

**SUPPORT FROM THE START
SERVICE DEVELOPMENT FUND REPORT FORM**



Use this form to help with feedback from service development fund projects.

Report author: Helen Harper
Organisation: Community Learning and Development
Date: 1/6/15

Project Title Pennypit PEEP/Messy Play

Partners and engagement (Who was involved?/

1. The Plan

What did you want to achieve / what was your plan?

We wanted to develop Messy Play with Parents from the Prestonpans area at the Pennypit centre. We have a large crèche space with an outdoor area, which would be a good area to encourage participation in the benefits of Messy play. We have had some taster sessions in 2013 and the feedback from parents was very positive. We would like to promote PEEP through the Messy Play sessions and advertise the groups through local Health visitors targeting parents with Children under 3 building peer support to encourage parents who are harder to reach. We would also like to build a bank of PEEP trained people to work locally building on relationships with harder to reach parents to encourage participation. The project would run for 12 months with 10 week blocks of activities.

2. Do

What did you do? (Please include successes, major events or milestones.)

We worked in partnership with Prestonpans nursery and the local Health Visitors and other professionals in the Preston Seton Gosford area and engaged with and offered support to some of the most vulnerable families. We concentrated on families with 0-3 age building on relationships and preparing children for starting nursery. We have established regular contact and engagement. Parents have said they enjoy meeting up with other families and enjoy the environment and activities here at Pennypit. They also said it helps them with routine and organisation and that they feel their children benefit by mixing and socialising with other children. They find the size of the group is important as they would be reluctant to go to larger groups such as toddler groups.

3. **Study**

On reflection do you think you achieved what you had planned to do? Can you evidence what you achieved?

I think we have on the whole engaged with the parents who perhaps are more at risk of isolation and poor attendance with other agencies. It offers them some socialisation and opportunities to experience play in a different relaxing way with other parents and workers as support. We use PEEP principals and resources and have evaluated with the parents what they value from the sessions. This is still to be written up and I will pass it on to the support from the start group at the end of this term. We have received funding from Community learning and Development for this term from April 2015 – July 2015.

3a. Tell us about any difficulties and barriers to achieving your plan:

Meeting with other professionals is proving difficult at times and we plan to meet more regularly in the future. This helps when offering support to families who would benefit the most. It has proved popular and we are limited to the number of families we can sustain so that the experience is beneficial. There is increasing numbers of families who are experiencing isolation and are living on low incomes and benefits. Sustaining the group will require funding for future developments not just on a term to term or year to year basis.

4. **Act**

What are the next steps for your project? How can it be sustained and improved? Please include any key learning points that you want to share from your project.

As stated above sustaining the project will require funding CLD and the Pennypit committee will be pursuing other sources of funding for this group. Continued evaluation and using the ethos of PEEP peer early education partnership where parents are partners in their child's education will improve the service as it develops.

5. Financial report:

The funds paid for 3 workers to be PEEP trained in 2014 which cost £900 £1,200.00 was then spent on trained peep workers to organise, plan and deliver sessions for one year until April 2015.

6. Anything else you would like to add:

Many thanks for your co-operation with this – reports should be returned to

supportfromthestart@eastlothian.gov.uk

Or

Susan Sammels

Senior Business Support Assistant

Support from the Start

John Muir House

Haddington

East Lothian

EH41 3HA