



LADY CASTLE
NURSERY



Early Words Together at Two



By Isabella Ricordo and Natalie Turner

OUR GOALS:

- **To encourage parents to be involved in their child's experience at nursery**
- **To aid parents with the knowledge of communication, singing and reading with their child**
- **To build strong relationships with families**
- **For families to share their knowledge with practitioners on their child**
- **To introduce parents to simple ideas and activities, which can be done at home**



HOW WE CREATED THE SESSIONS...

- **We decided to create a letter explaining the purpose of the sessions and how it will benefit the child and family. We sent the letters to all two year olds registered at the setting (sixty four families) to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to be involved.**
The letter stated dates and times that the sessions would take place, we chose the same day and time every week, to ensure consistency. Apart from our last session which was a planned trip to St.Ives park.
- **We used the toolkit provided by National Literacy Trust and adapted the sessions, to suit our setting and families.**
- **We chose a quieter area of the nursery to conduct the sessions, as we felt that this would ensure effective communication and listening between practitioners and the families.**
- **We chose to offer the sessions to other practitioners so the team felt involved in the process. This created a mini-team of early years professionals completing the sessions with our families.**

OUR TIMETABLE FOR THE SESSIONS...

Wednesday 1st November, 2017 at 1pm – 2pm

Activity 1 – Extending Talk – To help parents/carers identify what they do at home and how this supports language development

Wednesday 8th November, 2017 at 1pm – 2pm

Activity 2 – Songs and Rhyme – To help parents/carers understand the significance of singing songs and reading rhymes with their child(ren)

Wednesday 15th November, 2017 at 1pm – 2pm

Activity 3 – Reading and Sharing Books – To help parents/carers understand the significance of reading to their two year old

Wednesday 22nd November, 2017 at 1pm – 2pm

Activity 4 – Mark-making – To help parents/carers understand that mark-making is an important step towards their child(ren) learning to write

Tuesday 28th November, 2017 at 1pm – 2pm

Activity 5 – Playing Outside – To help parents/carers understand that the simplest shared experiences offer opportunities to develop language



The sessions gave opportunity for the practitioners and families to communicate more openly.



The relaxed nature of the sessions led to the adults asking more inquisitive questions about the child, i.e. “currently my child does this..... Is it normal? Will this change? Or develop?”



There was mutual respect between adults as we each spoke and listened about the children, home life and nursery life.





We loved making musical shakers with our mummies! We listened to different instruments, and sang rhymes using hand puppets!



We enjoyed mark-making using different materials, like sand, salt, chalk and pens!



We used play dough to talk about how effective it can be when we use our hands to mould and manipulate different materials!

“I made a cake!”



OUR TRIP TO ST.IVES



**Our special trip to St.Ives involved a super bear hunt!
We brought our own teddies and they hid from us!**

We shared a picnic and enjoyed the story 'we are going on a bear hunt' – this led to us searching for our own bears!

Over the bridge, through the squelchy mud, down the slide and over the rocks!

Can you see where they are hiding?!





REFLECTION



- **WE HAVE FOUND THIS EXPERIENCE TO BE ENJOYABLE AND A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**
- **THE TOOLKIT IS A FANTASTIC GUIDE FOR PRACTITIONERS TO USE TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SETTINGS TO OPEN THEIR DOORS FOR FAMILIES**
- **WE DISCUSSED THE BENEFITS OF THESE SESSIONS IN OUR STAFF MEETING AND ARE NOW PLANNING TO CREATE TERMLY SESSIONS FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES TO BE INVOLVED**
- **PARENTS COMMENTED THAT THEY ENJOYED SEEING WHAT THEIR CHILD “GETS UP TO” WHEN AT NURSERY, AND ADDED THAT THEY WOULD MISS THE SESSIONS WHEN THEY ENDED**
- **IT GAVE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IDEAS, EXPERIENCES AND TO GET A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE FAMILIES. IN TURN, THE FAMILIES WERE ABLE TO GET AN UNDERSTANDING ON HOW THEIR CHILD LEARNS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SIMPLE ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE COMPLETED WITH EASE, AT HOME.**