



Appiness, East Lothian

North Ayrshire Appiness is an innovative, UK award winning learning programme, which featured as a case study in *Ambition and Opportunity: A Strategy for Public Libraries in Scotland 2015-16*. Appiness brings together library resources and quality-approved educational apps for very young children and their families, in a learning programme which helps parents/carers to support their child's development.

Parents are often influenced by negative media and apprehensive introducing young children to apps and handheld devices. North Ayrshire staff have been using digital learning apps and the library digital resources to promote attitudinal and behavioural change. After lengthy research we built digital workshops around a menu of apps, linked to Curriculum for Excellence to support literacy, numeracy, science, technology, music and art for our youngest customers.

Appiness develops digital participation by exploring and using a range of reading and ICT programmes, apps and devices in family learning situations in libraries and Early Years Centres. Library, Children and Families and Early Years staff use a range of devices (laptops, iPods, e-book readers and iPads) to teach very young users how to play with interactive programmes promoting child development.

Through the Public Libraries Improvement Fund we were successful in obtaining funding to introduce Appiness to East Lothian. Our six larger libraries in Dunbar, Haddington, Musselburgh, North Berwick, Prestonpans and Tranent will each have an iPad installed in the children's area with preinstalled educational apps geared towards those aged 2-5 and, for some of the apps, up to 8. Guidance on the apps chosen and protecting young children using mobile technology will be available to download from the library website.

We will also work with colleagues working with children and families to provide workshops using the mobile apps for interested parents and carers to further support early education and digital literacy.