

PREM-AWARENESS IN FIFE

As an accompaniment to the 'Prem-Aware' podcast, this poster provides a summary of the key stats, research findings, and considerations surrounding 'prem-awareness'.

WHAT IS PREMATURE BIRTH?

Premature birth is when a baby is born before 37 weeks of gestation, increasing the risk of health complications and future developmental challenges.

EXTREMELY PRE-TERM						VERY PRE-TERM					MODERATE & LATE PRE-TERM					TERM			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41

FACTS & FIGURES



In the UK, around 8% of all babies are born pre-term.



Approximately 3,700 babies are born pre-term each year in Scotland.



174 babies were born prematurely in Fife last year.



On average, 2-3 children in every class will have been born prematurely.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

It's important to recognise that not all children born pre-term will experience developmental or learning difficulties. Prematurity is a 'risk factor' rather than a 'diagnosis.' Most children born pre-term won't have severe disabilities, however, many may have subtle cognitive, motor, social or emotional difficulties that can impact learning. Whilst children born pre-term tend to show lower levels of academic attainment across all curricular areas, they are especially likely to experience difficulties with mathematics.



Research shows that babies born pre-term are more likely to have developmental or learning difficulties.



A small proportion of pre-term children are at increased risk of neurodevelopmental disorders. Even if they do not reach criteria for diagnosis, they may display associated behaviours.



Children born pre-term are more likely to have difficulties with attention, problem-solving, working memory, processing speed, mathematics, and hand-eye coordination.



Those born pre-term are more likely to have difficulties with social skills than children born at term, including interacting, making/maintaining friendships, working together, and communicating with peers.

BENEFITS OF BEING PREM-AWARE



Improved awareness and understanding of the lasting effects pre-term birth can have upon learning and education.



Reassure families that your setting is aware of and compassionate towards the potential needs of their children.



Enables early identification of needs and provision of timely support, improving long-term outcomes.



Supports practitioners to develop skills and knowledge to best support children born prematurely.