



In the West Partnership: Family Learning and Parental Engagement

Through discussions with keyworkers and two staff members who had attended an intergenerational learning network meeting, it was demonstrated that it can be beneficial for children and adults to engage in intergenerational learning. Grandparents bring their wealth of knowledge on Scottish culture and have skills which can be shared with children such as knitting, story telling, or gardening, and children bring their enthusiasm and energy for learning. It was decided as a centre we would take forward intergenerational learning for children. There are quite a few grandparents who already have daily contact with the centre bringing their grandchild to nursery and collecting them so we decided that our next stay and play session, we would invite grandparents to attend. The project is also looking at developing links with an elderly care home within the local area.

The aim of the project is to develop effective intergenerational learning working with grandparents and with elderly residents within care homes in the local community.

Method



Staff were in the process of organising a Health and Wellbeing stay and play session. It was decided that we would invite grandparents to come along and take part in the activities. Children in the 3-5 playroom were going to focus on healthy eating. It was suggested they could make soup and take part in some traditional playground games. Grandparents could share the games they played when they were younger and the type of soup they enjoy. Children in the under three's were making healthy sandwiches for a tea party after the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', finishing off the session with some traditional Scottish songs and rhymes. Babies were fruit tasting with their grandparents, finishing off with a book bug session.

Process Change



Aim : To develop intergenerational learning

Driver 1 To improve the link between the centre and home

Driver 2 Develop health and wellbeing of children and adults involved

Driver 3 Promote a positive attitude towards the older generation.

Driver 4 Develop a more inclusive learning environment for children and families

Achievements



- Working closely with parents / grandparents and partners will ensure the highest possible standards for all of our children.
- Parents and Grandparents will understand the role they play and feel empowered to contribute to the life and work of the centre.
- Children will show consideration for others and have positive relationships with each other and the elderly people they visit.

Key Learning Points



LEADERSHIP

- Staff developing their leaderships skills by their involvement in leading the event.
- Staff participation in developing the action plan for the improvement group.
- Staff taking on specific roles within the improvement group.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- 2 staff members attended a Generations Working Together network event around food with other services to discuss examples of good practice.
- Access to opportunities for training.
- Working with other agencies

LIMITATIONS

- Access to future training for staff.
- The continuing enthusiasm of grandparents to attend the centre and share skills.
- Children becoming very attached to the elderly people they visit.

Results



- All grand parents who attended the event commented on how much they enjoyed the opportunity to spend quality time with their grandchild.
- Grandparents commented on the learning that takes place within each age group.
- grandparents were surprised to see how independent children are in the nursery.
- I had a great day singing with my grandson and making soup (Gran 3-5 room)
- Had a great day with my granddaughter and all her friends (Granda 3-5 room)
- I enjoyed watching my grandson chat about the fruit naming Kiwi, banana and counting 1,2,3,5,7,9. (Gran 0-2 room)
- It was great to share a sandwich with my granddaughter and the old songs the children sang were great. (gran 2-3 playroom)

Conclusion



- Grandparents want to be involved in their grandchild's learning
- Children can learn traditional songs and rhymes from their grandparents
- Feedback from Grandparents who attended the event was positive.
- Grandparents felt that there were no areas to improve on.

Scale / Spread



What next for your project?

- Apply for funding from Get Togethers:Bringing people together through food.
- Invite grandparents to join in with our celebration for Robbie Burns day sharing traditional songs and rhymes.
- Invite grandparents to share any skills they have with the grandchildren, for example gardening, knitting, playing an instrument, sharing traditional stories etc.
- Develop links within the community with a local care home.
- Liaise with activity coordinators within the care home to organise regular visits with residents to take part in craft, and singing activities

Glenbrae Children's Centre is situated in the East end of Greenock. We provide a service for children from Birth - Five and also an Out of School Service for five-twelve year olds located within All Saints Primary School.

