

## Sue Smith

### Childminder, Cambridgeshire

Sue Smith is a Childminder of 24 years who is currently on Cohort 4 of the EYPDP. Sue recently received her third Ofsted outstanding grade and has been nominated for a Hero Award, where she lives in Cambridgeshire, for her outstanding contribution to childcare over the years.

### How are you finding the EYPDP?

**Doing this course is helping me to refresh my knowledge and share ideas and best practice with other practitioners from around the country.** I am really enjoying working my way through the content and reflecting on what I do and how I do it. I like doing the eLearning and then coming together with others on the Zoom calls to talk about what we've been doing and what activities we've tried that week.

**I always feel very comfortable in the webinars as there is zero judgement from anybody about how others are doing things. Despite all being from all different parts of the country, we're all in the same boat!**

I loved sharing my dandelion honey recipe with the people in my webinar group, as making that has been something that the children in my setting enjoy doing. Hearing others say they like the sound of it and want to try it is a real wow moment.



### What have you gained from the EYPDP so far?

**The EYPDP really helps to show you as a practitioner what you do, how well you do it and makes you ask yourself can you do anything any other way and if so, how will you do it and who's going to benefit from it? And it doesn't always have to be the children, it could be you as a professional.**

Doing this course has also helped me to realise that there's no right or wrong way of doing anything, it's just asking yourself is there anything different I can do or is there anything more that I could be doing?

Reflecting on my own practice has also helped to reaffirm my confidence in what I do. As a sole practitioner you don't know how well you're doing as there's nobody to tell you, but this course has made me realise I do know a lot!

### Do you think doing this course could help others with Ofsted?

Yes, I think it can help you by making sure you know as much as you can before you have that inspection. By meeting with other practitioners on the webinars you get to share lots of ideas and best practice and you can get support from others too. As a childminder, gaining the support from other practitioners is really important as the Ofsted inspections can be really nerve wracking. Don't get me wrong I got an Outstanding grade, but I was a bag of nerves beforehand!

**I think this course can also help to boost your confidence in what you know and how you do it and that confidence comes across not only with Ofsted, but with your families and parents too so you can build a partnership and that is so important.**

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