



# Froebelian Futures

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## Practitioner Inquiry Project Report

# Leadership opportunities & reflections

### Project title

Where is Froebel in our Inchlair ELCC Information Brochure?

### Subtitle (if applicable)

A study which identifies if Froebel's principles are evident in our current Inchlair ELCC Information brochure and how the settings vision, values and aims are reflected in it.

### Your name and role

Linda Love -Senior Early Years Officer

### 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).

This research will help us to effectively share an better insight into how we are embracing and embedding a Froebelian approach into our setting, sharing what a Froebelian setting means to our families and the wider community and how the principles are embedded throughout the ethos of the setting. The findings from this research challenged us to find a way to share the benefits of a Froebelian approach and how we have become Froebelians in a Froebelian setting, we found that we must do more to share why we do what we do with our parents.

Findings from the research show that parents will have a deeper understanding of our approach if they can read about our aims and values alongside practical examples of our core provision, child and adult friendly examples and attractively laid out documentation including our brochure and other documents eg. Policies. Findings from the research show that staff agree that parents will have a better understanding of our approach by seeing learning through the eyes of child and the children themselves were able to have discussions with their parents and staff using the visuals as a starting point, talking about their practical experiences.

Implications in regard to resourcing will mainly be around sharing the new brochure with families and we plan to spend time at our initial home visits explaining our priorities and we will be able to show them how this is being achieved with visual examples of our Froebelian setting. Froebelian principles will now be incorporated into all policy and guidance and this information brochure will be the starting point for further improvement.

**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? (100 word approx.)**

Within our setting there is a large focus on Distributed Leadership where everyone is encouraged and supported to research and share their ideas and findings within the team, implementing change where it will benefit all users. This inquiry enabled the researcher/ practitioner to participate in the chosen project and carry out research alongside myself, their colleagues, and the families who attend the setting. This project enabled the researcher/practitioner to take a critical look at what information we share with our families and how we do this.

The researcher/practitioner was able to challenge our present nursery information brochure and by engaging in dialogue we acknowledged that if we want to be a Froebelian setting we had to ensure that the language we use in our documents is clear and understood by staff, children and families and that the Froebelian Principles are clearly explained, giving examples from practice to support this. Moving forward, I believe more autonomy should be given to practitioners in relation to carrying out research and asking questions which will improve the service we provide to children and families and for their own professional development.

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

The project enabled me to reflect on how important it is to share with all stakeholders the ethos of our setting and also share more information on what we as a Froebelian setting aim to achieve alongside our vision, values and aims. Being a leader on this project has enabled me to see the impact of the enquiry and the value that the researcher/practitioner has placed on involving children and families within the setting and wider community. As a lead practitioner I would continue to support more practitioners to undertake this practitioner inquiry course, personally and professionally I benefited from the programme, I valued the opportunity to have professional discussions with colleagues from other settings and the development of valuable relationships with these settings and beyond.

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