



Froebelian Futures

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Practitioner Inquiry Project Report

Leadership opportunities & reflections

Project title

Time to Sing

Subtitle (if applicable)

Your name and role

Shirley Couser, 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).

As we settle into our new building and work towards becoming Falkirk's First Froebel Flagship Centre, it is important we examine all areas of service delivery. As a team we have reflected on our service delivery and practice. We have also taken into consideration the lasting impact that Covid has had on children's development. One of the experiences which stopped during Covid was singing and staff have taken a long time to build up confidence in this area. Many staff who trained during Covid missed out in learning about the richness that singing brings to children's development. We know that children's speech & language has been affected due to lack of opportunities and isolation that many families felt during periods of lockdown.

Caroline's project has given the centre the opportunity to revisit the benefits of singing for children. She has role modelled and worked alongside staff and visiting professionals to learn and enhance the experience of singing. She has participated in the Youth Music Imitative Training (YMI) to further her knowledge and skills. Caroline continues to work alongside the music practitioner to further support her journey and provide wider musical opportunities for children. The Gaelic tutor provides a different musical experience which involves a variety of musical instruments.

Caroline has looked at how we involve families and has shared resources to support a home/nursery link. We are looking at different ways to share this through different media e.g. Twitter, QR Codes and paper. Singing can be a spontaneous experience which results in no costs, although we have identified a small budget for any resources required.

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.)

This research project has given Caroline the opportunity to develop her leadership skills and share her knowledge and expertise with children, families and staff. It has highlighted the importance and impact that research has ensuring we have the theory behind our journey of improvement. This has also supported our journey as a family centre model within Froebelian practices. Caroline is planning how to take this out into the community and has started to invite members of the community into the building. We are already seeing other staff becoming more confident by following Caroline's lead.

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

This course has helped me to value the importance and impact research can have. It has supported our Froebelian journey as we work towards becoming a Froebel Flagship Nursery and how we embed the Froebelian Principles. It reminded me of good practice pre-covid and the need to re-start or re-visit. It has encouraged us as a team to share our new found knowledge with our team and beyond. Research will be embedded into our professional practice going forward. I very much valued the opportunity for professional dialogue with practitioners/leaders from my own authority as well as other Froebelians.

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.