

YBont

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Clybiau
Plant
Cymru



KIDS' CLUBS

www.clybiauplantcymru.org

Summer 2020



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KIDS' CLUBS

Issue 74 Summer 2020

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Dear Out of School Childcare Club Member



I would like to start this newsletter with a word of thanks to my staff.

On the 17th March, with the guidance from Welsh Government, we all moved to work from home. We had done a little contingency planning for this in the prior week, so were confident that staff would have sufficient resources to allow them to connect and be up and running with little or no intervention. At the time of writing, we are still at home, striving to support the Out of School Sector in their plight to survive.

Over the last few weeks, I feel that my team have excelled and have answered every call that has been given to them, which have been numerous with each change in guidance or piece of information required. I know from feedback received that you are all grateful and I am sure that you will all join me in thanking them for the support they have given, in what have been difficult times for everyone. Staff have called and emailed settings, gathering information and data which has allowed Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs to be your voice; the voice for the Out of School Childcare Sector across Wales.

The valuable information you have provided about the challenges you are facing, as well as the understanding we have of the nature and needs of the Sector, has allowed us to work with our CWLWM partners to produce guidance and updates, as well as work with Welsh Government to try and secure appropriate funding for the sector.

The Training team have changed their method of delivery, with new online learning developed and delivered. This contact with learners that

have wanted to remain engaged, has allowed us to find new ways of working.

Childcare Business Development Officers have been supporting Managers and Playworkers in a different way and all facets of the organisation, including Admin and Finance, have adapted and accepted this new norm and have continued to strive to provide the best support possible to the Sector. My Senior team have risen to every challenge I have proposed and I cannot thank them enough for the support they have given me as well as their teams.

A clear message coming back from my staff members who are in regular contact with you, whether as Managers/Committees/Playworkers or learners, is how very proud they are to be supporting such an essential sector. This crisis has demonstrated how integral your settings are to your communities, with some of the amazing examples of how you have continued to support your families even in the toughest of times featuring in this edition of Y Bont. As much as we can see your worry and your frustration at present circumstances, this has not dampened your passion, your commitment and your desire to continue to do the best for your community. The benefit of play, both as a learning tool but also as a way of building resilience and supporting children's mental health and wellbeing, has become even clearer during the period of school closures. With play always having been a central ethos of Out of School Childcare Clubs, you will be well placed to continue championing its value and providing quality play environments to benefit children in your care following this challenging period.

We will all learn many lessons from this crisis. The sector as a whole, if we manage to survive intact which I am sure we will, will need to take time to revive and then I am sure will come again to thrive, with the support of Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs and its dedicated team of staff.

Our work to support the Out of School Childcare Sector will not be diminished by this crisis. A number of the things that we will continue to tackle both whilst we remain at home, but certainly for the future, will be the things we have been saying for some time that the sector needs to consider and that our **Connecting and Supporting Out of School Childcare Clubs and Communities - Funded by The National Lottery Community Fund Project** addresses.

Perhaps now is the time to review your Club and think to its future sustainability and how this could be improved. We can support you

Childcare and Play, vital in the fight against Covid-19

In February we began to learn of a virus that had the potential to become a pandemic. We knew that school closures and a lock down was imminent and by March that time had come. People had been told to work at home where possible and schools were closed. The government identified the roles that were keyworkers in the fight to manage this virus and the country learned what us working in and for the Childcare and Play sector had always known. Childcare is and always will be vital to the community and society as a whole.

Many Settings needed to make the difficult decisions to close and Childcare and Play Practitioners up and down the country volunteered to put themselves at risk to offer care to those children whose parents were working on the front line whether by continuing to work in their current settings, volunteering in hubs or offering their support in alternative childcare provisions.

There were settings that were able to remain open to provide care for keyworker children and one of those settings was Busy Bees in Blaenavon, Torfaen.

"Once Covid-19 became a real fact, there was already a palpable sense of dread within the nursery especially amongst the staff who either had or lived in the same household as someone with an underlying health condition. We held an emergency senior team meeting on the Sunday evening before "lockdown" was announced and it was decided then to furlough all of those staff." Busy Bees Manager, Sue remembers. Whilst childcare staff were able to use the hubs set up for keyworker children some staff didn't want to do this and wanted to be home with their children. Busy Bees respected this and furloughed those staff members also. They considered furloughing more staff due to the considerable decrease in children but felt it better to keep as many staff members as possible to support in the event of sickness.

Considering the risks to staff they decided to manage staffing by splitting the shifts. The same teams would work in the morning and a different team would work the afternoon reducing the amount of time staff were in the setting. The setting also adjusted their usual opening and closing times to support the needs of the parents.

Social distancing was a key method in decreasing the spread of the virus. Taking this into account Busy Bees put procedures in place to ensure that contact into the building was limited to the children and staff only. Parents were asked not to bring the children into their home rooms as they usually would, and they were to stay at the gate and the children would enter the building with the staff waiting to greet them. When collecting they again were to wait at the gate and the staff would send the children out. They frequently cleaned and ensured that hand washing was carried out regularly.

It was so important during this time to ensure that the wellbeing of the children was paramount. It was clear that children were able to pick up on the fears of the adults and there was an enormous change to the way they were used to living their lives. It was vital that staff managed the children's fears and were proactive in responding to any anxieties the children may have. The children didn't really understand social distancing and it must have been strange for them to not be able to have close physical contact as they usually would but staff were very supportive of this and gently reminded the children to keep distance as much as possible.

"The staff maintain a very professional approach whilst being continuously anxious about the whole situation. The children coped very well". Bees Busy created a loose structure that contained a variety of activities to ensure the children had continuity but also a lot of fun. The day always started with either exercise with Joe Wicks or Yoga. Both activities have proved to positively support mental health and wellbeing.

Sue asked the staff to provide some positives and negatives about the situation and continuing to care for children during the difficult time. Although most negative comments were around leaving their own children to provide care for others always with the risk of bringing the virus home all staff agreed that as a positive they felt it was important that they supported these keyworker families and they were happy to do it. They added "working with a great team that support each other, no hesitation." One staff member joked "you all feel like my household!"

Thank you to Busy Bees and all the Childcare and Play sector for the vital role you played during such an unprecedented time. Not only were you essential in enabling keyworker staff to work on the front line, the support you gave the children of the country was priceless. Using your skills as playworkers to ensure these children remember this time not with memories of fear and uncertainty but as a time where they were free to just play.

Read more about how clubs have been dealing with the current situation and how to manage coming out of lockdown further in this issue.

Jane O'Toole,
Chief Executive Officer



KIDS' CLUBS

Happy Birthday to us!

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs are celebrating being a membership organisation since 2005! That is 15 years that Settings just like you have valued the help and support we have given you, the discounts available around DBS Checks, insurance and resources, and the free training and qualifications you can access by paying your subscription, which we have kept as low as we possibly can, recognising the financial pressures on your business year on year. We would like to say **THANK YOU** to every Setting that has been in membership over the last 15 years, with special recognition to 85 Settings that have been there right from the start and continue to support us today!



KIDS' CLUBS



Membership starts at just £50.00 for the year, and you can join/renew online if you have not yet already done so; www.clybiauplantcymru.org

Your membership to 31.03.2021 will save you:

- £20.00 per person booking onto Training
 - £50.00 if you buy an in-club workshop
 - Up to 15% discount on your insurance with Morton Michel
 - Up to 5% discount on your DBS Checks (processing fees) with uCheck
 - 10% off toys and equipment from Stepping Stones
 - 10% off toys and equipment with EYP Direct

YOU will also have access to:

- Free advertising on www.clybiauplantcymru.org for your Club – so that parents/carers can find your setting
 - Free recruitment advertising on www.clybiauplantcymru.org
 - Free monthly Funding E-News
 - Free quarterly newsletter with activity and fundraising ideas
 - Free publications, including Stepping Out (full of sample policies and procedures to help you meet the National Minimum Standards)
 - Free expert guidance from a team of Childcare Business Development Officers on business planning, expansion, registration, quality assurance and all other aspects of Out of School Childcare Club provision. Support from your regional office, which provides guidance on childcare & business issues.
 - Opportunity to be part of our Board of Trustees and shape the future for Out of School Childcare in Wales.

We have taken the decision to support **ALL** Out of School Childcare Settings through the Covid-19 crisis, as we are in unprecedented times. If you need our help, we will be there for you! Visit the website for contact details, or email info@clybiauplantcymru.org and we will support you remotely.

We hope that those of you who have not yet had chance to renew your membership will do so in the coming weeks, but if you're still not sure, this is what some of our 15 year members have said:

"We are very proud to be a part of a fantastic association, you are all amazing and very helpful too always offering advice that is fast and efficient. Nothing is too much trouble for any of you and despite me being a big pain (I know I am one!!!) you are still there to help me. Even during these difficult times you are still there which means a lot. I would recommend all small businesses of this nature to join Clybiau as the benefits are massive!"
Clybiau Plant Cymru

"My introduction to Clybiau was when I first took over the running of our Before/After school club that I worked at. They helped me guide me through all different processes with their invaluable wealth of information instantly at their fingertips. I would have felt lost without their guidance, support and immense patience. They turned daunting issues into manageable ones."**Beech Tree Club, Flintshire**

"Clybiau Plant Cymru are a great

"We would not exist or have survived 17 years without our Umbrella Organisation (Clybiau) being there for us in all weathers! - Many thanks for all your help over the years." Clwb Allysgol Cornelius Sger Out of School Club, Bridgend

have been members of Clybiau for years and they have helped in ways, for example: with the running of our club, policies, training, applying grants and much more. The training we have received has been fun and informative and we always look forward to attending.

"Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs have always supported the Twyn Out of School Club Holiday Club for as long as I can remember. I have worked at the club for over 20 years and have always been a member and have always helped us with queries and concerns when they've popped up.

They have been there to help, provide training, support, pointed us in the right direction when we've needed grants and help when needed.

They are continuously updating us with new legislations and regulations that come from government. Even now during these difficult times members of the team phone the groups to check that everyone is safe and up to date with the Covid 19 info.

Unfortunately we have not had a Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs Development Officer in Caerphilly for a few years but we know that you are always on the end of the phone if and when needed. We would like to thank you for your continued support" The Twyfyl Out of School Club, Caerphilly

A young boy with brown hair, smiling, stands next to a large yellow rocket ship. He is wearing a red, white, and blue cap with stars, a red superhero cape, and a blue t-shirt. He has his right arm raised in a fist. The background is a clear blue sky.

"Loved the workshops and the SASS information session was really helpful"
Happy Days Childcare, Pembrokeshire

"Clybiau Plant Cymru Kid's Clubs has supported us from the start. They have been there with help and advice every step of the way. They have supported us in gaining grants through various sources, training our staff, managing our own policies and procedures and offering enhanced experiences for our children as well. Their website is full of useful, practical information and advice and is our first point of contact should we have any issues or require any assistance. We would be lost without them."

"Staff are really helpful and polite. Really helpful when need help" Bloomfield After School Club, Pembrokeshire

"Apparently it is 15 years since Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs membership was formed and we at Clwb Hwyl Henryd have been members since that first year. I don't know who chose to join the new organisation but it was a good decision. Over the years Clybiau Plant have supported us financially, working on both subsistence and capital grants, helped us technically with running the organisation, provided moral support for inspections and helped us practically with staff training including Playwork NVQs."



West Wales

Newly Registered

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs would like to extend congratulations to Childsplay Crwys in Swansea who recently achieved Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) registration. Previously running for under 2 hours, their After School Club can now open for longer to cater for those parents who work or train and have extended to offer a wraparound facility to support parents of part time school children to return to work. Whilst piloting an After School Club at Crwys Primary School, staff at Childsplay recognised that becoming registered with CIW was extremely important not only to them to be able to offer longer hours and expand their service, but to the parents and carers too. They quickly realised that many parents opt to use regulated childcare, not only for the recognised quality but for the financial benefits, such as accessing tax free childcare or the childcare element of tax credits/universal credits. Many families were also keen to use the provision with the support of The Childcare Offer and so the setting quickly registered with their Local Authority to ensure they could offer this service.

Supporting parents to access the childcare benefits they may be eligible for, can often support the sustainability of a Childcare Setting as Childsplay Crwys will hopefully see in time.

We wish Childsplay Crwys all the best for the future!

Need to contact us?

You can contact the West Wales team by phone on 01269 831010, by email: info-ww@clybiaulplantcymru.org by post: Unit 2 Clos Gelliwerdd, Cross Hands, Carmarthenshire. SA14 6RX.

Playworkers in West Wales continuing to provide play during the Coronavirus outbreak

Play workers across the county are continuing to develop, adapt, and provide invaluable play experiences for the children in their care. It quickly transpired that a small amount of isolation inconvenience wasn't going to stop our incredible Playworkers from continuing to deliver their exceptional work.

Playworker initiatives have included – Video story time, covering the work of school hubs, and providing play opportunities and support for parents via numerous tech resources.

Many of our incredible Playworkers have graciously offered their services to support school hubs in their communities. Feedback from these practitioners has been incredibly positive, with Playworkers feeling empowered to be able to support their children, and communities through this ordeal. Due to the decreased numbers of children attending these services, Playworkers have reported greater opportunities for more tailored play opportunities for the children in their care as well as better opportunities for a more personal pastoral service to be delivered.

Challenges for staff have included concerns for the children at what is a tense time for many families working as critical workers across the country. Providing reassurance to children and families at this time is challenging but crucial part of a Hub Playworker role and is one we are incredibly grateful our Playworkers have taken within their stride. As well as this, Playworkers are reporting exceptionally clean hands from considerable amounts of hand washing, and even more vigorous sanitization of play spaces than usual!

Clubs which were not able to continue with providing services in their Clubs have been utilizing ingenious ways of continuing to feature within their children's lives. iPads have been utilized by core staff at these settings for 1:1, and small group sessions, to ensure that no child, parent, or family is forgotten about during this time. Early challenges included some minor technical issues with linking up to the children and their families, but these were soon ironed out and families now know that if they need any further support the club staff are there for them.

Some of the activities undertaken remotely were:

- Story Time,
- Singing and song time,
- Support for parents,
- Play tutorials,
- Informative videos (i.e fun ways to wash your hands)

Quotes from settings utilizing iPads to continue delivering play opportunities and support for children and families:

'A couple of parents who initially said they were ok and didn't feel they needed contact, have now jumped at it!'

'We also sent out knitted rainbows to all the children on our books just to let them know we were thinking of them and their families'

'I wanted to ensure we didn't just drop out of the children's lives, although it won't work for everyone, if we support some, then it will be a success!'

Feedback from initiatives like this have proven so popular with children and their families they have requested that they continue after the end of lockdown.

If your club has stories of its own about how you are continuing to deliver play opportunities in your area, please do not hesitate to contact us at clybiaulplantcymru.org so that we can share those ideas and promote best practice for the whole play community.

Ray Gravell Project Carmarthenshire

Prior to the unfortunate need to postpone all visits and workshops because of Covid-19, 4 of our fantastic workshops were delivered FREE of charge for 4 more incredible clubs in Carmarthenshire this term, including; Clwb Heol Goffa, Clwb Mes Y Dderwen, Canolfan Elfed, and Myrddin Unit.

Children enjoyed fun activities together, such as toasting marshmallows, marshmallow dipping in chocolate, creating flags, rain shakers, instruments and playing balloon games. Huge amounts of fun were had by us all.

'Really brilliant evening- Diolch' 'Excellent Support'.



Swansea Small Capital Grants

Swansea Childcare settings who were awarded funding from The Childcare Offer Small Capital Grants have been putting their purchases to good use over the last few months with items ranging from a new fridge/freezer to keep snacks at the correct temperature, to outdoor equipment such as Diddycars and balance pedal walkers, to new outdoor surfaces to enable children to play outdoors safely.

Playwork at Mayals

During the Spring term we welcomed 3 Playworkers from Mayals Wraparound and After School Club in Swansea onto our Level 3 Apprenticeship in Playwork. An exciting time for all three to embark on a journey to achieve their qualification and meet the CIW regulation to hold a Playwork qualification by September 2021! Training Officer, Hayley Timms, will be supporting them over the next year to achieve their qualification. Good luck to Emma, Ann Marie and Helen!

Tesco Bags of Help Award for our 'Play Outdoors, Connect with Nature' Project, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire

Funding from Tesco's Bags of Help award has allowed us to deliver 20 workshops to 34 Playworkers and 279 children in 6 Out of School Childcare Clubs linked to the Milford Haven store in Pembrokeshire. They aimed to inspire them to explore their outdoor space, nature and engage in physical play and cooperative games on an ongoing basis.

These workshops encourage children to be inquisitive about nature, be aware of the need to protect the environment, to enjoy physical activities and have fun cooperating with others – all important life skills/abilities.

Thanks to this project, Playworkers now have a wealth of new play ideas – some of which were developed with Wales' 3 National Parks and Gower AONB – to deliver on an ongoing basis with at least 284 different children at the Clubs involved. Introducing nature and physical play in fun ways also encourages children to independently play freely outdoors. It was clear that these workshops were very well received:

'Lots of new ideas for us.'

'Lovely to see the children playing outside even in bad weather.'

'Wonderful with the children and good to see an example of ways children of mixed ages can work together.'

'The children loved it. It has given us lots of ideas.'



Kindness in clubs

At the start of the year, Clwb Gofal Brynymor in Swansea received an excellent inspection from Care Inspectorate Wales (well done to all staff at Clwb Gofal Brynymor!). Their CIW Inspector recognised that 'staff encouraged children to share, be kind to one another and to think about other children's feelings'. Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that all children have the right to relax and play, and Childcare and Play Settings can be the perfect place for children to embrace this. Throughout the year you may have new children attend your Setting or after a long break away such as temporary closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic or the Summer holidays you may want to help the children get to know one another and make new friends and there are some great 'ice-breakers' and games that you can do to help this. One activity to help children get to know each other better is the 'I like/ I dislike' game:

How to play:

Bring all children and Playworkers into a circle. One person starts by throwing the ball across the circle to another person, whilst saying 'I like...'. The person now holding the ball then throws the ball to their chosen person and says 'I like...' and so on, but you can't say you like something that's already been said so you have to think of something else! Repeat until you've run out of things you like! You can change this to things you dislike or feelings, but it's a great way for children to get to know one another, and to learn to listen to each other, whilst having lots of fun! This is a great technique to use at staff team building days too!



North Wales

Healthy Kids Initiative

We are delighted to announce our exciting new project available to Member Clubs in Conwy.

The Healthy Kids Initiative, funded by the Co-op fund, aims to engage with children and young people to promote the importance of being healthy and keeping active, helping them to improve their lifestyles for the future.

The project will deliver workshops to children, young people and Playworkers in member Out of School Childcare Clubs across Conwy; it aims to engage and educate them on the importance of staying healthy and playing games in order to live longer, reducing the risk of childhood obesity.

