Maintaining engagement with children and parents/carers during COVID-19

Most schools have developed resources and tools to support families to learn within their homes during the period of school closure. However, during the pandemic a fact that has always been well known by those of us working within the Play Sector has become more widely recognised: play is essential for children's health, wellbeing and development. As Playworkers, you are excellently placed to champion the benefits of play, and to provide families with ideas and inspiration to be used within their own homes. 'Loose parts' and 'low cost/no cost resources' are familiar phrases for Playworkers already!

There have been excellent examples across Wales of how Childcare Settings have communicated with their children and families during the outbreak of Covid-19. This engagement not only supports current service users, but can also serve as an excellent marketing tool for potential future service users – 'good news stories' and examples of good practice are often 'shared' on social media platforms, or discussed via word of mouth, which is an excellent advertising tool.

Platforms you may wish to use

Zoom
You can create a free account for video calling, to allow staff and children to all see each other if parents/carers are happy with this (also options to just connect via audio and not visual if this is preferred by some). It offers the ability to 'share your screen' if you wish to share activity instructions or share a video playing on your computer e.g. Youtube Quizzes
Note: for free accounts, there is typically a time limit.

Microsoft Teams
Microsoft Teams can be used for information sharing (e.g. photos, activities, documents, resources) and for video calling (much like Zoom). Children/parents/carers will need a Microsoft account to access Teams, and some schools are using this as a platform via hwb to communicate with their children.

Closed Facebook Group
Having a 'Closed' Facebook Group (with parents/carers access to Group and contents needing to be approved by a Group Administrator) can be a great way of communicating with existing families accessing your services.
The Closed Facebook Group can be used to share activities, games, videos and photographs, and you can alter settings to decide how parents/carers are able to engage (e.g. whether comments and posts can be made by others, and whether the Group Administrator checks these before they are posted)

Instagram/Pinterest/Facebook
General social media pages are an excellent way of extending your reach outside of current service users, and are also simple ways of sharing ideas and information to support your community.

Facebook Live
For opportunities to engage with children and their parents/carers without a need for them to be seen on screen, Facebook Lives offer an opportunity for you as Playworkers to share ideas, games and general reassurance for children.

Seesaw
An information sharing app, utilised by schools and some childcare settings to communicate with their children. Photos, videos and activity ideas can be shared, and voice notes can be recorded.

Whatsapp/Messenger
Messenger apps can be used to communicate with parents/carers and to keep them informed. They can also provide opportunity for a 'support network' to be created.

Registered Office: Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs, Bridge House, Station Road, Llanishen, Cardiff CF14 5UW
T: 029 2074 1000 F: 029 2074 1047 Email: info@clybiauplantcymru.org
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Clybiau Plant Cymru KIDS' CLUBS	**Maintaining engagement with children and parents/carers during COVID-19**	CRONFA GYMUNEDOL COMMUNITY FUND

Engagement Ideas

- Scavenger hunts (live on social media)
- Challenges with photo sharing (e.g. using loose parts to build something)
- A 'Show and Tell' session via Zoom
- Party Game Zoom Session – musical statues, the floor is lava, charades
- Sharing photos/videos of staff and children (if permissions are received and using an appropriate platform) – seeing familiar faces will bring children comfort
- Pre-recorded games where two way video is not required e.g. Simon Says
- Pre-recorded 'cook with me' session where you make a simple dish (remember to share ingredients needed in advance!)
- Sharing activity ideas (your own or others found on social media)
- 'Play Champion of the Week' award for a child who has had a really great play idea
- Photo/Video chains either just with staff or including children too (sending messages or taking inspiration from our 'loose parts' chain shared on our social media page)
- A Facebook Live Quiz, or challenge based game such as 'Name, Place, Animal, Thing' with viewers engaging through the comments section

Please remember to seek appropriate permissions from parents/carers (and staff!)

This engagement with children and their families will likely be very well received during the Covid-19 outbreak, but lots of the ideas could be continued to be used once 'business as usual' returns! There are positive lessons that can be learned even in the most challenging of times.

Cadw ymgysylltiad â phlant a rhieni/gofalwyr ynystod COVID-19

Mae'r mwyafrif o ysgolion wedi datblygu adnoddau ac arfau i gefnogi teuluoedd i ddysgu yn eu cartrefi eu hunain yn ystod y cyfnod o gau ysgolion. Er hynny, yn ystod y pandemig, daeth ffaith yr oeddem ni weithwyr yn y Sector Chwarae yn ei gwybod yn dda i'w chydnabod yn eang: sef bod chwarae'n hanfodol i iechyd, llesiant a datblygiad plant. Fel Gweithwyr Chwarae rydych mewn man arbennig o dda i hyrwyddo buddiannau chwarae, ac i roi i deuluoedd syniadau ac ysbrydoliaeth i'w rhoi ar waith gartref. Mae 'rhannau rhydd' ac 'adnoddau cost isel/dim cost' yn ymadroddion cyfarwydd iawn eisoes i Weithwyr Chwarae!

Bu enghreifftiau rhagorol ledled Cymru o'r ffordd y mae Lleoliadau Gofal Plant wedi cyfathrebu â'u plant a'u teuluoedd yn ystod lledaeniad Covid-19. Mae'r ymgysylltu hwn nid yn unig yn gymorth i ddefnyddwyr presennol y gwasanaeth, y mae hefyd yn erfyn marchnata ardderchog ar gyfer defnyddwyr y gwasanaeth yn y dyfodol – mae 'hanesion newyddion da' ac enghreifftiau o arferion da yn cael eu 'rhannu' yn aml ar lwyfannau'r cyfryngau cymdeithasol, neu eu trafod ar lafar, sy'n erfyn hysbysebu hynod o dda.

