



classroom

London

Classroom continues to measure up.

Monday, 19 October 2009

When should children start learning?



Nicole Morgan, Primary consultant at **Classroom** returns with her second blog examining the recent debate in the media about delaying the age at which Primary school children begin formal learning:

"The education columns have seen some animated debate over the last week upon the release of the Cambridge Primary Review, a document that has made some controversial suggestions about the direction in which the education of our youngsters should be heading.

Six years of research and several hundred pages of report later, the review is largely centred around the concept that our nation's

Classroom London



E Classroom London

Matthew Peck maintains this blog with Classroom Ltd, a teaching agency in London with offices in

Australia, South Africa and Canada. Consultants and teachers with Classroom use this blog to share their stories, experiences and advice in regards to teaching in primary, secondary, and special needs schools.

[View my complete profile](#)

Subscribe To This Blog



children should be starting formal schooling later than they presently are, and thus benefitting from a further year's worth of play-based learning as currently taught in our Nurseries. This change in policy would bring us in line with many European and Antipodean countries where serious and structured education begins at age 6 or 7, not to mention our Welsh neighbours who have already extended the Foundation stage to the age of 7.

On publication of the review, opinions have been bandied around left right and centre, with the government instantly rejecting the report on several counts. In the meantime however discussion amongst journalists, parents and many currently working in education suggest that there could be many who are pro the initiative, perhaps those who place great value on the extra time children would have to learn to play, socialise and generally adapt to the way of a classroom in a Nursery setting.

Dame Gillian Pugh who acted on the advisory board for the review claims 'If you introduce a child to too formal a curriculum before they are ready, you are not taking into account where they are in terms of their learning and their capacity to develop'. With such a push in recent years on the numeracy and literacy strategies, the review argues that where play-based learning ceases too early, formal education could actually become 'counterproductive'.

*Philip Collins, **Times Online columnist** suggests perhaps we should be following the example of our Scandinavian counterparts in an attempt to raise the standards of our children's education over the long-term;-*

'Finnish kids don't' start until 7 either and they are the brainiest in

 Posts 

 Comments 

What Would You Like to See in This Blog

UK Curriculum
Job Postings
Classroom Ltd Events
Uk Education News
Teaching Advice
Resources

Votes so far: 1
Poll closed

Teaching in London Links

- ❖ [Classroom Ltd Website](#)
- ❖ [Classroom Ltd on Facebook - Join Our Group!](#)
- ❖ [Classroom South Africa](#)
- ❖ [Classroom Canada Blog](#)
- ❖ [Classroom Canada Website](#)
- ❖ [Classroom Canada Collective Teachers Blog](#)

Followers



the world at 11'

Incredibly, within a few days of the Cambridge Review being published we have also been privy to a debate that would reinforce the views of those in Government such as Chris Woodhead, former Chief Inspector of Schools who has voiced concerns that a delayed start to formal education would result in lower standards overall.

*In its frightening account of the basic levels of language and communication with which some children are entering school, **the Times** outlines a grave situation that Ms Gross, former director of the Primary National Strategy calls a 'ticking timebomb'. With some students beginning their education with a speaking age of just 18 months and 18 % of children aged 5 failing to meet the anticipated level of speech for their age, a further delay in formally educating our little ones would surely only exacerbate this issue?*

So, what do you think? For many of you who were educated and trained overseas, does a later start in Primary education make for a positive or a negative effect on a child's education? Does that extra year allow for important development both short and long-term, or should our focus lie on pushing the levels of language and communication forward, so that Foundation stage children start their formal education with solid bricks on which to build"?

Posted by **Classroom London** at **18:59**

Labels: **foundation stage, learning, literacy, play based learning, Primary teachers, supply teachers, teaching agency, teaching in London, teaching in the UK**

NO COMMENTS:

with Google Friend Connect

Members (12)



Already a member? [Sign in](#)

Blog Archive

▶ **2010** (9)

▼ **2009** (34)

▶ **December** (5)

▶ **November** (11)

▼ **October** (10)

Classroom Job Alert

A day in the life of a Classroom Consultant

When should children start learning?

Classroom Job Alert

Ten things to do in the half term break (as sugges...

Being the best and beating the rest!

POST A COMMENT

Comment as:

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

Its Friday already and time for Classroom to post...

What does it take to be a special needs teacher?

Guest Blog: In Defence of Teaching Assistants

Classroom Job Alert

► [September \(8\)](#)

Labels

- ❖ [art lessons \(1\)](#)
- ❖ [barring \(1\)](#)
- ❖ [bbc \(1\)](#)
- ❖ [behaviour management \(5\)](#)
- ❖ [bloggers \(1\)](#)
- ❖ [bullying \(1\)](#)
- ❖ [Christmas \(2\)](#)
- ❖ [Classroom assistants \(11\)](#)
- ❖ [Classroom Ltd \(21\)](#)
- ❖ [classroom teaching agency \(21\)](#)
- ❖ [code of practice \(1\)](#)
- ❖ [collective blog \(1\)](#)
- ❖ [Cover Supervisors \(1\)](#)
- ❖ [CRB \(1\)](#)
- ❖ [education blog \(3\)](#)
- ❖ [fireworks displays \(1\)](#)
- ❖ [first blog \(1\)](#)

- ❖ foundation stage (1)
- ❖ GTC (1)
- ❖ guest blog (2)
- ❖ Half term (1)
- ❖ holiday (1)
- ❖ Inclusion (1)
- ❖ introduce a friend (1)
- ❖ Job adverts (1)
- ❖ job interviews (1)
- ❖ job posts (8)
- ❖ job shortages (1)
- ❖ job vacancies (8)
- ❖ key workers (1)
- ❖ learning (1)
- ❖ learning mentor (1)
- ❖ learning support assistants (1)
- ❖ literacy (1)
- ❖ literacy lesson plans (1)
- ❖ mulled wine recipe (1)
- ❖ naughty children (1)
- ❖ newly qualified teachers (1)
- ❖ Nursery Nurses (1)
- ❖ opening times (1)
- ❖ PGCE (1)
- ❖ play based learning (1)
- ❖ police check (1)
- ❖ primary supply (2)
- ❖ Primary teachers (11)

- ❖ racism in the classroom (1)
- ❖ role models (1)
- ❖ SATS (1)
- ❖ school children (1)
- ❖ schools (1)
- ❖ Secondary teachers (10)
- ❖ secondary teachers in primary (1)
- ❖ sex education. teaching in London (1)
- ❖ skiing (1)
- ❖ SLD (1)
- ❖ snow (1)
- ❖ Special Needs (4)
- ❖ Special needs jobs (4)
- ❖ supply teachers (10)
- ❖ supply teaching (3)
- ❖ teacher training (1)
- ❖ Teachers TV (4)
- ❖ teaching agency (10)
- ❖ teaching assistants (5)
- ❖ teaching in London (21)
- ❖ teaching in the UK (11)
- ❖ teaching jobs (12)
- ❖ Teaching resources (2)
- ❖ teaching vacancies (5)
- ❖ vetting (1)
- ❖ winter activities (1)