We will be working with 8 Out of School Clubs in Conwy to take part (must be members). Each Club will receive 2 free Club Workshops; Games Galore and Buddying (details below)

Games Galore

Provides a host of ideas for promoting indoor and outdoor games and promotes the benefits of physical activity, communication and team building.

Buddying

Peer-led activities where slightly older children help younger children to engage in different activities providing support, guidance and encouragement to carry out a range of different tasks.

Need to contact us?

You can contact the North Wales team by phone on 01492 536318, by email: info-nw@clybiaulantscymru.org by post: 19, Princes Drive, Colwyn Bay LL29 8HT

Free Childcare at Springfield Day Nursery Ltd

Springfield Day Nursery Ltd offering childcare provision in five nurseries in Conwy, North Wales have shown fantastic community spirit and have offered support to critical workers by offering them free childcare. This service would not be possible without the staff, who are dedicated to supporting the children of critical workers throughout these worrying times. As a team, they are committed to helping all families throughout North Wales and are currently caring for children who have travelled from as far as Northop, Flintshire. Springfield Day Nursery Ltd hopes to continue offering free childcare for critical workers for as long as they possibly can, they are aware of the difficulties critical workers face regarding childcare as their previous childcare provider or childminder may have unfortunately had to close.

Springfield offer a modern, safe, warm and bright environment where children can thrive. As well as being a home from home for the children in their care, they offer a structured, stimulating and fun approach to learning, which ensures the children can keep a sense of normality at this unfamiliar and unusual time.

The nursery has been keeping in line with the Government guidance with regards to Covid-19 and for this reason they have made the decision to only operate from one nursery, Ashbourne House 6-8 Woodlands Rd, Colwyn Bay, LL29 7DT.

The staff are all working hard to ensure the day is kept as normal as possible for the children in their care. They plan fun activities and lots of outdoor play to keep the children busy and active throughout the day.

Sarah Stocks Operations Manager said '*We are very aware that is a difficult time for all and we therefore wanted to try and offer as much support as possible for critical worker parents. We are pleased to be able to offer our service and will continue to do this as long as we can. We are immensely proud of our staff, who are delivering excellent care through out these tough times and particularly the children who are attending our service. They have all adapted brilliantly to their new circumstances and are a true credit to their parents. We would also like to thank all of our parents (new, current and old) for all of their well wishes, support and understanding, as our nursery takes on a new role.*'

Well done Springfield Day Nursery Ltd. We are all very proud of the support you have shown during these difficult and uncertain times, you have made a huge impact by allowing critical worker parents to continue their work safe in the knowledge their children are happy, well looked after and have a sense of normality in these forever changing times.

New Club in Denbighshire

The children of Ysgol Henllan are enjoying their newly opened After School Club in Henllan; Clwb Hapus Henllan, which opened in January 2020. Clwb Hapus is located in the small rural village of Henllan in Denbighshire. The club operates 3.00pm-6.00pm and provides care for 16 children. We look forward to working with you in the future.



Meet the Club!

Club Name? Clwb Y Morfa, CIC, Abergele

County? Conwy

What is your legal structure?
Community Interest Company

What childcare services do you offer?
Breakfast, After School and Holiday Club

When did you open? 2002

What has been your biggest challenge to date? How did you overcome this challenge? When the previous manager left, the Club was left to certain members of staff to 'learn the ropes' adapt and modify whilst remodelling the Club.

What is the best thing about working within an Out of School Childcare Club?
Working with the children, in a great team with staff members and having supportive parents.

What is your favourite memory of Club?
Having parties at the Club

What do children most like to do when they attend your Club? The children love coming to Club to experience new things they possibly wouldn't experience at home.



KIDS' CLUBS

Club Name? Clwb Dyffryn Yr Enfys

County? Conwy

What is your legal structure? Charitable Incorporated Organisation

What childcare services do you offer?
After School Club

When did you open? November 2019

What has been your biggest challenge to date? How did you overcome this challenge? As we are a brand new Club in a very rural area it has been challenging to engage with new parents and encourage them to use the service.

What is the best thing about working within an Out of School Childcare Club?
Working with the children and watching them grow.

What is your favourite memory of Club?
The smiles on the children faces when they are allowed to choose activities, the messier the better!

What do children most like to do when they attend your Club? Play in the outdoor areas as they are all newly equipped with resources.



South East Wales



Need to contact us?

You can contact the South East Wales team by phone on 029 2074 1000, by email: info@clybiauplantcymru.org by post: Bridge House, Station Road, Llanishen, Cardiff. CF14 5UW

Covid19 Lockdown at Marshfield Monkeys, Castleton, Newport

by Natasha Sullivan-Dungey, Nursery Manager

As Settings we face many shared challenges as we found ourselves in unprecedented times. The decision to keep Marshfield Monkeys open during Covid19 wasn't an easy one. I had many a sleepless night trying to process the daily updates from the Government and Local Authority, as to what to do for the best for our families and staff. Financially like most, it would have been best for us to temporarily close our doors, but who would then take care of the key worker children?

Thankfully within our sector we all have rigorous health and hygiene practices; our team was fit and healthy so we decided to remain open.

The team at Marshfield Monkeys looked at ways to keep the 'normality' for the key worker children who were attending, by maintaining the settings' routines that the children were used too, despite the numbers of attendees being very low. We also added fun activities such as P.E. with Joe Wicks during our morning session.

We continued to plan for our children's development, as if we were still fully open. We adapted our daily activities whilst considering the resources families may have at home. These plans, activities and daily routines were then shared with our families who are unable to access the setting, so they could continue to support their child's development. Families were encouraged to share their child's achievements and newly learnt skills via our Capture for Families app, which allows the parent access to their child's development file. This meant the team could continue to plan for the children's progression, even if they weren't attending the setting.

We filmed and uploaded our morning circle time sessions, storytelling and singing to our Facebook Page, but we felt something was missing? That's right... the interaction with the children, whom we dearly missed. We had to learn another means of communication and fast. That's when we came across Zoom, a live secure online session that we could invite families to take part in. Safeguarding was my main concern! An email was sent to parents inviting them to take part in the live session, with an additional password. We also requested that children were supervised and fully dressed, pyjamas were fine!

Our Zoom circle time sessions were a hit, with 18 children taking part during one of our sessions which was amazing. The children were able to interact with the leader, each other and parents joined in too.

Before we closed for the planned 2-week Easter holiday break, the team at Marshfield Monkeys also put together Easter activity packs for all our children, which were hand delivered with an Easter egg.

In response to all the activities and interactions we offered the families during Covid19, one of our families kindly donated £100 and has set up a Go Fund Me page, to continue to support the setting to remain open for key workers which was fantastic and much appreciated.

We don't know what is going to happen in the next few months, but the team at Marshfield Monkeys will continue to provide childcare for key worker children and support to the families at home as long as it's safe to do so, with positivity and lots of Monkey fun!

We are very thankful for the continued support too from Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs.

Parents have said:

'It has been an upsetting time for my daughter. Not being able to attend Marshfield Monkeys and play with her friends as normal has been difficult for her to understand. However, the additional activities provided by Natasha and the team has helped keep her busy at home and she has enjoyed the remote circle time sessions where she has been able to see and speak to her friends. We feel so happy and privileged to be part of the Marshfield Monkey family as it really adds to the sense of community we already feel in Marshfield.'

'My son attends Marshfield Monkeys three days a week and has been very out of sorts since the closure. He misses his friends and the lovely team at Monkeys and so the daily Zoom circle time has been exactly what he has needed to keep him in a routine of sorts and give him a chance to feel connected to his friends. What's more, as his mum, it has given me a really positive insight into the wonderful skills he has learned with singing, counting, welsh speaking (which is better than mine!) and weather reporting. It is so wonderful to see how he lights up in the presence of his friends and how easy he finds it to have fun even though they are not in the room with him.'

'Marshfield monkeys have done an amazing job keeping me informed of the changes during this unprecedented time, informing me of the precaution to protect my child, and further more providing excellent online activities and home interaction. Thank you Natasha and the monkeys team x'

What Club Means to Me

Dougie, age 6 - County Childcare at Greenmeadow, Torfaen

"I love my After School Club because it is so nice. It is fun, I like my teacher in After School Club, her name is Maria, she always plays with me. We play guitars and music and I like doing it with my friend Zachary. I go to After School Club on Monday and Wednesday and I don't like it when my Mum picks me up too early!"

If a child from your Out of School Childcare Club would like to feature in our next edition of Y Bont, please get in contact with your Regional Office!



Meet the Club!

Club Name? Jak's Out of School Club

County? Rhondda Cynon Taf

What is your legal structure?
Private Provider

What childcare services do you offer?
We offer Before School and After School Childcare. Also, we offer a Summer Club for 2 weeks out of the 6.

When did you open? September 2006

What has been your biggest challenge to date? The biggest challenge to date is when we opened there were 3 owners however now 2 have left so now I am on my own - keeping up on top of everything and the changes can be challenging.

How did you overcome this challenge?
I had loads of support from Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs and friends who are in the business, also Rebecca Bennett helped from Clwb Y Ddraig.

What is the best thing about working within an Out of School Childcare Club?
We get to enjoy playing games and crafts with the children and helping them learn old fashioned games that they seem to be unaware of such as skipping rhymes.

What is your favourite memory of club?
There have been so many that it's hard to just pick one! I think one from the Summer Club was when the kids had a water fight after we had a guest from Hapi, who came to play netball with the children. The poor lady went home rather wet!

