



# Froebelian Futures

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## Practitioner Inquiry Project Report

# Leadership opportunities & reflections

### Project title

Understanding children's perspectives through Froebelian Principle Practice.

### Subtitle (if applicable)

### Your name and role

Claire Lord Principal 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).

While on our Froebelian Flagship journey we have revisited many characteristics of our practice. This research has focused in on understanding children's perspectives through Froebelian Principle Practice. This research was an observation study of how practitioners understand and support non-verbal children's perspective through the freedom of guidance approach.

This research highlighted that practitioners have recognised the importance of understanding children's perspectives in relation to Froebelian Principles. Now when practitioners are observing they think about aspects such as 'what is this child gaining from this experience?'

When practitioners take time to research and learn it enhances their pedagogy which increases their knowledge and skills which enables them to provide high quality experiences and opportunities for all children in their care. Practitioners now recognise it is everyone's responsibility and not just senior management to participate in research. This increases staff leadership skills, giving them the confidence to become proactive in decision-making and improvements of our centre. As a whole staff team, we can see how our ethos, vision and aims are all linked into every aspect of our practice and our service. Resourcing will be focused on time therefore we need to be disciplined to ensure that we protect time to research and allow high quality dialogue to take place to ensure practitioners understand children's perspectives in relation to all Froebelian Principles.

It is our centres vision that we will have a team of practitioners who will have the skills to understand children's perspectives through Froebelian Principles and in their daily practice.

As there is another centre in Falkirk who are now on their Froebelian journey it is our vision we will share our practice with them and strategies we have in place.

**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.)**

Participating in this project has emphasized the benefits and impact of a practitioner enquiry, it has inspired practitioners and allowed them ownership of leading improvements. It has permitted them to build on their knowledge and skills. When staff take ownership of research and improvements, they make sure that these are maintained and continued. It has emphasized the significance of ensuring that practitioners, children, and their families are given the opportunity to voice their perspectives in all aspects of the life of the nursery.

Moving forward all practitioners will be given the opportunity to understand children's perspectives in relation to all the Froebelian Principles.

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

This course has facilitated me to distribute more responsibilities and leadership opportunities to practitioners. It has supported our current Froebelian journey as we work towards becoming Falkirk's first Froebel Flagship nursery and how we embed the Froebelian Principles into our daily practice.

Previously I had the view that research is very time consuming and additional work but now I fully appreciate the benefits of research and can see how it improves outcomes for nursery, practitioners' children, and their families. Looking forward research will be embedded into professional practice.

I extremely value the opportunity for professional dialogue with practitioners and leaders from my own authority as well as further afield and other Froebelians.

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