

Positive Ethos, Positive Discipline, Effective Learning

Hilton Edinburgh Grosvenor Hotel



February 2004

ORGANISATION

Clackmannan Nursery School, Clackmannanshire

FOCUS

CHAT

Can you describe briefly any initiatives or projects in place that illustrate the focus of our conference i.e. Positive Ethos, Positive Discipline, Effective Learning?

The CHAT (Communication, Help and Awareness Team) Nursery Initiative is based on the Riverside Whole Nursery Approach. Research has shown that communication groups in Nurseries may result in significant gains not only in communication skills but also in other aspects of cognitive development, attention control and behaviour (Best et al 1993)

Our project worked collaboratively in the Nursery to do the following:

- Provide a two-day interactive workshop for staff
- Run 4 groups with an allocated member of staff
- Provide a series of 4 parent workshops
- Liaise, plan and evaluate groups with a member of staff

The overall aim of the project is to enskill others, helping them to identify children with difficulties and become more confident in extending the communication skills of all children.

How are these initiatives being monitored and evaluated?

- A questionnaire to staff and follow-up attendance at staff meetings
- Documentation of language groups
- Comparing numbers of children known to Speech and Language Therapy Services before and after intervention
- Sample of pre/post intervention language levels

CONTACT INFORMATION

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What are some of the biggest challenges faced by teachers and young people or members of your organisation, in implementing the initiatives or projects?

It was a challenge to release staff at times. If staffing levels were down, too few staff were left on the nursery floor.

What has worked well?

The collaborative working between staff, parents and SLTs

What did not work & lessons learned?

The timings of the parent workshops did not work well.
The mix of children in a couple of the groups was problematic.
The project has yet to be fully evaluated.

Future plans?

To continue to run the nursery initiative in other Nursery establishments in Clackmannanshire.

Any materials the school/organisation is willing to share or relevant publications that are for sale?

The Community Early Years Training Pack (Riverside Community NHS Trust (1999))
The Narrative Pack (Black Sheep Press)

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