

Whole New Worlds

Aim of your project

A creative play project working with hard to reach parents and their babies, using a range of interesting boxes and props to explore and play together.

What were the key outcome/s of the project ?

To encourage parents to play creatively with their babies

Babies developed more confidence and took more risks with their play experience

Both parents and babies became creative learners developing skills including:

Social skills

Communication skills

They became natural explorers

Parents acknowledged they had fun playing with their babies and they saw how this encouraged the children to develop and grow

How has your project made a difference to:

Children

Babies and children had the opportunity to play with their parents

Developed confidence and become explorers

Developed understanding of the world around them

Learn new skills

Make decisions

Discover and explore

Families

Make time to play together as a family and have fun

Understand the benefits of playing creatively with their babies by observing the responses through video and photography

The organisation

Having the opportunity to work with hard to reach groups such as a Women's Prison and Women's Refuge as well as a Dad's Groups

Making links with new community groups and working with new partners

Having an impact on the children and parents that we have worked with

Having the opportunity to showcase the project at a conference organised by Arts Development at WYP

Signposting Early Years professionals to other Playhouse Projects

Wider community or society

Being able to leave the props and boxes in the settings so the legacy continues

Making an impact on the children and parents we have worked with

Talking about the project at national conferences

Sharing good practice with other professionals nationally

What was the number of children / adults involved in the project as participants?

Children – 88

Parents – 75

Early Years Professionals/Artists - 290+

What were the views of the participants? What they liked about the project, what they didn't like, what they think could have been better.

The parents got lots of simple/free ideas that they could use when playing with their babies

The parents began to understand the impact they had on a child's development by playing with them and talking to them

The parents were very wary at first but slowly over the weeks their confidence grew and they got much more involved in the playfulness of the session

They would have liked us to visit their settings more

What were the views of partners and agencies connected to the project? What they liked about the project, what they didn't like, what they think could have been better.

Partners were very enthusiastic about the project as there was very little happening for that age range at the time.

They would have liked us to go into the setting more than 5 times.

They loved that we left the boxes and props in the setting so they could continue with the play experience after we had gone and extend the learning experience tracking development.

Our partners appreciated other agencies working with their groups as it enabled them to observe the group dynamics

What were the benefits to individuals, the groups involved?

As above

What areas of good practice would you like to share – what has worked well?

Partnership work with other organisations, we worked with the parents for 5 weeks but the initial relationship took a lot longer.

Working with the groups for 5 weeks allowed a relationship to develop and trust to be gained.

The idea with the boxes was very simple but very effective.

Being flexible so that depending on the parents and babies we were working with we would adapt the session to their own needs.

What were the constraints (if any) – areas where the project has faced obstacles and barriers. How did you overcome them.

It was quite difficult to get in touch with the groups initially and it was very important for us to work with other organisations so we could develop the relationships with the parents through them.

It would have been great to continue working with the groups over a longer period of time.

We are still getting requests to go and work with parent and baby groups but obviously lack of funding makes it difficult – we are looking at other funding sources.

Any other thoughts you wish to share

We are very proud of the Whole New Worlds Project

Thank you for your time

Thank you to The Ragdoll Foundation for believing in us