

Community Learning & Development/Musselburgh Grammar School

S3 Childcare Course June 2014 – May 2015



The S3 Childcare course is a development of Musselburgh Grammar School's S5 Working with Children Elective Course which was delivered for one hour per week the previous two academic years (2012 – 14). The S3 course was offered as part of the school's Enhancement Programme. The enhancement subjects offered are part of the broad general education and pupils study for one year a subject which they have not chosen to study at the end of S2. The Care course is part of the Health and Well Being curricular area.

The S3 course was delivered by Gail Taylor, Home Economics Teacher, Linda Fruish, Guidance Teacher and Jane Cummings, Community Development Officer. The new course incorporated a number of the practical sessions delivered as part of the previous S5 elective but with the addition of teaching materials developed by Gail Taylor which provided a course structure and theoretical basis. The teaching materials took the form of 6 student handbooks covering the following subject areas:

- Family Planning and Labour
- Family Structures
- Play
- Healthy Eating
- ABC of Behaviour Theory

- Health & Safety

The need for the course was based upon feedback from students who took part in previous Electives which highlighted the increasing role that many young people have in caring for younger siblings and family members. The course offers valuable life skills and builds young people's confidence by providing basic knowledge and practical childcare skills. The course also increases awareness of the responsibilities and challenges of being a parent and supports more informed decision making about career options involving work with children.

A total of 42 students participated in the course (41 girls and 1 boy). Students were divided into two classes with each class timetabled for two x 1 hour classes per week. Both classes met at the same times each week, in neighbouring classrooms in the Home Economics Department. One hour each week was spent working on the handbook whilst the second hour focussed on translating learning into practical tasks. Practical tasks, included, for example, making play dough, preparing a healthy snack, making storytelling props, children's games, making fruit smoothies and learning basic first aid techniques.

As part of the course, students had the opportunity to undertake a Dynamic Youth Award. The Award encouraged students to take responsibility for their own learning by identifying personal learning goals from the subjects covered, organising and recording evidence of their work and using self and peer assessment to reflect on learning. A total of 39 students achieved a Dynamic Youth Award at Three Star Level (31 hours plus), SCQF level 3.

The following individuals/agencies provided input for sessions:

Burgh Primary School and Loretto RC Primary School

Students attended these Primary Schools and read stories to nursery and Primary 1 children using story props they had made and engaging the children in story themed activities.

Community Midwives

Two midwives attended classes to share knowledge and answer students questions about pregnancy and childbirth.

Peep Group Mums & Babies

Two Local mums brought their babies for students to meet and to describe their experiences of looking after a baby. The students were able to try out baby treasure baskets they had made on 'real' babies. Two other young mums attended with their toddlers for students to meet and again ask questions about childbirth and the reality of being a parent.

First Aid Trainer

A First Aid trainer provided a session on basic techniques such as: how to deal with a choking baby, CPR and how to hold a baby in recovery position.

Community Warden Team

Two members of the team provided a presentation on child safety at home and outdoors highlighting risks such as dog fouling, traffic, garden hazards, outdoor toys, car safety and how to avoid children getting lost.

ELC Food Development Officer

Provided information on healthy eating and used the Soapy Stars resource to highlight the importance of encouraging good hand washing with children.

ELC Youth Awards Development Worker

Visited to describe the process of undertaking a Dynamic Youth Awards to students.

Funding

The cost of resources and the First Aid session was met by a Support from the Start grant of £200. The majority of students paid the required £5 for the DYA booklet. A small minority were subsidised.

