



Home Education Centre

### Week ending 24<sup>th</sup> October 2008

This was the final week for the badminton and basketball coached sessions. The children have really enjoyed these sports and the energy was high for the mini badminton tournament finale. We are looking forward to see what's next on our sporting programme.

On the 24<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our very successful Learning Exchange with guest speakers from Personalised Education Now. The conference ran alongside our usual Friday session, so that as well as there being a forum to discuss alternatives to mainstream education, we could also share our wonderful model others. We welcomed representatives from Somerset County Council, Dorset County Council, local colleges and other home education groups from Somerset, Dorset and Devon.

The Speakers were:

- **Roland Meighan** - internationally renowned for his writing and research on alternatives to traditional schools. He was previously special professor in Education at the university of Nottingham
- **Peter Humphreys** - chairs personalised Education Now and was a primary school head. He now undertakes consultancy with organisations such as BECTA (the British Educational Communications and Technology agency).
- **Karen Turner** - an experienced teacher who has worked in primary, secondary and further education. She now home educates her own children and in 2004 founded the Home Education Centre in Chard.

The Speakers answered any questions that people had by way of an open questions and answer session that followed their talks.

During the day our guests had the opportunity to look round HEC to see the participation of families in the work of the centre and to ask questions about what they had seen. The guests also had the chance to ask a panel of our children their views and personal experience of home education and coming to the centre. The children's panel was made up of two children who had never been to school and two who have been to school, but are now home educating. The children were very open about their experiences and thoughts about home education and answered many questions in a very mature and articulate way.

The whole day felt very vibrant and positive, with lots of lively conversations. Hopefully it has left people with lots of things to go away with and think about.



## Week ending 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008

HEC was busy with preparations for the exciting Learning Exchange that is happening at the centre next week, as well as running all the normal session activities.

Science mixed with art this week, taking a look at Mandalas – their origins and how they are present in nature. Some of the children designed their own, with some really great results.

We also then went on to look at finger prints, comparing and identifying which type of pattern shapes (whorl, loop, arch or tented arch) everyone had.

HEC was given a large collection of books from a local school and a few of our adult members were kind enough to spend time sorting through them and finding shelf space at the centre.

One of our members registered HEC with a local toy library. This has given the children, especially the younger members, new toys to discover.

Here is some of this week at HEC in pictures:

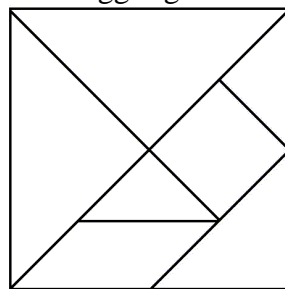


## Week ending 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008

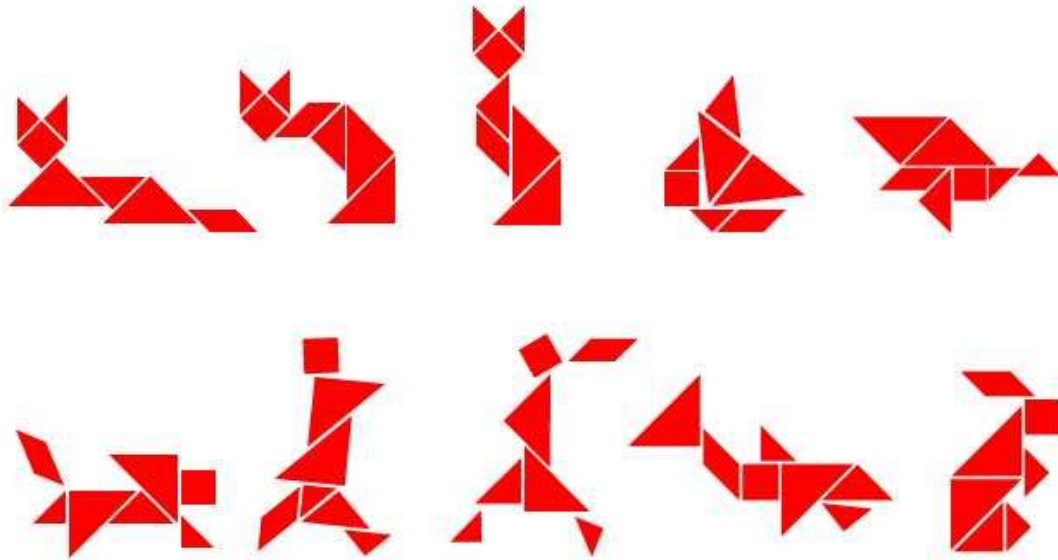
Drama returned, after an absence of a couple of weeks and was greeted by all, with great enthusiasm. As one of our most popular activities at the centre, it was lovely to see the hall buzzing once again with happy, animated children.

This week, the basketball session took place back at the centre in the outside space, which meant more of our members became aware of the Country Dancing going on in the hall. As a result we had some of our adult members joining in and more of our children expressing an interest in it.

Science turned more mathematical this week as we played around with geometry. For any of the members reading this who are still struggling with the Tangram – here is the solution.



and for some more ideas...



### Week ending 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008

Another fun-filled week at HEC with all the usual sports; unihoc, basketball, badminton and football being enjoyed by the children. But for those who did not wish to rush off to the basketball court this week, there was an introduction to country dancing by one of our newer members – I think we'll be seeing more of that.

Following on from last week's look at 'bending light' in the science session, this week we played around with some optical illusions, 3D pictures and simple animated drawings.

The Iron Age has been a great source of inspiration in the craft room over the last couple of weeks. We've had relief metal work (using foil trays) to decorate shields, belts and make jewellery and some of the children made torques from clay.

We also had a group outing to Maiden Castle where the children readied themselves to do battle and seize the fort! (Hopefully they all learnt a bit of history about the site as well)

