

## Emma Lightfoot

### Setting Manager

#### St Monica's Nursery, Warrington

Emma completed Cohort 2 of the the EYPDP along with three other members of her team. By deciding between them who would do the learning at home and who would do it in work hours, Emma said 'as a team of four we found this course very manageable.'

#### How did you find the EYPDP?

I really enjoyed it. Some of it I already knew, but it's things that you forget, things that become second nature, and when you're reminded you think 'oh yeah'.

When I first mentioned the programme to my deputy who has about 10 years' experience, she was a little sceptical and said it's nothing she didn't already know, and I think the first couple of webinars she wasn't that into it, but the more we made it a team effort, the more she got into it and by the end I think she really enjoyed it.

#### Did you reflect on the programme as a team?

Yes, on a Monday we'd discuss what we would implement from our action plan that week (either from a personal level or team level) and then on a Friday we'd reflect on that.

We'd discuss how it went, what techniques we used and we'd share feedback we'd gathered from other practitioners on the webinars. **So if something wasn't working for us, we had lots of others ideas to try that people.**

#### Was there a particular area of content that you found useful?

We found the maths content really eye opening... we thought we were already doing maths for example we knew the children could already count to 5 or 10 and we thought 'yep we're doing maths,' but **from doing this programme we started to realise that there's so much more**

maths we could be doing with the children and that made us overhaul our maths curriculum.

**We now have so many more opportunities to develop children's maths skills in everyday play situations.**

#### How do you think learning new skills and knowledge has affected your team?

I think we are so much more confident now for sure. I think before we all thought we knew everything we needed to know, but when you actually dig down you realise **there was so much that we weren't doing that we didn't even realise, and it was only through doing the EYPDP that it hit me.**

#### How did you find the webinars?

Really useful. **I'm not the most confident of people speaking in groups, but the breakout rooms on the webinars we did were great and our tutor was so lovely encouraging.** The webinars were also really useful for gaining advice or ideas on how to deal with any issues you were facing.

#### What was your biggest takeaway?

**There wasn't really one monumental thing, it was lots of little things. We took something from each module,** for example Communication and Language, we realised maybe staff were talking over children or not giving choices and always not counting to 10, so it was lots of little strategies that we took away. It also really helped with our peer on peer observations as team members knew what they were looking for when they were observing somebody and it wasn't just watching and thinking 'that went really well.'

#### Would you recommend the programme?

Definitely, every course that I've been on since doing this programme I've told people about the EYPDP and asked them if they've heard of it. **Even if you've been in childcare for 30 years or if you've been in childcare for a month, you're going to get something from it.**

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