

HELPFUL HINTS FOR TEACHERS WORKING WITH GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS FOR THE FIRST TIME.



First things first

Get to know the Gypsies and Travellers you are working with.

- ✓ Remember new families will regularly appear on the scene.

Get to know the site manager(s) in your area.

Introduce yourself to the schools, that Gypsies and Travellers attend, and those in the catchment area of the site(s).

Some of the Gypsies and Travellers you work with may stay in a house, or on a site or on an unauthorised encampment.

- ✓ Find out what the authority policy is regarding home visits
- ✓ Find out about the unauthorised camping policy in your authority
- ✓ Find out the protocol in your authority for informing education and other agencies when Gypsies and Travellers come into your area

Make contact with other agencies who support the sites and areas you are

working in (the site manager may be able to help).

Make and maintain contact with TENET (Traveller Education Network) through STEP.

Working with children, in school or on site

Gypsy and Traveller children should have access to the same curriculum as other children, but they may have experienced interrupted learning and this should be considered and appreciated when planning work for individual children. Where children are not accessing mainstream school and time is limited it would seem appropriate to concentrate on areas of literacy, numeracy and perhaps health. The other curricular areas such as ICT, art, and social studies for example can link the core subjects together and assist in making learning fun and enjoyable. Relevance, age and stage and the transfer of records from other areas should also be taken into consideration.

Appropriate cultural resources can also be used to encourage children to participate. There are a number of books, teaching packs and websites available reflecting the culture of the various groups of the Travelling community. A list of some of these resources is included.

Other issues to consider regarding engaging Gypsies and Travellers in education are

- ✓ Parental Literacy – letters, homework etc
- ✓ Timing of making contact – travelling season, length of stay etc
- ✓ Access to school or place of learning - transport, uniforms and school meals

Resources

Familiarise yourself with the resources which reflect Gypsy and Traveller culture.

Documents and publications

Three informative and important documents



Inclusive Educational Approaches for Gypsies and Travellers: Guidance for Local Authorities and Schools (2003), STEP and Scottish Executive.

www.education.ed.ac.uk/step.



Taking a closer look at: Inclusion and Equality – meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers 2005 www.hmie.gov.uk



Delivering for Scotland's Gypsies/Travellers Scottish Executive 2004 www.scotland.gov.uk

Additional Support for Learning Act 2004 www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2004/20040004.html

School Attendance and Absence (C5/03)

Scottish Executive.

www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/ac503a-00.asp

School Attendance and Absence (5/03 Addendum), Scottish Executive

www.scotland.gov.uk

Guidance On The Circumstances In Which Parents May Choose To Educate Their Children At Home, Scottish Executive. www.scotland.gov.uk

Children's Books (Some ideas)

Nursery – P3

My Wonderful Place and Teachers Book
My Little Box of Books and Activity Book

Ruby's Rabbits
Tiny's Big Surprise
Shaun's Wellies
Toby's New Shoes
Just Like You
Life on the Fair

P4 – P7

Our Schools
One in a Million
A Horse for Joe and Activity Pack
Christy's Dream
The Appleby Ghosts
The Fairground

Secondary age

The Smiths Reading Scheme
Gypsies and Travellers In their own words
A Season in Time
Lurchers and Other Travellers Dogs

Adult

Jessie's Journey - Jess Smith
Tales from the Tent - Jess Smith
Tears for a Tinker - Jess Smith
The Summer Walkers - Timothy Neat
The Horsie man – Duncan Williamson

Useful Websites

www.scottishtravellered.net

www.natt.org.uk

www.gypsy-traveller.org/fft

www.gypsy-traveller.org/cyberpilots/index.htm

www.savethechildren.org.uk

www.scre.ac.uk

www.cre.gov.uk/scotland



Other useful resources

Videos

Museums and Libraries

Photographs