



**The  
Morecambe  
Bay Theatre  
of Learning**



## **A Theatre of Learning for Morecambe**

The Morecambe Bay Theatre of Learning will be a large, exciting exhibition space designed for children and adults to learn together through participation and interaction. It will take place in the Morecambe Winter Gardens and will engage young children and their families from Morecambe and Heysham.

It will include:

The Colourbox - a space in which children and their parents can experiment with the scientific properties of light and dark, and develop their artistic skills with glitter, glue and modelling media.

The Glass Climbing Wall - parents are taught by qualified climbers how to belay their children safely on the wall, while children can develop their motor and communication skills.

The event will be recorded using film and photography. Parents and children will be given the opportunity to take photographs and edit the film footage, learning skills in digital media and ICT. After the event, children, their parents and those who work with them will be able to attend reflective groups where they will use the film footage as a starting point to talk about how children learn.

Big Wide Talk will begin the project towards the end of the summer term 2009 by informing head teachers and other services managers about the project. Then the project will follow this outline plan:

- A local amateur will be recruited to co-ordinate the project in Morecambe
- High school students, parents and practitioners will be recruited to take part from the beginning of the autumn term
- All local schools, nurseries and community groups will be informed about the project from the beginning of the autumn term and invited to take part by booking sessions in the Theatre of Learning
- Publicity and press releases will commence from late September 2009
- The set up of the theatre of learning will begin in the week of the 9th November
- The Theatre of Learning event will run from 16th November until 4th December
- From January 2010, reflective sessions will be held with children, parents and practitioners using footage of the event
- Documentation of the reflection will finish by February half term.
- During March 2010 each participating school and group will present their work at special arranged events throughout Morecambe.



## Outputs and Outcomes

Overall we hope to have:

- 25 local schools take part
- 1000 parents attend the event, with 750 taking part in the follow up reflective family learning

By April 2010 we expect that:

- 750 parents and other family members will have a greater understanding of the ways their young children learn and how they can help support that learning.
- 750 parents and other family members to establish stronger relationships with local children's service providers and have increased confidence in involving themselves in their children's learning.
- By spending time talking with their children about their shared learning and examining their own families and the wider community in reflective sessions, 750 families will experience better communication and improved relationships and cohesion.
- 1000 parents and children will improve their skills in digital media, ICT, science and art.
- 1000 parents and children will be introduced to some of the skills involved in a sport recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).



## Big Wide Talk

Registered Company 5086481

Registered Charity 1107018

Big Wide Talk is an independent uniquely skilled organisation that reaches out to and speaks with children, parents and practitioners where they live and work, strategically connecting them to government. We are committed to documenting debate about children's lives, regardless of race, religion, politics or gender and to raising awareness about inequality and the ways in which it can be redressed.

We use a problem solving approach rooted in participative action research and sustained deliberative dialogue. In this way we deliver services in partnership with local authorities, schools, and other public bodies that address many of the issues that confound existing solutions: the gap in educational achievement between the poorest and better off children; the reconciliation of family and employment; the inclusion of children with disabilities, and the eradication of child poverty.

Contact Us:

2 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1JP

T: 01223 364727 F: 01223 309306

E: [events@bigwidetalk.org](mailto:events@bigwidetalk.org) W: [www.bigwidetalk.org](http://www.bigwidetalk.org)

## **The Morecambe Winter Gardens Preservations Trust (Ltd)**

Charity No: 1113010

Company No: 5556536

The Trust, registered as a charity 16 February, 2006, was formed by The Friends of The Winter Gardens as an appropriate vehicle to purchase the theatre.

Its objectives are:

"To preserve for the people of Morecambe and Heysham and of the Nation, the historical, architectural and constructional heritage that may exist in and around Morecambe and Heysham in buildings...of particular beauty or historical, architectural or constructional interest."

## **The Big Lottery**

The Big Lottery Fund is committed to bringing real improvements to communities, and to the lives of people most in need. The Morecambe Bay Theatre of Learning is funded by the Big Lottery's 'Family Learning' programme.



"Family Learning involves learning activities where children and parents learn together. We will only fund projects that involve adults and children learning together and will achieve all three of the following changes:

- families take part in and enjoy education more
- families increase their skills and knowledge
- parents and carers communicate better with their children and give more support to their education." - from the Big Lottery fund website.

