

Review of Early Years CLPL programme Session 2019/ 2020

In early years a comprehensive CLPL calendar was made available to both local authority and funded provider practitioners, including teachers, in session 2019-20. Data from the pre-school developmental milestones, findings from inspections, statutory requirements for Care Inspectorate and SSSC and educational services plan priorities were all used to plan the programme to ensure continuing high quality in early years. The programme was delivered through a mix of in house courses delivered mainly by the central early years team and CLPL delivered by external providers.

In session 2019 – 2020 statutory training for Paediatric First Aid and Food Hygiene was delivered to around 100 staff, with the expansion of early learning and childcare this commitment will increase over the next few years. This training is required on a 3 yearly basis.

Core CLPL for literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing including phonological awareness, early reading, investigative numeracy and play on pedals is being provided for all early years staff to attend over the next few years. This will upskill staff, provide clear guidance of South Ayrshire approaches and expectations and support staff in closing the gap.

The early years team developed a leadership module to build capacity in staff to lead learning and fill the senior and depute posts being created as part of the early years expansion. 30 early years practitioners and 25 teachers have undertaken the module so far and as a result we have promoted staff internally to senior and depute positions and have seen a positive impact in inspections around leadership and management. Further cohorts are planned for next session.

To support a more consistent pedagogical approach across the early level 15 staff attended a 2 day training course on the Froebelian Approach delivered by early Education Associates. The principal teachers who support play in P1 were amongst those trained in this approach allowing them to disseminate the ideas wider to support the roll out of play across early level. The approach is currently being piloted in Ballantrae and Colmonell Primary and EYCs.

Mindstretchers provided a full days training for 30 staff on working with children under 3. This is required by the Care Inspectorate prior to registering new premises for 2 year olds. They also ran 2 days training for 60 staff on Talking and Thinking Floorbooks to support staff to involve and consult children more in planning and leading own their learning. This had been highlighted by Care Inspectorate in some inspections as an area for improvement and following the training more positive comments showing the impact can be seen in recent inspection reports..

Mindstretchers provided a coaching in context approach for four EYCs with each centre getting a full days input with a mix of modelling/coaching and training. This has supported EYCs to make changes to their approaches including outdoor learning and has had a positive impact on inspections.

PAThS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) is an evidence based programme used widely in early years to help children manage their behaviour, understand their emotions, and work well with others. It was identified by Care Inspectorate as a programme to use. Staff in four early years centres' Barassie, Braehead, Cherry Tree and Kincaidston, were trained in the approach and initial results showed children were better able to self regulate and talk about their emotions. PAThS will be rolled out to all EYCs next session as a key tool to support children's health and wellbeing.