What do children most like to do when they attend your club? They enjoy the freedom of play and choice of games, crafts and outdoor play

Clwb Y Ddraig Stay Connected During Lockdown

Becci Bennett, Owner and Manager of Clwb Y Ddraig in Caerphilly was missing the children of her Out of School Clubs so much during Lockdown that she created innovative ways to stay connected with the children. Using the Club's Facebook page, Becci set the children a 30-day Lego challenge. Each day she gave a different challenge and the children, with the help of their parents, would post their creations for all of their friends from Club to see. These challenges included "Captain Hook needs you to build him a new pirate ship" and "Prince Charming needs you to build him and Cinderella a new castle".

Another fantastic way of keeping the children engaged and in contact was a virtual scavenger hunt. Becci began the planning for this by posting the idea with information and a possible date onto her Facebook to gauge interest. Once the date was confirmed, it was decided to do this scavenger hunt using Facebook Live. Taking Data Protection and the privacy of the children into account it was felt that using a



These events have also proven to be an excellent marketing tool. Since posting these, the Clubs Facebook profile has increased and Becci has been getting enquiries from new families to book spaces in September off the back of these posts. With clubs needing to close due to Covid-19, this provides a proactive way of generating business ready for when the opportunity arises, and Clubs can open once more.

Well done to all the children and staff at Clwb Y Ddraig for keeping connected and keeping active!

Inclusion Equipment for Newport Out of School Childcare Clubs

With funding from the Welsh Government Children and Communities Grant, administered by Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs on behalf of Newport Local Authority, a small resource pack has been purchased for all 43 Out of School Childcare Settings in Newport. The packs include fidget toys, a book featuring early intervention games, star light projector, sensory lamp, a feelings board, sensory pillow and a weighted blanket. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, few of these packs have been able to be disseminated to date, but we hope Settings will find the resources useful in providing inclusive environments once things are back up and running!

Equality & Inclusion Workshops

Through funding from the Children and Communities Grant in Newport, we commenced delivery of 2 Equality & Inclusion Workshops during March. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, the final sessions will be taking place at a later date, and we will keep Newport Out of School Childcare Clubs informed about this. A total of 8 attendees came to the initial session, with the aims and objectives of the training to:

- Understand and define Equality, Inclusion and Diversity (EID)
- Support awareness of assumptions and attitudes – Personal and social
- Increase awareness of legislation, regulation and policy around EID
- Understand the importance of promoting Equality and Diversity in work with children and young people.
- Understand the impact of prejudice and discrimination on children and young people.
- Understand inclusion and inclusion practices in working with children and young people.
- Be able to plan and provide an inclusive play setting.

Funding Success

Congratulations to KidCare4U in Newport, who became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in Winter 2019 and have recently been awarded funding from Awards For All to support staffing and rental costs for a one year period. The funds will enable the charity, who offer childcare and tutoring one day a week (on Saturdays) to offer subsidised places and to take on an additional room.



KIDS' CLUBS

Training

Playvolution

In the last edition of Y Bont, I wrote about the Play Cycle and interventions that we as Playworkers use in our practice. Fast forward to this edition of Y Bont and it is very likely that many Playworkers haven't been able to practice Playwork much over the last couple of months due to the current situation surrounding Covid-19 and the Government regulations around social distancing.

It has left me to consider, along with many from the Playwork field as to what will happen once this is all over and we are trying to return our lives to normal. How will this surreal period of uncertainty and weariness impact on the lives of the children and young people that we work with, or will they, as always be shown to be the most robust and resilient of them all?

It has led me to reflect on my own childhood, how the world as it is now makes it easier for us to stay remotely connected with people and how 25 years ago, should we have been forced into lockdown that this wouldn't necessarily have been the case. I also have nothing in my childhood that could compare to what the children and young people are currently going through. For them, it all just suddenly stopped; no more going to school, no more sports, no more clubs, no end of year parties, no seeing friends or going out to play, no sleepovers, no saying goodbye to friends and teachers as they transition to another academic year, another school or for some finish school completely. So many things that when I look back at from my own childhood are key memories and ones I can vividly recall.

So, all this thinking and reflecting has led me again to consider the theory of IMEE; a reflective theory created by Bob Hughes (Play Environments: A Question of Quality, 1996) consists of four criteria:

(I) **Intuition** is how we feel, our gut instinct about how we might feel about children playing with water, fire, height, sex, violence and toys.

(M) **Memory**, our own childhood memories as to where we played, who we played with, what we did and how we felt all impact on the judgements we make as Playworkers.

(E) **Experience** as working as a Playworker and of interacting with children in a non-directive, non-prescriptive and non-interventionist manner.

(E) **Evidence** that we read, digest and reflect upon and think critically about, then test and use as evidence where appropriate to add to the debate.

IMEE is based on the idea that as Playworkers we need to draw upon our individual and collective memories and experiences, what we feel, what we know – or think we know, our experiences and what we have learnt in order to create quality play environments. The fact that it also places an importance on our own intuition and memory as well as experiences and evidence is because there is an understanding that these will also give us vital insights into children's play and play environments. IMEE actively encourages us to reflect on our own childhood play experiences and to draw upon these.

But I also feel that we need to add another E, empathy or emotion into this theory, we will need to be understanding as to our own and children's emotions when this is all over and have empathy as to what they may be going through, and whilst some children have hopefully been experiencing an 'extremely extended' school holiday, there will also be those children and young people who being stuck at home has been the worst thing to happen for them.

When this is over, it will take us supporting each other and the sector to be able to fully support children and young people through their emotions and the experiences that they have gone through. It will require us to draw upon and update our Playwork knowledge to ensure that we are providing enriched and flexible play environments that will support and encourage children and young people's play.

Edmodo At Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs we are passionate about our Learners and thrive on their success, so naturally during these difficult times of the Covid 19 pandemic we are becoming increasingly worried about the success of our Learners. Therefore, as with most things we are adapting positively to the situation we find ourselves in, and are delighted to introduce to you Edmodo.

Edmodo is a training platform that allows us as "teachers" and our Learners to interact in one place. We are able to send messages, share training materials, set work and then assess the work which is making our teaching/learning accessible anywhere, giving our Learners the tools and support they need to continue with their qualification safe in the knowledge that Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs are right there behind them ensuring that each and every Learner is reaching their full potential.

If you are currently undertaking a qualification with us and haven't done so yet, sign up to Edmodo and join the fun! Ask your Training Officer for the access code.

Celebration all round

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs would like to congratulate all of the Learners who have gained a qualification in Playwork. Since the last edition of Y Bont there have been several qualifications claimed.

Angela Allen, Michelle Birchall, Jodie Bray, Helen Hughes, Owen Saunders, Sophie Clover and Emma Leonard, achieved their Level 3 Diploma in Playwork.

Brian Freeman and Angharad Sully Williams achieved their Level 5 Diploma in Playwork

This is not just a great achievement for all the Learners, but a positive move forward to Play and Playwork. Play is important for a child health, well-being and future life skills, through play children learn how to take risks, overcome problems, learn to negotiate as well as learn about themselves. It is the most natural thing for a child to do, play is built within them, we must let the child play freely with no or minimal intervention.

Our job as a Playworker is facilitate Play, we should provide a variety of play opportunities and play spaces to allow the children to take risks, challenge themselves and to push them out of their boundaries. This in return will equip and prepare children and young people for the big wide world.

As Playworkers we must ensure we provide a safe environment which is enriched to support all of the above, striving to provide a compensatory play space in which the children will feel safe, because if children do not feel safe, they will not play freely. We must reflect on our practice continually to ensure we are meeting all the children and young people's needs, this means continuing to improve on our practice by accessing further training and practical knowledge.

We have a range of practical courses available. For further information visit our website or contact your local office. <https://www.clybiauplantcymru.org/training-events.asp>

WOW!! What an important job you all have. Well done everyone!!



National Playwork Conference 2020

March saw again another National Playwork Conference held in Eastbourne and this year I was not only lucky enough to be attending the conference, but I had also been shortlisted for the Training and Mentoring Award as part of the Annual Playwork Awards.

"Play is vital precursor to brain and muscle growth and to the development of the cortical maps which may form our consciousness" Bob Hughes

As always there was a fantastic choice of sessions that could be attended over the course of the two days running on different 'tracks'. From childhoods, managing Playwork provision, Playwork theory and practice to celebrating Gordon Sturrock to name a few of the 10 tracks available.

"All too often the subject of play has been trivialised" Penny Wilson

The conference provides an opportunity to step out of your comfort zone, reflect on practice and knowledge, challenge concepts and consider theories from a different angle. And the first session that I attended definitely did that, where Vicky Edwards talked us through looking at a Playworker's Perspective of Criminology and whether the case studies that she presented us with were play or a crime as well as considering the age of criminal responsibility.

"Play is about survival and all-round development, evolution, learning, catharsis, invention, discovery, the meaning of life" Ali Wood and Jacky Kilvington

The conference was also an opportunity to celebrate the lives of some amazing Playwork theorists that have recently passed, one being Gordon Sturrock a wonderful Playworker and psychoanalyst who regularly inspired others to read more, learn more and challenge their practice with new ways of thinking. Lucy Benson spoke passionately about Gordon, sharing some of the communications that they



had shared over the years. Lucy finished her session by saying that "Playwork situated children in the now not the future, ground ourselves in the present so that they have amazing childhoods."

