September 1999 as a gap-year volunteer, so I know the school quite well now! It is the first school I have coordinated, so it has been a real learning curve. Everyone at Eveline Lowe is friendly and there is a happy atmosphere around the school. I am fortunate to work here; I love it!"

(Claire Tripp, Springboard School Coordinator at Eveline Lowe Primary School)



Jake is a Springboard pupil at Eveline Lowe

Focus on Children

Case Study

Daniel was aged 9 and in year 5 when we held our poetry workshops with the performance poet Adisa. He was one of the children who had his poem published in our book poetry book, 'Our World'. He had been coming to Springboard for literacy support for 4 years and he also received speech and language therapy. In addition to his difficulties with the mechanics of reading and spelling, he has difficulties in understanding what he reads and hears and also in expressing his ideas.

Daniel was first introduced to Adisa and his poems in a whole school assembly. Adisa's poetry draw on the rhythms of his Caribbean heritage; these Daniel shares and so this made the first connection to Daniel's world. Adisa was a positive and attractive male role model.

Daniel's family background is one where he does not live with his father. For a male role model to have worked with Daniel and enabled him to generate a poem of such quality was wonderful. To also have it published in a book and to be given a copy must have been a very special experience for Daniel. Very few children have their work published at the age of ten. It allowed Daniel to experience a very special feeling of success at school. Adisa also did a whole school assembly which was equally inspiring. I imagine amongst his peer group, Daniel must have been admired because his work was published.

After the difficult task of selecting which poems were to be included in 'Our World', Daniel was given the job of copying out his poem in his best handwriting. This is what is printed in the book. To see his own work printed in a book was a tangible indication of its value and a boost to his self-esteem.

(Name of child has been changed to maintain confidentiality)

An example below of 'best work' displayed at Springboard in Oliver Goldsmith.



The Children's work in print



If you still have not ordered or received a copy of this beautifully designed and presented collection of poetry and pictures by the pupils of Springboard for children, then contact Helen Webster at the Springboard office for your copy. (Tel 020 7635 6797) We suggest a donation of £5 to be made towards each copy.

The poetry provides a glimpse into what it is like to be a child living in the inner city, in the heart of Peckham.

"Here is a choir of young voices which all together make a right good racket." John Hegley

Volunteering

"Volunteering at Springboard has given me some of the most rewarding and satisfying experiences of my life. The children are inspiring and I have learned loads from working as part of a team on this project."
(Full-time volunteer)

- Do you want to help children reach their full potential at school?
- Do you have some spare time on your hands or would you like a year out?

Volunteers are the life-blood of Springboard for children. They bring with them enthusiasm, willingness to learn and a passion to help children to read and write.

Most volunteers work with us on a part-time basis, teaching 2 or more children between the ages of 6-11 twice a week. We ask our volunteers to commit to working with us for at least a year in order to give the children some stability whilst they are with us.

You don't need to have any experience or formal qualifications. You will be trained by qualified professionals and given individual tailored supervision. Personal support and encouragement are provided through day to day contact and regular team events.

There are also opportunities to commit to spending a year teaching with Springboard for children as a full-time volunteer.

To find out more, or to arrange a visit contact Janet Bristow. Tel: 020 7635 6797 or email info@springboard.org.uk

Focus on your support

Thank you for all your support, prayers and encouragement for the work of Springboard for children.

We would like to thank all of our funders and our 'Friends of Springboard'; we extend our thanks to...

The Accenture Foundation
The SHINE Trust
The JJ Charitable Trust (Sainsbury)
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
St John Cass's Foundation
Southwark Childrens Fund
The Tudor Trust
Lloyds TSB
The Draper's Company
The Mercers' Company

Also to:
All Saints Church, Peckham
Contrapositive

Friends of Springboard for children

You can become a 'Friend of Springboard' by making a one off donation or by giving regularly to our work.

- £5 month buys a complete reading scheme to help acquire basic skills
- £10 month pays for computer learning to
- motivate and develop the children
- £15 month pays for the Soundworks kit to develop basic phonic skills

For more details contact Carol Thomson at the Springboard Office. (Details below)

Focus on news in brief

Church Project Springboard is re-launching the church project this term and into the summer, we feel this is an important aspect of maintaining Springboard's work. The aims are to recruit more volunteers, to increase the awareness of Springboard in the community where we are currently working, and to encourage more people to support our work through the 'Friends' scheme. At each church a short presentation will be given about our work and how others may get involved.

Southwark Children's Fund An article by a Springboard child will be featured in the March/ April edition of their newsletter 'News in View'. She was asked her to write about her experience of coming to Springboard. We look forward to seeing her work in print.

Southwark Arts Forum This is an independent, voluntary organisation which aims to promote the wide variety of arts being produced throughout Southwark. One of the objectives is to promote and create links between artists, schools and community organisations. They are currently producing a publication to celebrate and disseminate successful effective arts education practice in Southwark. This publication will feature an article and case-study about the poetry book Springboard produced last year 'Our World' and the impact it had on the children involved in our project. This has been a great opportunity to share our work with a wider audience.

Cooking workshops We are very pleased to welcome Sarah Riley back to Springboard at Oliver Goldsmith School to run two more cooking workshops with the children. The children absolutely love them, and it is a popular reward for their hard work and effort in Springboard lessons. The theme this term will be Easter so watch out for bunnies, eggs, chickens and children covered in flour!



Duo Medici

You are warmly invited to an evening of culture and entertainment at St Michaels Church, Chester Square on Thursday May 1st at 7.30pm. Duo Medici, an Italian flautist and harpist have generously given their time to raise money for the work of Springboard for children. The evening also includes a fine selection of cheese and wine. Please invite your friends and enjoy a delectable evening whilst fundraising for the work and future developments of Springboard for children. No entry fee will be charged.

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