

Fay Flude: Early Years Setting Manager

About Fay

Fay is the Early Years Setting Manager and SENDCO lead at a Pre-school in Haywards Heath, West Sussex, with over 11 years of experience in the sector. Fay and a couple of her team members completed the Early Years Professional Development Programme (EYPDP) in 2022.

How has the Covid-19 pandemic impacted your setting?

The impact of the pandemic has definitely been noticeable and since returning to some level of normality, I've made the highest number of referrals I've ever had to make to the speech, language, and development service, and to the childhood development clinic. This course has definitely come at the right time.

What was it that appealed to you about the EYPDP?

The content around Speech, Language and Communication, developed by Elklan, really appealed to me as it was so relevant and comprehensive. I always used to emphasise the importance of visual strategies for all children, not just children with additional learning needs, but this programme made the whole team realise that visual tools are relevant for all children, and this has had a big impact on learning.

Have you been able to apply what you have learnt on the Programme in your setting?

Yes, for example, following the maths module, we've been able to see the progression with maths in our setting already. All of my team members clearly listened to what they'd learnt, and it's been accessible and memorable enough for people to start using it with the children straightaway in their small adult-led learning groups. The programme provided us with new ways to think about implementing learning, such as using block play to learn more about shapes and their properties.



Has completing the EYPDP supported you in your role?

It really has. The content in the Personal, Social and Emotional Development module (PSED) which was created by the Anna Freud Centre, provided practical tips on how to involve parents and carers in child's learning which was really useful. It also included a unit on supporting staff in their mental wellbeing which led to us deciding to create a new policy around mental wellbeing as we realised the link between staff happiness and the impact on the children's learning.

How easy was it to complete the Programme whilst working?

I found the flexibility of the programme really useful, so even though my children are all older now, it was great being able to do the online learning at a time that suited me. We also had to attend weekly group webinars where we had the chance to talk to other practitioners from various settings across the country and gain valuable support and ideas from our programme tutor, who was lovely.

Would you recommend the EYPDP to other practitioners and why?

I am really grateful that I had the opportunity to do this professional development programme and felt really well supported by the team throughout. I am lucky in that I already felt confident at work, but in this field especially, you don't want to become complacent. Learning by myself, but then also being able to talk things through with other practitioners on the webinar really revitalised my practice and just improved my confidence further.

I would definitely recommend a programme like this to others. Refreshing your skills and learning new ones makes you reflect more on why you are doing what you are doing and makes you ask is it having an impact? If not, what do you need to do about it?"

Funded by



Delivered by