"We develop acute sensitivities to the potential of the playspace, to hold and contain present events and potential experiences" Gordon Sturrock

Sarah Turton Training Officer



Clybiau Plant Cymru
KIDS' CLUBS



Taking care of children's Mental Health during and after Covid 19

Covid 19 and the global pandemic has changed the world in which we currently live. As we adjust to a new normal it is important that whilst we Stay Home, Stay Safe, we consider the impact this is having on children. Some children may be experiencing heightened levels of stress or anxiety due to restrictions and uncertainty that exists due to the Coronavirus; we have reviewed online guidance from sources such as Young Minds and NHS to pull together some guidance to help you help the children and young people you are responsible for. There are a number of strategies that can be used to support children to feel more relaxed such as:

- "Pictionary" and "Stop The Bus" can be played online by video call. It can also be good for them to just catch up with friends. Try and keep to a routine. Routine helps children feel secure as it helps them predict what to expect.
 - Plan positive activities. Make time for children to play, this does not have to be planned let them engage with their own interests. You can also plan family play such as baking, craft or den building.
 - Sleep is still important. Sleep is when the body recovers and grows, try and continue with a sleep routine and have set bedtimes
 - Remind the child that this is not forever. Continue to make positive health choices, this could be playing on a trampoline, doing online classes such as Physical Activities and Dancing. Maintain a healthy diet, give the children set snacks that they can have during the day and when they are gone, they are gone. You could make it fun and educational: set up a café where the child has a budget and they purchase their snacks and drinks. *Water should always be free and not limited.
 - Speak to them. Find out what they are worried about and when age appropriate share information with them.
 - Monitor Social Media use. Social Media can be full of Fake News or negative comments, ensure that you know what children and young people are being told. Speaking about what they have seen and help them challenge fake news.
- These techniques can help but there is no magic wand. Remember it is ok to ask for help and get advice. Check out these websites for more information:
- <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/>

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'Fun'draising Ideas

Making the most of partnership working

The Covid-19 Pandemic has fostered great community spirit and partnership working. Good partnership working within childcare businesses has always supported the quality and sustainability of the sector and this is a good time to reflect and consider new partnership working longer term:

- Local networks of support, or even working together with other local businesses. If initial take up of childcare places following Covid-19 is lower than normal, could you work together, e.g. offer different weeks of holiday periods/different days of the week to allow each business to operate for closer to full capacity for time open?

• Pooling resources and increasing your capacity such as sharing management expertise and jointly commission bespoke training. This can make your funding go further. Settings can also act as critical friends for each other and provide opportunities for refining and focussing on Playwork theory and practice.

- Drawing on new skills and expertise. There are already great examples of owners/managers of different settings providing mentoring/peer support such as supervision and appraisal support to one another. Community members also have a range of skills and expertise that they can offer voluntary management committees. Strong committees with a range of skills and expertise could potentially manage a group of settings which can provide further benefits such as pooling of resources and consistency of approach for families.

• The Covid-19 lockdown has seen Clubs initiate innovative ways of communicating with colleagues, parents and children which can be continued longer term. They have used Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, Zoom/Skype and used platforms such as SeeSaw to support parents/carers with ideas, promoting play and supporting children's mental health during. See our article on '**Master Your Marketing'** and **various regional examples**.

- Working together to benefit children and families who attend more than one setting, providing an opportunity for consistency of approach, advice and support.
- Developing new ideas.
- Buying from local businesses who potentially will be able to deliver or put your order together each week.
- Knowing you are not alone through forums and networking opportunities

Getting a partnership underway

Think about and list the following about the potential partnership:

- Who you would like to work with and how their expertise complements yours
- Size
- Time frame
- Expectations
- Be pro-active
- How roles and responsibilities might be divided
- Explain the benefits to potential partners

When meeting with potential partners, be clear about what the benefits are for them of being on the partnership as well as why you want them on board. Selecting partners whose interests don't conflict with your own interests or the interests of other members of the partnership will also avoid conflict later on.

Principles of good partnership working

- Clearly establishing the aims (what you want to achieve) and objectives (your steps towards your aims) for the partnership should build the foundations of a successful partnership. Good teams work well together when they have good plans in place. These aims and objectives may be different to those of any project the partnership is delivering.

• Working out deadlines for the key milestones (significant stages) and a clear timetable of who will be working towards these milestones and when. You need to clearly establish roles and responsibilities within your partnership right at the start. If you can get this in writing, then partners will be clear on what is expected of them and it may save challenges later on.

- At the outset, talking about what you think makes a good partner to form a shared set of values and rules for the partnership. Important values may include: treating all partners equally; giving all partners time to speak; listening to all opinions expressed.

Remember to:

- Communicate regularly via preferred and agreed channels. Alongside meetings, this could include weekly or monthly phone calls, emails or text messages. Keep everyone up to date with any developments and changes in the partnership and its aims.
- Developing new ideas.
- Buying from local businesses who potentially will be able to deliver or put your order together each week.
- Knowing you are not alone through forums and networking opportunities
- Monitor progress against aims and objectives continually, keeping partners informed of progress and making any necessary

changes to your plans. Setting realistic goals and deadlines and knowing which of these you can be flexible with, are important for your project to run smoothly and your milestones to be met. You should also consider alternative options should your first idea not work out as planned

• **Keep partners motivated.** Your project may not always be your partners' priority, but if you know why your partners are involved, then it will enable you to better motivate your partnership to achieve its goals. Respecting your partners' needs and ambitions, as well as respecting different styles of working, will help your team work better. Don't forget to thank people for their time and contributions.

National Lottery Community Fund Wales

As at April 2020, the two main funding programmes – **People and Places** and **National Lottery Awards for All** - remain open. The Fund's priority is to keep money flowing to support communities that are having to adapt to the increasing challenges of **COVID-19**. They are also working closely with WCVA and other Funders to ensure they are forming the best support for Welsh communities.

They are therefore prioritising applications from:

1. organisations supporting people who are at high risk from COVID-19
2. organisations supporting communities most likely to face increased demand and challenges as a direct result of COVID-19
3. organisations with high potential to support communities with the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19

If you have already submitted an application, National Lottery Community Fund Wales will still assess it following the normal decision-making procedures. However, decisions will be based on priorities as set out above. Contact the Fund if you'd like to discuss your application.

Phone: 029 2168 0214

Text Relay: 18001 plus 029 2168 0214 (for those with a hearing or speech impairment)

Email: wales@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk



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Online shopping through www.easyfundraising.org.uk/clybiauplantcymrukidsclubs doesn't cost you any extra, but allows us to receive up to 15% of all purchases made from the 400+ stores listed, meaning we have more funds available to continue supporting clubs like yours.

e-news

As a member club you can access past editions of our e-news funding bulletins in the members' area of our website at www.clybiauplantcymru.org and, if we have an email address for you, future editions will be sent to you directly. Send your email details to membership@clybiauplantcymru.org to ensure you receive your electronic copy.

Projects

Burbo Bank

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs would like to take this opportunity to thank Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund for funding £4,984.00 which allowed us to develop an exciting project based around renewable energy.

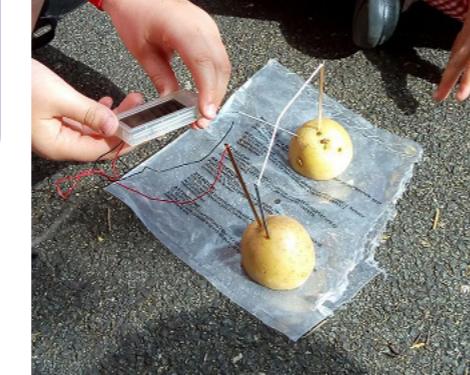
The Project started with a vision to educate children and to raise awareness of renewable energy by engaging with children through the delivery of STEM activities in disadvantaged Out of School Childcare Clubs in the Burbo Bank eligible areas. Through engagement further activities would be developed.

The aim of this Project was to enthuse children and mitigate the gap in science attainment between economically disadvantaged students and their peers, through the delivery of fun, practical Science workshops to 3 Out of School Childcare Clubs (approximately 6 Playworkers, 48 children). During the workshops children would be invited to ask questions, all of which would be selected to develop into new activities/experiments. These would then be piloted within their settings (reaching up to 48 children) and feedback collated and utilised to finalise activities.

The Project is now complete and 3 Out of School Childcare Clubs, 1 club in Rhyl, 1 club in Prestatyn and 1 club in Flintshire received a total of **6 Renewable Energy Workshops**.

A total of 61 individuals (7 Playworkers and 54 children) were direct beneficiaries of this project. During the workshops, children were encouraged to ask questions either based on the activities or on renewable energy as a whole.

Questions asked included:



'I really enjoyed the entire session'

'If I touch the potato will I get an electric shock? How does a rocket go up?'

What other fruit and vegetables could make electricity?
What other ways can energy make something move?

These questions were then used to develop 10 new exciting fun activities to help encourage the benefits of renewable energy. Each of the activities were based around one of three themes of renewable energy; solar, wind or thermal, giving the children an insight into how renewable energy works in a child friendly relatable way.

Some of the new activities include:
DIY Hand Warmers
Human Chain
Water Rocket

The new activities were piloted within the settings and feedback was collated and utilised to finalise the activities.

Each Club involved in the pilot received a box of resources to support with the delivery of the activities.

All activities have been included within our Science Zone Pack, made available to 1,547 clubs across Wales.

Feedback received from the Clubs has been very positive, the Playworkers have learnt new skills and the children have really enjoyed taking part, comments included:

"Lovely activities kept children engaged and encouraged to ask questions regarding renewable energy, lots of fun had by all. Thank you!"

Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund

CAMAU – Work Welsh project

Prior to the need to postpone the CAMAU work Welsh project, we were in the process of signing up even more participants for the FREE Welsh language courses across West Wales. Participants have been involved in completing setting assessments, action plans, and developing their own ideas about how they can increase the use of the Welsh language at their clubs.

