



Lucy Marett

Setting Manager and owner of Active Time Day Nursery

Lucy is the Setting Manager and owner of Active Time Day Nursery in Harrow, North London. Lucy and a few members of her team recently completed Cohort 2 of the EYPDP.

How did you find the EYPDP?

I thought it was really good. I had 4 staff that did the programme – two who are a Level 3, myself (Level 5) and another member of staff who is equivalent to Level 4. **We all found it useful and it has made our planning better across the whole nursery.**

Can you share any examples of how the programme has helped you?

I would say the maths content was the area we gained most from. Off the back of the Early Maths module, we put together a maths week and from there our maths has continued to get stronger.

We had Ofsted in for a re-registration of our site recently and the inspector was blown away, and said she'd never seen so much maths in one place! I told her that we'd had a maths week where we'd reviewed and relaunched our maths and she was really impressed.

Before we had a 'maths area' but now we're using maths across all rooms and all areas including the outdoor area which we weren't doing before. We also changed snack time to incorporate more maths by having smaller groups and encouraging children to chop fruit and use maths as they're doing it. Not only has it doubled our fruit order, children are having better conversations and using new vocabulary.

There's a lot more planning happening now with each of the rooms and it's not just the room leaders who are making the plans – **we shared the content with all the staff in our setting and they all seem more confident in supporting the children with their learning now.**

How useful did you find the support materials from the programme?

We had a number of children with heightened PSED needs and were able to sit down as a team and discuss how we could support those children by using some of the support materials from the programme which really helped. **Even those who hadn't done the programme were able to benefit from the course content as we shared it and discussed it regularly.**

It's such a shame the EYPDP is finishing now because I think the more people find out about it, the more people will want to do it. I think if it were to run again, more of my team would do it, because once we'd done it, they saw how much we were gaining from it and enjoying it.

How did you find the webinars?

We really liked the webinars and meeting with other practitioners. It was great to be able to exchange ideas and then check-in with each other the following week to see how if those ideas had helped.

How easy was it to do the programme around working?

It was challenging at times to do the learning, particularly if we were having a busy week. One of my colleagues missed her Saturday morning webinar and then fell behind a bit with some of the sessions, but the EYPDP support team were really supportive and called her to help her get back on track by re-joining a webinar group.