



Community Learning Service

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Success Stories



Provider			
Course Title	Simply Play Virtual for Babies	EHT referral	
Curriculum Area	Family Learning	Date	Jan-April 2021
Learner Name (optional)			

Some background information about me (for example, previous learning and challenges)

Taking part in this course was my first time. -JK

JK was employed as a support worker. She came to parenthood later in life and admits that she was very anxious about the whole thing -pregnancy, birth, caring for a child on her own. She was referred to the course by an Early Help Practitioner during Covid -19 lockdown. JK had never attended a course before and a Virtual Course was a big challenge!.

JK stated - I decided to attend the course because I wanted my daughter to have a more confident mum who can understand her needs better.

The course involved a weekly communication via WhatsApp Video Call, followed by emailed information for Individual Learner Plan and activity ideas. A closed WhatsApp group was set up to give opportunity to chat with other learners, share ideas, activities, photos and support each other during lockdown.

Learners were asked to try out activities and share feedback before the next session. This information was saved as an electronic Individual Learning Plan (ILP).

What I gained whilst on the course...

JK stated - A confidence regarding my little daughter, as well as a knowledge (health and safety for babies) and ideas about creative play with my girl.

JK has discussed how she felt anxious and worried about whether she was doing the right things for her baby. During the course JK gained confidence in her own abilities. She learned a great deal during the Communication week -understanding how her baby tries to communicate with her, becoming very good at 'reading' her baby's cues and allowing her baby to explore her emotions -to self soothe at times, knowing she is safe.

JK tried many of the activities shared during the course. She often took the idea researched similarities and then created something original. She made a lovely wrist shaker to aid Physical development, used a clear zipped pencil case filled with colourful items for her baby to hold and suck. She made a den under the coffee table, with light, sounds and textured items to explore.

JK used the Teeth and Weaning themes to research information ready for when her baby begins to wean and pops up milk teeth.

From JK's ILP

I have gained lots of ideas for activities from the course. I now feel joy at being a mum. Understanding Communication has enabled me to 'read' her communications, respond but also sit back, in the knowledge that she is safe & needs to express emotions sometimes. I am far less anxious about being a parent, about what others think. I understand her needs and can recognise her development. Got info about Carbon Monoxide alarms & thumb sucking

How has the course impacted on my life? (for example, personal, family or work etc) | I can honestly say that I could not wait for another week during the course.



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I would say that course has had an impact on me and my daughter more than anyone else. and I am happy to share my experience with family and friends.

JK stated that she likes to read more on information presented to her. She has therefore done a great deal of research in Home safety- Carbon Monoxide Alarms, Sun safety, Healthy Eating, Weaning strategies, Toothcare, Emotional health.

From JK's ILP

Techniques for Massage was wonderful, I wouldn't have known about that and it has helped us to build a very close bond.

I made a colourful zippy bag full of colourful feathers , paper etc and shared it on WhatsApp group. We did a coloured Heuristic set to touch & look at. I made a safe 'ribbon ring' to encourage her to stretch & reach.

She is such a happy, sociable baby and I am sure that is because she has a more confident Mummy.

I have learned to recognise her needs and how to approach her, so she is relaxed and happy. Her physical strength has improved -she is almost at the stage of sitting independently. She communicates with loads of verbal sounds, smiling at everyone. Our routines are exceptionally good.

What am I planning on doing next? eg more learning or work/volunteering as a result of doing the course, getting involved in other local opportunities?

From JK's ILP

I will miss the weekly contact and I would wish to join the next course even though it will be virtually.

April 2021 update - I have started a course at the Uni and I have no time to do anything else. I regret that, but I cannot make a commitment now. I am studying at De Montford Uni in Leicester- International Year Zero as a first year for International students and I'd love to go for Psychology with Health and Wellbeing in Society thereafter, this is what I have chosen, therefore I am with Life sciences group.

My top tip for people thinking about joining a course is...

Do not think about it, just simply go for it 😊



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Provider			
Course Title	Simply Play for Babies	STAFFORD	
Curriculum Area	FAMILY LEARNING	Date	APRIL 2021
Learner Name (optional)			

Some background information about me (for example, previous learning and challenges)

Young parent, first baby at 16, 10 year gap between my eldest and second child. Recommended course by my family support worker from Safeguarding Team, I have lacked confidence, need to update regarding how to keep my baby safe as things have changed.

