

## Seven Fields Primary



Sally Clarke is an Early Years Consultant and Area SENCO for Swindon Borough Council. She has been the EYPDP Local Authority Lead since 2022, when a previous iteration of the EYPDP called 'Building on Success' was delivered.

As part of the evaluation of the Building on Success programme, Sally interviewed the team from Seven Fields Primary to find out how useful they had found the programme and what impact it had on their setting.

In total four practitioners from the setting completed the programme. Sally interviewed each of the practitioners in July 2022 and asked the following questions:

- Were there any successes of the course?
- Have you made any changes because of the course?

### Were there any successes of the course?

#### Interview with Michelle:

As the Setting Manager, Michelle could keep an oversight of the progress of her team who were part of the course. The team could select a time to attend the webinar that suited them. They all attended the same webinar which made it easy for them to share and evaluate their practice together. Michelle feels this made a massive contribution to the development of mutual trust across the team.

They enjoyed the range of EYPs represented in the webinar group as they were from all over the country and from across various areas of the EY sector. The cross section of EYPs reassured the team that themes such as attachment and attendance were universal concerns. They could share good practice and offer each other mutual support. Much of the content also confirmed their own best practice to the team.

Michelle explained that the section of the course that focused upon **Early Mathematical Development** from age 2 has helped the team to embed mathematical language in their play and interactions with the children throughout the day, rather than containing this to pre-planned maths focus activities. This was particularly helpful to those who were not as experienced in working with this younger age group.

### Have you made any changes because of the course?

The course has had a positive impact upon communication across the team. Michelle described how the team have a far better approach to maintaining and updating a rich learning environment as they have a more collaborative approach now.

The **focus upon language development** has had a positive impact upon the skills of the team to analyse children's language development, identify any barriers and alter their practice as a result. Their ability to make appropriate speech and language referrals has improved as the team has a greater understanding of the difference their own practice can make rather than waiting for the recommendations from a Speech and Language therapist.

Their targeted provision for children has improved also, for example, providing quieter, smaller group interactions and using simple language when they interact with children.

**Michelle fed back that the team's ability to make appropriate speech and language referrals improved as the team now has a greater understanding of the difference their own practice can make, rather than waiting for the recommendations from a Speech and Language therapist.**

**Interview with Janet:****Were there any successes of the course?**

Janet explained that she had 20 years of experience working in Early Years in Swindon. She said the course helped to refresh her knowledge of best practice and confirm back to her the elements of her practice that were already strong.

**Have you made any changes because of the course?**

Janet found that the course reminded her to simplify her language with children. She noticed in herself, and across the team, that because of the course they now stop and listen to children, allowing time for the interaction rather than feeling they must rush on with practical tasks. Janet now feels empowered and validated in taking time to talk with, listen to and play with children.

**Janet also now feels more confident in teaching early maths because of the course.**

**Interview with Gina****Were there any successes of the course?**

Gina feels that the course has really helped the team to develop their 2-5 years provision. She liked the fact that they could work as a team as this meant they could share their experience.

**Have you made any changes because of the course?**

Gina feels that the course showed the team what they could do themselves to develop their speech and language provision. The team is also now using the 'Approximate developmental maths progression for 2 to 4-year-old children' poster to review their maths resources to ensure progression.

**"The webinars were great as they fitted in with my home life."**

**Gina**

**Interview with Beth:****Were there any successes of the course?**

Beth is a Reception class teacher and leads phonics (Read, Write, Inc) across the school. Beth explained that her teacher training degree covered working with children from age 3, therefore she feels the course has made it easier for her to meet the needs of 2-year-old children and to know what to expect.

**Have you made any changes because of the course?**

Beth found the course very useful to refresh her knowledge, particularly in the light of the pandemic. The course has empowered her to stop and listen to children and to take time to consider how to extend children's vocabulary through everyday interactions. She felt the case studies increased her confidence in working with 2 year olds.

**Following her teacher training degree, Beth felt the EYPDP increased her confidence in working with 2 year olds.**



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