It is crucial that we do not lose sight of the end goal and continue to promote the language and culture of Wales throughout this time. As a part of this commitment the Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs team are continuing to deliver this project through our 'Work Welsh Wednesday' promotion on Facebook.

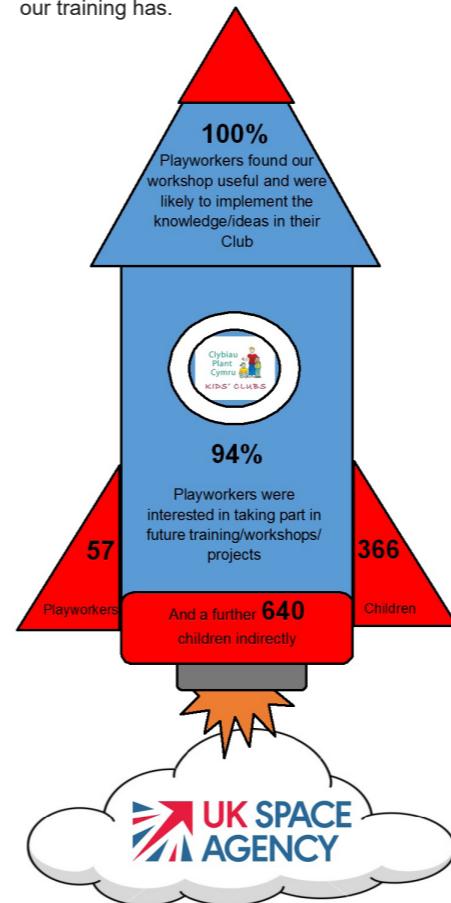
Each week we will develop and promote Welsh activities, games, videos, and post them on our Facebook page and website so that Playworkers and families alike will have access to continued support and development of the Welsh language across Wales.

If you have any ideas about Welsh language promotion that you feel would be of benefit to Playworkers and families across the country please do not hesitate to contact us on clybiauplantcymru.org, otherwise please do follow our Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs Facebook page for your weekly instalment of Work Welsh Wednesday.



UK Space Agency

Our UK Space Agency funded Project came to an end in the Spring, with the final activity cards developed through the project now designed for continued use. As part of the reporting process, we wrote an impact report that you can find on the Projects Page of our Website www.clybiauplantcymru.org, which included collating some statistics to demonstrate the impact that our training has.



Monmouthshire Welsh Church Act Fund

Through funding from the Monmouthshire Welsh Church Act Fund, Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs delivered 2 In-Club workshops during March to Clubs in Monmouthshire.

Goytre and Overmonnow After School Clubs were both randomly selected from a prize draw of Member Clubs in the County to receive a free Playing Out with the Elements workshop. The workshops featured low cost/no cost activities centred around the elements earth, fire, air and water, such as making "woosh balls", windmills and playing with bubbles. Good fun was had by all!

Tesco Bags of Health Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire

To date we have delivered 32 workshops promoting outdoor play, environmental empathy and physical play across Pembrokeshire (see our West Wales regional news page). We will be resuming the project with our 12 remaining workshops post Covid-19 lockdown as soon as we can.



How Does Your Garden Grow?

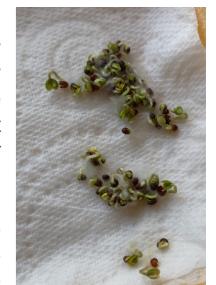
Craig Thomas Training Officer

Gardening, it's hard work, time consuming, and things grow slowly so children lose interest quickly, right? **WRONG!**

our subsequent Tesco Centenary Fund 'Grow Your Own Feast' project, promoting sustainable growing.

Whilst any soil will let you grow veggies, it's best to buy a bag of soil if your planning on doing this indoors, as this will be bug free. It will also benefit from having the correct nutrient mix needed for healthy growth – meaning more success, more quickly.

We've also experimented with a different method of germinating seeds this year, placing the seeds on some damp kitchen paper, putting them in some take away boxes with the lid loosely in place – you need some airflow – and leaving it in a warm place, in our case the windowsill.



The results have been staggering, with seeds germinating in 2-3 days rather than 10-14 days when placed in soil. It gets a bit fiddly when having to plant them on afterwards, but as least you know they are growing when you plant them – an added bonus if doing pots for the children to take home.

Summertime Planting

What can still be planted? Well, most things can be planted until at least the end of June. You may not get perfect results if things don't get long enough to grow, especially some root vegetables, though carrots and beetroots tend to take about 3 months to grow and can be done successfully in pots. Likewise, peas and beans grow quickly, and you can train these along a trellis in a small space.

Why not give it a go, see what you can grow. We would love to see some results to feature in our next newsletter.

For more growing ideas, have a look at our Grow Your Own Feast resources (funded by Ernest Cook) and our How Does Your Garden Grow activities (funded by Tesco Bags of Help and Anglesey Childcare Providers). We're also looking for ideas from you for our new longer term Tesco Centenary Project which will develop new activities to help children in childcare clubs grow, harvest and cook their own celebratory feast that they can showcase and share with their families and communities. The project will get children connecting with nature outdoors, learning a wide range of new skills from older, experienced volunteers, using a practical and community approach that is fun and rewarding and enhances wellbeing for all involved.

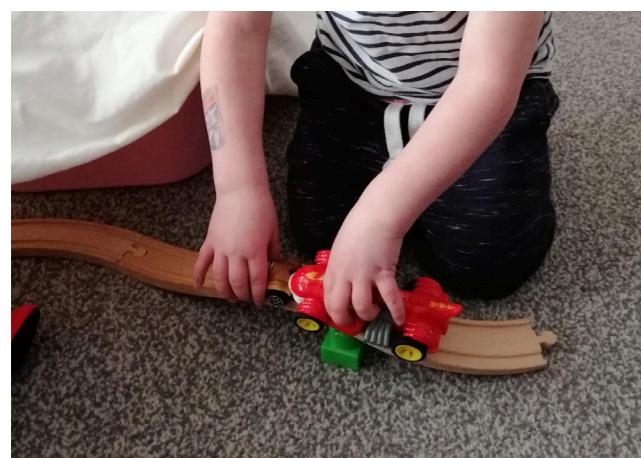


National Play Day 2020

National Play Day is the first Wednesday of August every year. This year may see a very different Play Day than previous years. At the time of writing, some Local Authorities have already cancelled their events on the 5th August 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Whilst it is understandable that plans are in place to protect communities it is important that as Playworkers we continue to share the importance of play, be a play advocate and celebrate the many benefits of play.

Play is a great conduit for children to express themselves, let off steam and have fun; all of which are ways of improving well-being and positive mental health. Children are experiencing abrupt transitions, social isolation and restrictions and fears that are hard to comprehend. National Play Day and Play in general is a welcomed distraction from these.

You may be wondering what can be done. So, this is what we are thinking: let's celebrate all that is Play and **flood social media on 5th August 2020** with images of children engaged in a range of play types using the **#showusyourplay**. Encourage families to engage in this sharing their own **#showusyourplay** and have them tag your organisation; not only does this encourage play at home, it helps you gauge children's play preferences and promotes your organisation.



The outbreak of Covid-19 was not something that could have been prepared for and there was little advanced understanding of its potential scale or its impact on businesses across the world, including Childcare businesses. It was unprecedented, and as such generated a need for new guidance, new policies, and new ways of working. Whilst the exact timescale of a return to 'normal' is not yet known at the time of writing, many Childcare businesses are likely to be thinking about next steps for when Settings are able to re-open/extend to childcare for non-critical workers.

Whilst outbreaks of disease on this scale are difficult to fully prepare for, there are some elements of your business that you may want to reflect on, to support children, Staff and your community and to increase the resilience of your business in the future:

- **You have notified Staff in writing that have been placed on furlough –** staff should be made aware in writing of their 'return to work' date and informed that their existing contract still stands. In cases where redundancy is necessary, this needs to be undertaken in accordance with your existing policies and procedures and Employment Law, with advice available from ACAS.
- **You have notified CIW that you are re-opening your service –** there is a specific notification option for re-opening following closure due to Covid-19 on CIW online.
- **Review business plan –** in light of the impact of Covid-19 to your business, it will be essential to reflect on the business as it stands now, the potential steps to recovery and how to increase future resilience. When you are able to re-open your business to the 'general public', will this need to be done in stages to be managed in a sustainable way? How many children will be requiring your services, and do you need to review expenditure (including staffing) to remain sustainable? Can you reach out to parents and your community to pre-empt take up of places? How will you re-build your income if you have a drop in the number of children attending (marketing strategy, unique selling point, fundraising, funding applications if eligible). The way in which the furlough guidance/process continues to be reviewed by the UK Government may have implications for how you plan your next steps for your business over the coming months.
- **Review reserves policy and cashflow forecast and look at how reserves can be rebuilt –** do you have sufficient reserves to manage any temporary drop in income, or to manage future events should they occur? How can you manage your expenditure while your income rebuilds – what financial support is available? Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs will keep the sector informed about available support through our website, emails to member clubs, and via our Facebook page.
- **Mental Health of your Staff –** there is no denying the psychological impact that the outbreak of Covid-19 is likely to have/have had on a great number of people. Financial stress has been long linked to anxiety/depression, and requirements to self-isolate will also impact on some people's health and wellbeing. Those Childcare Practitioners that have been keyworkers during the pandemic (either within their Setting or taking on other work/volunteering roles) may have also been exposed to higher than normal levels of stress and anxiety. There are some great sources of support online (e.g. <https://mentalhealth-uk.org/>) and following a return to work, supervisions and team meetings (even team building outings!) will be exceptionally important in allowing Staff to discuss their Mental Health if they wish. If you are concerned about a member of your Staff or feel that you as a Manager would benefit from seeking further support, services such as the Samaritans, Mind or Anxiety UK can be contacted.
- **Mental Health of the children in your care –** children are hugely resilient, however many are likely to have had moments of feeling overwhelmed, confused, sad, angry, frustrated... a whole host of emotions that they may or may not have been able to communicate or 'resolve'. Play has significant benefits for children's mental health, and its role will continue to be an important feature in Out of School Childcare Clubs following the outbreak of Covid-19. The benefits of exploring emotions and experiences through play have been reported in multiple studies. Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs will be producing and sharing resources to support Children's Mental Health – keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram Pages for more information.
- **Marketing and developing relationships with existing service users as well as potential service users –** having an effective marketing strategy will be an essential part of your ongoing business plan (see our Marketing Article). You will need to notify your community in advance of your plans to re-open – contact previous service users and reach out to potential service users who may now need your services.
- **Review Health and Hygiene Policy –** do any practices need to be changed?