I decided to attend the course because...

Recommended by my family support worker from the Safeguarding Team

What I gained whilst on the course...

New ideas, activities to try using resources at home, no cost to having fun, learning and exploring. Activities we can do as a family.

How has the course impacted on my life? (for example, personal, family or work etc)

My confidence has improved, I used Microsoft teams and that has developed my digital learning and understanding. We as a family take part in activities together my older child is 10 and my baby is under 1 year. I have recognised how much my baby can do, how I can encourage her learning and development. It has been very helpful during the lockdown to have ideas to do at home, someone to talk too and I looked forward to the teams call each week.

What am I planning on doing next? eg more learning or work/volunteering as a result of doing the course, getting involved in other local opportunities?

Looking to return to employment when I feel the nurseries are safe for my child to attend following the lockdown, attend children centre groups when they reopen, meet others and hope to make new friendships.

My top tip for people thinking about joining a course is...

It has been good for me to do and it has helped with communication in our home.



Learner Name (optional)	A and B		
Provider			
Course Title	From Pram to Primary School course. TAMWORTH		
Curriculum Area	Family Learning	Date	24.06.21
Completed by (please circle)	Learner's	Tutor/staff on behalf of learner	

A and B are going through the adoption process and enrolled on to the course to gain new knowledge and skills before they reached the panel stage and were accepted as potential adopters.

‘We have found the "From Pram to Primary School" course so useful and gained a lot of valuable information from completing the sessions. It has been so useful to go through lots of theory and then talk through how to put these into practice, as well as think about what all this means to children depending on their chronological age / development stage. We can all read the books, but we knew our biggest knowledge gap was actual parenting experience and this course has really helped us think about real examples and talk about different scenarios and how we would handle certain situations. It has been so accommodating and tailored the course to include scenarios where parenting techniques may need tweaking to reflect the needs of an adopted child.

If we could summarise our learnings and what we have taken from this course, then we would draw on the following areas:

- The importance of being a **positive role model**: we know children learn by copying and they are taking everything in around them. Equally we must remember the way we react to certain situations and handle our emotions could determine how a child learns to handle their own emotions and in turn how they cope
- We need to **pick our battles** and understand not everything needs to be dealt with, sometimes distraction is the key but most of all we need to remain calm
- It's important to give **children time to process** as often we expect an answer / reaction straight away, allowing a little more time can really pay off
- When suitable **give children a simple choice** as this will help with their development and give them a sense of independence and self-worth
- Reward and **praise good behaviour** / give less attention for poor behaviour. Often, we forget to tell children when they are doing the simple things well.
- **Be a team / be consistent**: if we both use the same style and approach this will be so beneficial to the child and won't cause confusion - this can be applied to so many areas. Thankfully from what we have discussed between ourselves and with our tutor we seem to be singing from the same hymn sheet so to speak.
- Sometimes **less is more** so remember to use less words, be simple, be clear, be fair, use eye-contact and listen



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- **Routine:** this is key for children as it keeps them feel safe and secure as well as manage their expectations - it also makes family life so much easier
- **Repetition is key:** be ready to repeat everything! Children love the safety of knowing what to expect and develop their language and communication skills through repeating
- **Language rich environment:** we can achieve this in the simplest ways by giving a narrative and bring an aspect of fun to day to day activities. We can bring the world to life to help children to start to understand what's around them, i.e. blue sky, green grass, car goes beep beep. It's also important to allow children to explore their senses so they can make sense of their world.
- We were both raised in an **authoritative** way and this is the **parenting style** we plan to use. We hope to create a home where our children have clear limits and boundaries but are given choices and a chance to input with some flexibility to allow them to develop a sense of self.

and lastly... **have fun**, allow times to be silly and be free. Children just love the sense of freedom and those moments away from rules just as much as they need the safety from structure and routine itself.

Update received since the success story was written. 14.07.21

Hi T,

Hope you are well. Just wanted to send you a quick email to say we were approved at panel last Thursday, got a unanimous yes from all panel members. We are over the moon and just got home after a little break to celebrate.

Thanks so much for all your time and content from the course, hopefully we will be putting it to good use soon.

Thanks,