Experiences & Outcomes

HWB Level 4 14a, Making friends and working as a group,
11a Improving my learning & encouraging others
20a Investigating career options
LIT Level 4 10a Engaging others in a confident and expressive way

Jane Cummings
Community Development Officer
May 2015

Summary Feedback from Students – 29 Questionnaires completed

**Please rate your knowledge of working with children
(1 = no knowledge, 10 = very knowledgeable)**

End of Course

Score	Number of students
10	7
9	9
8	8
7	4
6	1
5	
4	
3	
2	
1	

1. What Sessions have you enjoyed the most ?

First Aid, meeting babies

Going to the primary & reading them a story, playing games, making play dough

The midwives, making toys and playdough

I have enjoyed everything but the play and storytelling were the best

All the practicals

The cooking, making the salsa

Meeting the babies, parents, healthy eating

When we made playdough and when we made props to go with the stories

The fun activities and meeting the babies

Making playdough

I enjoyed all of them

I enjoyed the first aid session

First aid and learning about healthy eating, family planning and labour

The practical ones – making wraps, play dough, rattles

Healthy eating

I have enjoyed first aid, the play and the behaviour units

The child play sessions, making play dough

Learning how to make a healthy snack, learning how to look after a child when they fall or choke

I enjoyed learning about healthy eating

I enjoyed when the young mums came in and we got to interact with the babies

First Aid, practical activities

Making the children's toys

Making things and playing with the parachute

Storytelling

Learning about behaviour, storytelling and CPR

I enjoyed learning about First Aid

Child Behaviour

I have enjoyed meeting young mums with their children and learning about First Aid

First Aid, practical activities

2. Are there any sessions you haven't enjoyed ?

I haven't enjoyed story time as much

Least favourite was learning about safety but was good to know anyway

Too much writing x3

Filling in the folders x2

Nothing I haven't enjoyed x 16

The booklets x2

Family Planning Book x2

Some of the theory work, the first aid part

3. What have you learned the most from the course ?

How to look after babies

First aid and how to keep children safe and entertained

Behaviour and about how children play

I have learned a lot about behaviour and how to deal with children with different emotions and feelings

What to do if a child is choking, how to play with them, what to do if they are hurt, how to react to their behaviour

How to handle children if they are hurt

Dealing with basic first aid, family planning

I learned a lot of stuff about healthy eating

First aid and eating healthy, how to save someone's life and how to make a healthy snack

How to keep a child safe

Children's safety

Decision making and group tasks/work x2

What to do if a child is hurt

How to communicate with children

How children react to certain situations

How to keep a child safe

I have learnt about how much thought and care goes into a child, how to help a child when they don't behave well

CPR

Learning CPR, also more confident playing with children and setting up activities

First Aid, healthy eating and bad behaviour

How to work with children

How to deal with a behaviour issue in a good way

To care for children x 2

What to do when someone is choking and how to help them x2

I have learnt a lot about how to cope with bad behaviour, and CPR

First Aid, bad behaviour and CPR

Comments about Dynamic Youth Award

Dynamic Youth Award is really good because I can use it in my CV

I thought Dynamic Youth Award was a good idea, it was really fun and not too hard to work towards. It was nice to complete it as it was also a bit fun and we get a certificate to show we completed it.

Dynamic Y Award was good because it means we actually got something out of the course

I think the Dynamic Youth Award was good because we worked towards something and got something out of the course

Dynamic Youth Award was a great idea. I really enjoyed taking part. It can also help in the future and is a great thing for our CV.

I thought this was a good idea, getting all our work together and getting a certificate for our hard work. I've learnt lots and it can help in the future if I want to work with children.

I thought it was a good idea as it can help me find a job to do with children

I liked the process of the dynamic youth because at any time I could see what I had done throughout the year and I get something to show people how well I have done

I am proud of getting my award and enjoyed the whole course

Still do Dynamic Youth Award

Dynamic Youth Award was good

4. Any other comments/suggestions for future course planning ?

Make more visits to nursery school

Do loads of fun stuff

Maybe more practical healthy food making

More activities, There was a lot of writing involved. Maybe cut down on it a bit.

No – everything was great fun! And I really appreciated the opportunity to do a Dynamic Youth Award

Make more trips to nursery

Not writing in folders as much

There could have been more games/more activities

Less writing and more activities

To go more places such as more Primary Schools or visit Nursery to get real experience with children

Go to a playgroup and meet the children that go

Go more places, like the soft play with kids

I think we should get to meet up with the young mums again to see how they are coping

No folders – or not as much writing in them