Llwyfannau y carech eu defnyddio efallai

Zoom

Gallwch greu cyfrif yn rhad ac am ddim ar gyfer galwadau fideo, er mwyn i'r staff a'r plant gael gweld ei gilydd os yw'r rhieni/gofalwyr yn fodlon ar hyn (hefyd opsiynau i gysylltu drwy sain yn unig, ac nid yn weledol os mai dyma fydd dewis rhai). Mae'n cynnig y gallu i 'rannu'ch sgrin' os ydych am rannu cyfarwyddiadau gweithgaredd neu rannu video sy'n chwarae ar eich cyfrifiadur e.e. Cwisiau YouTube.

Noder: yn achos cyfrifon am ddim, fel ar fer y mae terfyn amser.

Microsoft Teams

Gellir defnyddioMicrosoft Teams i rannu gwybodaeth (e.e. ffotograffau, gweithgareddau, dogfennau, adnoddau) ac ar gyfer galwadau fideo (yn debyg iawn i Zoom). Bydd ar blant/rhieni/gofalwyr angen cyfrif Microsoft i gael mynediad at Teams, ac mae rhai ysgolion yn ei ddefnyddio fel llwyfan drwy hwb i gyfathrebu â'u plant.

Grŵp Facebook Caeedig

Gall bod â Grŵp Facebook Caeedig (â mynediad i'r grŵp gan rieni/gofalwyr ac angen cymeradwyo'r cynnwys gan Weinyddwr Grŵp) fod yn ffordd dda iawn o gyfathrebu â'r teuluoedd sydd eisoes yn cyrchu eich gwasanaethau. Gellir defnyddio'r Grŵp Facebook Caeedig i rannu gweithgareddau, gemau, fideos a ffotograffau, a gallwch newid y gosodiadau i benderfynu sut y gall rhieni/gofalwyr ymgysylltu (e.e. p'un a all eraill roi sylwadau a phostiau, ac a fydd y Gweinyddwr grŵp y gwirio'r rhain cyn iddynt gael eu postio).

Instagram/Pinterest/Facebook

Mae tudalennau'r cyfryngau cymdeithasol yn ffyrdd ardderchog o ymestyn y tu hwnt i ddefnyddwyr presennol eich gwasanaeth, ac maent hefyd yn ffyrdd syml o rannu syniadau a gwybodaeth i gefnogi eich cymuned.

Facebook Live

Cyfleoedd i ymgysylltu â phlant a'u rhieni/gofalwyr heb yr angen iddynt gael eu gweld ar sgrin. Mae Facebook Lives yn rhoi cyfle i chi fel Gweithwyr Chwarae rannu syniadau, gemau a chysur cyffredinol i blant.

Seesaw

Ap rhannu gwybodaeth, sy'n cael ei ddefnyddio gan ysgolion a rhai lleoliadau gofal plant i gyfathrebu â'u plant. Gellir rhannu ffotograffau, fideos a gweithgareddau, a gellir recordio nodiadau llais.

Whatsapp/Messenger

Gellir defnyddio apiau Messenger i gyfathrebu â rhieni/gofalwyr a'u diweddaru. Gallant hefyd roi cyfle i greu 'rhwydwaith cefnogi'.

Swyddfa Gofrestredig: Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs, Tŷ'r Bont, Ffordd yr Orsaf, Llanisien, Caerdydd CF14 5UW
Ffôn: 029 2074 1000 Ffacs: 029 2074 1047 Ebost: info@clybiauplantcymru.org
Cwmni a gyfyngir trwy warant 4296436. Elusen gofrestredig 1093260

Cadw ymgysylltiad â phlant a rhieni/gofalwyr ynystod COVID-19

Syniadau am Ymgysylltu

- Helfeydd sborion (yn fyw ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol)
- Heriau ynghylch rhannu ffotograffau (e.e. defnyddio rhannau rhydd i adeiladu rhywbeth)
- Sesiwn ‘Dangos a Dweud’ trwy Zoom
- Sesiwn Gêm Barti ar Zoom – cerfluniau cerdd, llawr o lafa, siaradau
- Rhannu ffotograffau/fideos o staff a phlant (os ceir caniatadau a chan ddefnyddio llwyfan priodol) – bydd gweld wynebau cyfarwydd yn gysur i blant.
- Gemau wedi eu recordio ymlaen llaw, lle nad oes angen fideo ddwyffordd
- Sesiwn ‘coginio gyda mi’ lle’r ydych yn paratoi pryd syml (cofiwch rannu’r cynhwysion angenrheidiol ymlaen llaw!)
- Rhannu syniadau am weithgareddau (rhai eich hun neu rai eraill a welir ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol)
- Gwobr ‘Hyrwyddwr Chwarae’r Wythnos’ i blentyn sydd wedi cael syniad chwarae gwirioneddol dda
- Cadwynau Ffoto/Fideo gyda staff neu’n cynnwys plant yn ogystal (gan anfon negeseuon neu gael eu hysbrydoli gan ein cadwyn ‘rhannau rhydd’ a rennir ar ein tudalen cyfryngau cymdeithasol)
- Cwis Facebook Live, neu gêm yn seiliedig ar her,megis ‘Enw, Lle, Anifail, Peth’ a gwylwyr yn ymgysylltu trwy’r adran sylwadau

Cofiwch geisio caniatadau priodol gan rieni/gofalwyr (a staff!)

Mae’n debygol y caiff yr ymgysylltu hwn â phlant a’u teuluoedd dderbyniad da iawn yn ystod lledaeniad Covid-19, ond gellid parhau â llawer o’r syniadau unwaith y daw’r ‘drefn arferol’ yn ôl! Mae gwersi cadarnhaol y gellir eu dysgu hyd yn oed ar yr adegau mwyaf heriol.

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