Preparing for life post Covid-19

- **Your business is as robustly governed as it can be:**
 1. Limited Liability for Partners/Trustees/ Directors
 2. Sufficient actively engaged Trustees
 3. Support to review your current legal structure and governance is available from your Regional Childcare Business Development Officer
- **Partnership Working** – the outbreak of Covid-19 has led to some really great examples of community spirit and partnership working. Following this period, it would be great to see this continue, whether it be through local networks of support, or even working together with other local businesses – if initial take up of childcare places following Covid-19 is lower than normal, perhaps you could work together, e.g. offer different weeks of holiday periods/ different days of the week to allow each business to operate for closer to full capacity for time open. See our article on partnership working.
- **Marketing and developing relationships with existing service users as well as potential service users** – having an effective marketing strategy will be an essential part of your ongoing business plan (see our Marketing Article). You will need to notify your community in advance of your plans to re-open – contact previous service users and reach out to potential service users who may now need your services.
- **Review Health and Hygiene Policy** – do any practices need to be changed?



Spring Regional Network Events Across Wales

It was great to meet with you at our free Spring Network Events in February in Carmarthenshire and Denbighshire with a range of practical support on how to introduce Welsh into play settings, team building and motivation and presentations on staff induction along with a short safeguarding update. Our event in Bridgend will be re-arranged when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Comments from the events included:
"Thank you, this was very helpful and fun."
"It was very well done as it was interactive and kept us engaged whilst still delivering the relevant information."

'Playwork Toolbelt (Building a Stronger Playforce)' events in Pembrokeshire,



Rhondda Cynon Taf and Flintshire included theory-based workshops on: ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences); Playwork Principles and the Play Cycle and Playvolution. Playworkers also enjoyed practical based workshops: Playing Out with the Elements, Loose Parts, Engaging with Risky Play and Storytelling.

The network events had great engagement in all regions and as part of the fun we ran Facebook competitions for free membership "#Playworks". This was a great opportunity to share good practice and celebrate what makes Playwork such a rewarding profession. Congratulations to the following membership winners:



- Dyffryn Forest School "Playwork is getting hit in the head repeatedly (Adventure!)"
- Gwynedd After School Club "Playwork is confusing games with Dawn, Fiddlydee, Lardeedar"
- Golden Manor "Playwork is providing opportunities for all children to have fun."
- Carmarthenshire Carers Trust Crossroads
- CYCA in Carmarthenshire
- Clwb Ein Hargwyddess, Gwynedd

We would love to hear what you would like included in future events when we are able to resume them.



At the heart of the success of any business lies an effective marketing strategy. The importance of marketing has become even more clear within the current global situation. Marketing can be used to attract more service users and can also help inform current and potential service users about what you do and what your values are. The result of this, if done well, can be existing families increasing their usage of your Out of School Childcare Clubs, or new service users taking up childcare places. Reputation is important, particularly when it comes to childcare, and marketing can help to build your profile, and inform parents about what you do well.

There have been excellent examples across Wales of how Childcare Settings have communicated with their children and families during the outbreak of Covid-19 (on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Zoom/Skype and using platforms such as SeeSaw). There are lots of great ways to engage with current service users (supporting parents/carers with ideas, promoting play and supporting children's mental health during what is quite an unsettling time). This engagement also serves 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.

This engagement with children and their families has been very well received during the Covid-19 outbreak, but lots of the ideas could be continued to be used once 'business as usual' returns:

- Marketing Methods / Communication Tools**
- Facebook Live scavenger hunts
 - Setting challenges (arts and crafts/loose

parts/building) and asking families to share photos of their completed challenge

- A pre-recorded (or live if you are confident!) physical game that children like to play at your Club – a Playworker can film instructions (or play along with the game themselves with their family!)
- Photo/video sharing of children (with parental permission) via secure means (e.g. SeeSaw/Private Facebook Group) which can be a great way of the children staying in touch/seeing familiar faces
- Following activity-based pages on Facebook/Instagram (e.g. Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs!) and sharing ideas/posts that you think your families would appreciate
- When your Setting is open, hold (and advertise) special event days e.g. Bring a Friend day / Cookery Day / Silly Science Day
- Share your activity program – in advance (to increase place take up, particularly for themed days) and/or post activity (photos/videos) to demonstrate the fun environment offered to children in your care.
- Feature a 'Play Champion of the Week' – a child in your Setting nominated for having a really great Play idea either at home or at Club

Unique Selling Points

In your communication with your community, and general marketing, try to remember (and advertise) your Unique Selling Point/s. Do you:

1. Open early/late to support longer working hours?
2. Have a location close to the motorway/main commute routes?
3. Offer financial assistance through being registered for Welsh Government schemes (e.g. Tax Free Childcare / the Childcare Offer) or sibling discounts?
4. Have Playworkers with specific skill sets (e.g. Welsh language speakers / Sport training / Performing Arts experience) that they can offer within the activity program?
5. Have access to great outside space, or local attractions?
6. Have great inspection results (CIW/Environmental Health) that you can shout about?

If you are not yet on Facebook/Social Media, or not using your pages to their full potential, now would be an excellent time to look into doing so. Our team of Childcare Business Development Officers would be happy to answer any queries you may have.

Master your Marketing

Royal Assent received for Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs welcomes the **Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill** that came into force on **Monday 21st March 2022**. This new law seeks to end the physical punishment of children in Wales, help protect their rights and build upon the Welsh Government's commitment to the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services Julie Morgan, who led on the Bill, said: "There is no reason to ever hit a child - that may have been deemed appropriate in the past but it is no longer acceptable. Our children deserve to be treated with the same respect and dignity as adults. I would like to thank all of those who have campaigned for and supported this legislation."

The physical punishment of children has long been outlawed in childcare provision and this change in the law will apply to any adult in Wales (or visiting Wales) caring for children and young people including within unregulated settings. From March 2022 children will have the same protection from physical punishment

as adults. If there are concerns now about a child, individuals can highlight these to Social Services or the Police. The change in the law does not change this. Safeguarding is everybody's business.

The intended effect of the Bill, together with an awareness-raising campaign and support for parents, is to bring about a further reduction in the use and tolerance of the physical punishment of children in Wales.

Where can parents find more advice and support on parenting?

- Health visitor or GP.
- The "Parenting. Give it Time." campaign, provides positive parenting tips and information.
- Welsh Government Family support programmes Flying Start and Families First, may be able to offer support and advice.
- Family Information



Community Fund Project: Connecting and Supporting Out of School Childcare Clubs and Communities

As we write this edition of Y Bont, future network events funded by our Community Fund Project planned for the Summer and Autumn terms are temporarily on hold until we know more about the evolving Covid-19 situation. We have taken on board what you have told us you would like included in future network events and will be consulting with you further in light of your changing needs.

Meanwhile we will have circulated the Out of School Childcare Assessment (OSCA) to support Clubs to reflect on their service and could also form part of your Quality of Care Review. The OSCA contains sector-specific questions across the themes of legal/regulation, finances, governance, management, staff development, training, quality and marketing and promotion. You may complete this online (<https://forms.gle/AYYo6yNX6h8PXRZh7>). Our Childcare Business Development Officers would also be happy to support you to complete the OSCA, which can then form the basis of an 'Action Plan' to identify changes that could be made to enhance the quality, sustainability and robustness of your childcare business.



The Benefits of Registering Your Out of School Childcare Club with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

Across Wales, we are aware of 215 unregistered Out of School Childcare Clubs. There can be many barriers faced when looking at whether to register a provision with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW): the environment (toilets often present a challenge!), cost implications of keeping to ratios set out in the National Minimum Standards, having suitably qualified staff and perceived burden of additional workload (policies/procedures). However, the need for affordable, CIW registered childcare for communities is going to be even more essential to assist with the economic recovery following the outbreak of Covid-19. Publicity surrounding funded childcare for Critical Workers within Registered Childcare Settings during the outbreak may have also served to raise awareness of CIW Registration within communities.

Registering your Out of School Childcare Club has a multitude of benefits:

- **REASSURANCE** for parents/carers that your provision is offering quality childcare that meets the [National Minimum Standards](#)
- **ENCOURAGES BETTER OUTCOMES** for children by offering valuable play and learning opportunities (with Playwork qualified staff)
- **GIVES FLEXIBILITY** to open longer hours in term time and holidays
- **INSPIRES CONFIDENCE** in the quality of provision and enhances reputation
- **SUSTAINABILITY** for your business through ability to boost attendance with a provision that meets the needs of your local community in terms of opening times and potential access to financial schemes to support affordability of childcare.
- **TRAINED** staff offering families peace of mind that those caring for their children are DBS checked, adhering to ratios and qualified in Playwork, first aid, food hygiene and safeguarding

ECONOMICAL CHILDCARE that is affordable for eligible parents through registering for Tax-Free Childcare (enabling eligible working parents to access a reduction in fees of 20%), The Childcare Offer (enabling working parents/carers of 3-4 year olds to access 30 hours per week of funded early years education and childcare) and the childcare element of Tax Credits/Universal Credits.

