



Froebelian Futures

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Practitioner Inquiry Project Report

Leadership opportunities & reflections

Project title

Shaping Our World Through Woodwork

Subtitle (if applicable)

Your name and role

Nicola Wilson (Ballantyne) Early Years Depute Kilbryde ELC

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).

The Setting as a whole has embraced this opportunity to enhance the practice of the nursery and showed the willingness to undertake new experiences and opportunities to embed a Froebelian approach. Throughout this research / project the team have been supported by senior management in ensuring that they had the time to enhance practice through staff training opportunities and a budget that allowed new resources such as a new work bench and tools to ensure the children could receive the best possible opportunities to develop their woodwork experiences.

Working between two settings had its challenges due to having visiting restrictions but we soon found ways to communicate effectively and share our findings and towards the end of the project, we were able return to having face-to-face contact.

We have been able to promote pedagogical thinkers within the staff team on this journey allowing for opportunities to undertake practitioner enquiry where we have discussed and observed existing opportunities for children promoting levels of critical reflection. This reflection opened up conversations around staff's knowledge and experience of woodwork and that they did have concerns over children using tools as they also weren't confident in using these. This is where we identified that it was important to take our time and not to rush, as we believed that if we wanted this to be embed within practice then it should be an enjoyable learning experience for both the team and the children involved.

The networks we have created during this year has been valuable in consolidating our practitioner research and an opportunity to take guidance from fellow colleagues when challenges arise and share our experiences. Support and guidance provided at a senior level within the sector has been beneficial in ensuring that support was accessible when needed and that ensuring that opportunities for discussions around the research period were regular to ensure that any areas for support were identified and resolved effectively.

This is an exciting time for both settings as we hope to work closely together to share practice and embed this project within both setting where children staff & families can come together and share the Froebelian journey.

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?

The value of practitioner research being carried out provides us as facilitators an opportunity to undertake a valuable approach in strengthening the use of research for not only individual practitioners but also as an authority where our hope is that our desirable outcomes become sector leading with this being measured against our practitioner research.

The opportunity for professionals to come together from a range of authorities has been highly effective and beneficial in undertaking research. This has allowed us to identify highly effective practice within our setting and areas for development.

Between the two settings that participated within this programme collectively, we will continue to work in partnership in supporting the development of our settings through shared practice between both staff and children.

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

Participating in this research / programme as a leader has given me an opportunity to have a deeper understanding of the many processes and approaches a practitioner may take when undertaking a project. This allowing me to reflect on my own practice and how I can play a supportive roll when considering a range of approaches to ensure a collective team approach that is inclusive to full team.

This opportunity has allowed me to reflect on my own leadership skills and how I can ensure that I play an effective role in supporting a new team that I have not worked alongside or had little experience of their skills. Through this project there has been challenges due to the pandemic which has also allowed for creative thinking and problem solving when undertaking new challenges but my greatest lesson would be to remember that it's about the journey that we are on and not the end product. Remembering that when working as a team it is not a linear process.

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.