

# PRE-SCHOOL CONNECT



Spring 2011

A Newsletter from School Connect  
A Christian charity linking schools in Kent and Uganda

Hello there and welcome to the 'New Look' Pre-School Connect Newsletter which is brought to you by our sister organisation which works in Primary Schools both in Uganda and Kent.

School Connect has developed links with Ugandan schools over a period of many years and now the children of Kent have direct access to the young people of Uganda, enabling them to share their life experiences and learn from each other about what it is like to grow up in their respective countries.

For more information about School Connect you should take a look at their new website which is growing into a useful online resource for both Leaders of Learning and young people alike. The web address is [www.school-connect.org.uk](http://www.school-connect.org.uk). You will also be able to keep up to date with School Connect's work through the blog which runs alongside the website. This updated with the work that young people are doing with School Connect and also updates you of any upcoming training or meetings that are happening in the Kent area.

If you are interested in developing a link for your pre-school or school then please do contact either Heather Ratcliffe or Matt Anderson to discuss the next steps.

Enjoy the newsletter and please feedback any comments, ideas or great examples of work that you have been doing.

Heather Ratcliffe

*Have YOU come up with any interesting or inventive ways of thinking about Homes with your children?*

*If so, drop us an e-mail with a description and some photos of the results and we will feature it in future Newsletters!*



*Ugandan children outside of their home*

## Planning Ideas

We have been offering story telling sessions and learning opportunities based around the idea of "Home". Here are some further ideas for you to use with your young people. With a little imagination and through the use of our resources, children can be encouraged to "...plan, design and construct" homes of a broadly African design.

- Get creative with different materials such as clay, straw, sticks or spaghetti for art and craft work (exploring colour, texture, shape, form and space in two or three dimensions).
- Junk Modelling is great fun and it allows young people a freedom of expression and a creative starting point. Blocks and other construction materials may have a similar outcome but there is nothing better than getting sticky and painty (Handle tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control).
- Put out Photos of African style homes with some blocks and see if the children can copy what they see.
- These could be photographed and displayed next to the pictures of African homes (observe, find out about and identify features in the place they live).
- Language development can be further supported with the recommended book "Home" by Kate Perry (Use vocabulary and forms of speech that are increasingly influenced by their experience of books).
- Personal, social and emotional development can be explored by considering how we feel in our houses and what makes us feel safe. What do you love about your house? (Have a developing awareness of their own needs, views, feelings and be sensitive to the needs, views and feelings of others).
- Compare and contrast the different features of African homes to Western ones (talk about, recognise and recreate simple patterns).
- Try making large scale houses in your outdoor play areas with play equipment and sheets etc.

All learning outcomes taken from the E.Y.F.S. Document.

## What else can we do for you?

Pre-School Connect is here to support you in your delivery of exceptional learning for your young people. We would be please to be invited to your class or nursery to assist you in broadening your children's understanding of African culture. We can do this through offering you the following;

### Storytelling Sessions\*

Telling a story in an active and engaging way, using props and resources to illustrate and open up the concepts of the story. We use a variety of stories derived from East African culture.

### Story Sacks

These are based on the various stories that we tell and are put together to support children's experiential learning during and after storytelling sessions.

### Staff Training

To enable you to feel confident about delivering cross cultural education and to support your planning and topic ideas.

### Workshops\*

For both Children and Adults which are based on the theme of the term or a special "Day in the Life" activity (ask for details)

\*Some activities are chargeable



Homes in the countryside are different to those in the Cities



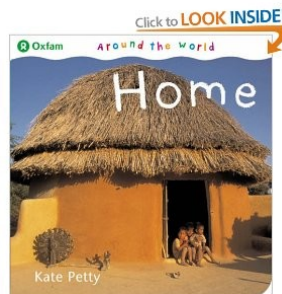
Some people live in flats and apartments.



Some people live in great big Mansions.

## Final Thoughts

How about taking a look at this book to help in your planning? "Home" by Kate Petty (no not *that* one), is a simple book with great pictures of children in their homes all around the world. It starts with a child at home in Uganda and is a good starting place to encourage children to spot similarities and differences between their experiences and the experience of others.



A little girl playing with her rag dolly

Next Term's theme is "Sports and Games". So get your thinking caps on and come up with some ideas that you could use to link your nursery sessions to reflect African Sports and Games.

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## In touch...

Interested in finding out more, getting involved or supporting our work financially? Contact our office at:

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**School Connect**

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