



Froebelian Futures

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Practitioner Inquiry Project Report

Leadership opportunities & reflections

Project title

Carolside Community Songs Around the Fire

Subtitle (if applicable)

Your name and role

Mrs Jo McGregor, Depute Head Teacher of Early Years

1. What are the implications of this research for:

- The team/setting as a whole
- Pedagogy
- Resourcing
- Policy
- The sector / your networks / management beyond your immediate setting.

(Please aim to write between 250 minimum and 500 words maximum, using the box below. Please do not disclose the identity of any individuals in your comments, as this form will be part of your colleague's public record of their project).

Being part of the Froebelian Futures project this session has further embedded Froebelian approaches within our early years setting. One of the aims of the project was to create 'community connection' using a Froebelian approach and songs around the fire which was successfully achieved. The opportunity to connect with our families around the fire was welcomed as parents had been unable to visit our setting during Covid restrictions. Gathering around the fire raised smiles brought and joy to everyone; staff, children and families alike. It was a very windy week during our Froebelian Christmas at Carolside Stay and Play Week, but despite the weather, we had a wonderful fire pit experience enjoying snacks and songs on each of the 5 afternoons.

Building capacity within the staff team to lead fire pit experiences with the children was the second aim of the project. During staff training the lead practitioner demonstrated how to light a fire safely and lead a session with the children. The staff then had the opportunity to cook on the fire and we shared lunch together. The lead practitioner then offered further sessions giving the staff opportunities to take on different roles around the fire. This tailored approach to training was an effective way of building confidence with the whole staff team. The impact of this has been visible in the frequency of fire pit experiences that the staff have led.

The lead practitioner involved the children in establishing rules for keeping safe around the fire. The rules created captured the children's voice and allowing them to gain an understanding of the importance of these rules to keep us safe.

2. What value do you place on practitioner-research – and what more can be done in your setting/locality to enable it to continue as part of routine practice going forward?

All staff are valued pedagogical leaders within our setting, being encouraged to share research and reading with the team. Practitioners have taken part in a number of enquiry projects such as risky play and weapon play as well as developing our outdoor garden as a 'community spirit garden'. Our setting has hugely benefited as a result of being part of Froebel training. We have refreshed our block play area, developed opportunities to practise skills related to the occupations such as daily access to sewing. The lead practitioner led sessions on Froebel gifts and sharing Froebelian Principles.

3. What have you learned as a leader through supporting this research / programme? (100 words)

It has been a pleasure to work in partnership with the lead practitioner throughout the project. Having regular meetings and check-ins ensured shared values, aims and understanding. My knowledge of Froebelian Principles and Practices deepened as we developed continued our journey of embedding Froebelian Principles and Practices within our setting.

A Froebelian Christmas as Carolside was an excellent way to exemplify to our parents and the wider community, the Froebelian approaches we uphold as our children experience woodwork, sewing and weaving, clay and as they learn outdoors.

Please save this document as a PDF and share it as feedback with your researching practitioner/colleague **and** with us at froebelianfutures@ed.ac.uk. Please ask them to upload it to their project report page (Edit > Question 12) as a condition of completing their certificate. If you have any questions about this process please contact us at the email address above.