**Positive Parental Experience Discussion**

**Link to audio:** [**https://youtu.be/Dan6OPXXADA**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FDan6OPXXADA&data=05%7C02%7CFiona.Welsh%40dumgal.gov.uk%7C5409937a12e642c2a39408dde973e6b7%7Cbd2e1df68d5a4867a647487c2a7402de%7C0%7C0%7C638923406209497336%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=v9RpM%2FdrUQZoABM6CA8s4nh9CiP1CY3ZSi0WtqnPODc%3D&reserved=0)

1. **How did you feel at the start of the process?**

Very nervous, I had heard both good and bad stories about the process. This was well explained, and we were kept in the loop at all times.

1. **Had you had any experience of a Learning Centre before?**

No, our son was diagnosed with autism whilst at his previous nursery, they were very well equipped to deal with children with ASD.

1. **How was the process in general?**

In general, it was very straight forward.

1. **How did you find the communication at each stage of the process?**

Communication throughout was very good, we had regular meetings and were kept up to date when visits had been made to the nursery to observe our son. The only part the communication was not great was waiting for the letter to advise if/where our son was going to be placed. The date changed several times, and it seemed that other families got their updates earlier than others. If I did chase for an update, I was given one though which did put our minds at ease.

1. **How was the application process?**

I felt the application process was good, we detailed the reasons that we felt our son would benefit from a placement at a learning centre and the nursery also submitted how they felt. I did feel like we were being listened to, and the best was being done for our son.

1. **What was the transition process like for your child and how did you find it?**

The transition times/days were great, our son quickly settled while he was there, and he had a number of visits and 2 full days before starting full time in the new school year.

1. **What did the settling in period look like for your child and how did you find it?**

Our son went around 7 times. At first it was visits of only up to one hour, then these increased to half days, then 2 full days. I either picked him up from nursery and took him to the learning centre or dropped him off in the morning and collected at the end of the day.

1. **What was supportive about the process?**

The staff at the learning centre had my details and they kept me up to date about how his day was going so I didn’t have to worry. The gave me a full run down of how his time had been each time he attended.

1. **Do you have anything you would like to share with parents who are currently where you were at the start of the process?**

I would say it’s best to go in with an open mind, we all want what is best for our children and we want them to thrive and enjoy school. I only have personal experience of the learning centre where my son was placed, and I am so happy that he is there. I would also say that when you are filling in the forms requesting a placement, to put in as much detail as possible even little details about your child that could be overlooked unless you know them. Although my main concern always was transport for our son, a taxi comes to collect him in the mornings and this was the part I was most nervous about, but this too has been great, and it was very easy to arrange through the school.

1. **How do you feel now?**

I am thrilled with the progress our son has made since starting primary 1, he has come on leaps and bounds and is in the right environment for him. The teachers and staff at the learning centre are just wonderful.

1. **In three words, can you describe your child’s LC experience so far?**

Engaged, Involved, Happy