RECOGNISING NEEDS OF FAMILIES and boosting trust, public image and satisfaction of service users through having a business that has policies and processes in place to support communication, safeguarding of children and quality enhancement. Regular consultation (e.g. Annual Quality of Care Review) and children's participation methods (led by qualified Playworkers) ensures needs are met and your community feels valued.

As of February 2020, Childcare Providers can complete and submit an application to Register with CIW online. CIW processes being online has several benefits for providers. With CIW Online, data is **secure**, and it facilitates secure communication between Providers and CIW. Online processes (such as registration) also means that information appears dynamically and is **individualised**. Whereas with the paper form for registration, it had to include questions relating to all Provider types, with online registration Providers only see the information relevant to them and their legal and management structure. This makes it a far more streamlined process. CIW has also taken into careful consideration what information is required by the Regulations, and what information is not, and so it is **just the pertinent questions that are asked** within the new online form.

The online process takes you through sections covering 'About You' (the person authorised to complete the form on behalf of the organisation/company/provider), Organisation details/other registrations/officers (if registering an organisation), and then Service details (details about the specific service seeking registration, a Statement of Purpose, details of premises, language, Person(s) in Charge, people living in the service and 12 key policies and procedures). Details about other staff members are not now required in this initial registration stage, and you can also amend the details of your Person(s) in Charge right up until the date that registration is awarded.

In light of this new user-friendly process, we urge all Unregistered Providers to look into registration and to see for yourselves how much simpler the process has been made.

As part of our 3 year National Lottery Community Fund People and Places Project, our Childcare Business Development Officers are able to support new and existing Out of School Childcare Providers through the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) registration process. We would love to support your Club through this process and welcome you to get in contact with your Regional Office to discuss this further, particularly if you feel that there are still barriers for you that need to be addressed.

One important thing to note when completing registration is that, due to the dynamic and individualised process, selecting the correct legal structure for your provision is essential as this is not a step you can return to. We are more than happy to discuss your legal structure/planned legal structure with you at the beginning of your registration journey, to support you to make an informed choice

How protected is your Committee?

In these very worrying and uncertain times, the last thing you need as a committee is to find that you are liable for any debts your Out of School Childcare Club incurs.

As a member of a Voluntary Management Committee you are delivering essential and affordable Out of School Childcare for your communities. Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs understands the work that you put in and the dedication that you have to ensure that your Out of School Childcare Club is providing a valuable service that is compliant with current regulations and employment opportunities.

Many Voluntary Management Committees are set up as unincorporated associations. This means individual committee members, such as yourself are potentially **personally liable** for the liabilities of the Club if the assets of the organisation are insufficient to cover its

liabilities. This has never been more obvious than in the light of the crisis that our country finds itself in the midst of at the time of writing this article.

Cubs which employ staff, lease property and enter into other contracts should limit their personal liability and adequately protect members by becoming incorporated. An incorporated organisation has a legal personality of its own and can enter into legal relationships on its own account. Clubs with charitable aims and an annual income higher than the threshold (£5,000) **must** register with the Charity Commission.

Panic not, there is something you can do about it and help is at hand.

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs can help committees which are unincorporated associations to limit their personal liability

by helping them convert to a structure that offers more protection and recommends the Charitable Incorporated Association (CIO) model.

What are the top 3 benefits of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Association?

1. You, as a Committee member are protected. You and your other members will not have to meet any liabilities personally if it fails (except in instances of their own serious wrongdoing).
2. The CIO model is a simplified, streamlined model of achieving both Charity status and incorporation and Clubs are only regulated by Charity Commission.
3. Access to more grants and funding.

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs can provide step by step support to help Clubs move to this more protective structure.

Are you Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Inspection Ready?

All Registered Out of School Childcare Clubs receive inspections from Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to ensure that safe care is being provided, and that the National Minimum Standards are being adhered to.

If you have previously received an Inspection,

you may already be aware of the types of policies/processes/procedures that CIW will potentially review. As a reminder of things that should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure your Setting is 'Inspection Ready' we are featuring an article in each edition of Y Bont, with a selection of processes/procedures that may be looked at within your next Inspection. This list is not exhaustive and should be considered in conjunction with relevant legislation, the National Minimum Standards and other supporting documents (for example, our "Stepping Out" resource).

Whilst at the time of writing, CIW have postponed all routine inspections, you may be thinking about how best to prepare and what may need reflecting on in readiness for your next inspection.

Parental Signatures

Communication between parents/carers and the Club is essential, and CIW will often sample Parent/Carer Contracts/Registration Forms during Inspections. It is imperative that you have a complete form for each child that attends your provision, and that a parent/carer has signed this. Within this contract, or within separate agreements, you must also seek permission (via signatures) for things like application of sun cream, photograph taking and emergency medical treatment. If as part of your policies and procedures you administer some forms of medication when required, you should also have signed medication records for instances where this has occurred. You should also obtain parental permission for any trips planned, and these records should be kept within children's files.

Record Keeping – Staff on Duty

As well as a daily register for children in attendance, staff should also be signing in and

out each session, with the hours that they have worked included. You must ensure that there is a ratio of at least one member of staff with a relevant and in date First Aid certificate to every 10 children in attendance.

Safeguarding

Ensure that you have reviewed your Safeguarding/Child Protection Procedures in line with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (launched in November 2019). You should also ensure that your Policies cover Prevent and Modern Slavery. Template policies and procedures, including those relating to Safeguarding, are available for all member Clubs via the membership area of our website.

Looking after your own mental health

We have been living in unprecedented times that have seen people working from home, restricting when they can leave their house, been furloughed, made redundant or working as a keyworker. As I am writing this article, we have been asked to stay at home for a further 3 weeks, and it is unclear when this is likely to change. As you are reading this we may still be asked to stay home, or life may be getting back to normal. Regardless of what stage we are in the progression in overcoming the pandemic it is important that you are making sure you are looking after your own mental health. There are many things that you can do to support your health and wellbeing, here are a few ways to take care of yourself:

- Use Social media wisely. Social media is great for keeping in touch with friends and your family, sharing photos and stories or watching funny cat videos. However, care needs to be taken social media can share fake news, worrying statistics and shared concerns, all of which can raise anxiety and give a warped perspective of the situation. Limit your time online and give yourself some space from the constant streams
- Take breaks. If you are working from home, make sure you take breaks and switch off your computer at your usual home time so you are not becoming overworked.
- Keep active. Find fun and motivating ways to be active at home, check out YouTube, their range of videos demonstrate a wide range of activities.
- Connect with others. Keeping in contact with friends and family, if you can't go out why not use social media platforms to do things parallel to your friends and communicate as you would if you were in the same room.
- Keep your mind active. Try an online course, play games, complete puzzles or read a book
- Be mindful. Take up meditation, colouring or anything that roots you and brings you in the here and now. There are many sites that have mindful tasks to help improve health and wellbeing



Virtual Committee Meetings

At the time of writing the country is still in 'lock-down' and so you will not be able to hold your committee meetings in the way that you have done previously, but decisions still need to be made.

Technology has come a long way in recent years and it can be utilised to assist committees to continue holding conversations and make decisions about their staff and childcare provision.

The Charities Commission has guidance around holding virtual meetings (<https://bit.ly/2V5ztl>).

You do need to check your governing document to see if it allows for you to hold virtual meetings (either by phone or online), if there is not a clause to allow this then you will need to have recorded the agreement of committee members to hold meetings in this way. This will demonstrate good Governance.

There are many online applications out there for you to utilise and you must find one that has ease of use for all your committee members, some of the available ones include:

- Zoom (zoom.us)
- Skype (skype.com)
- FreeConference (freeconference.com)
- Google Hangouts (hangouts.google.com)
- Cisco Webex meetings (webex.com)
- 2 that you may already be familiar with are Facebook messenger and WhatsApp, both have video calling
- Google Docs – this allows for everyone (with permission) to review, comment and amend the same document

Whichever application you chose to use you should always ensure that you are following good cyber security principles.

Activities

You may have noticed that we have started to use our Social Media to share activities? If you haven't why not follow us on Instagram to get a range of additional play activities!

This edition of the activity page is all about exploring the elements and encouraging children to explore the world around them.

Air Cannons

For this activity you will need an empty washing up bottle or sports drink bottle, some round card discs; the size of a 10p coin (you could make these by using an old cardboard box and drawing around the coin). Then stick a few of the discs together to give them height and some toilet rolls with a hole cut from the bottom to act as your target to shoot the discs in. We have provided a picture to see how this can be set up. The goal of the game is to score as many goals as possible. Alternatively, if you have two washing up bottles you could play against each other to see who can blow the other's counter off the table.

Ice treasure

An easy and cheap activity that can be created overnight. Take a small waterproof toy and place in a bowl, balloon or cup. Fill with water and then freeze. You could make a few of these to add to the fun. The next day when it is frozen, challenge the child to free the toy using tepid water, salt and small tools like a hammer or hand drill.

Health and Safety Tip: Make sure that you show children how to use tools safely and never leave children unsupervised.

Nature's Art

This can be done on card, or directly on the floor as mud washes away. Find an area where you are happy for the children to dig. Give them pots or bowls to mix their paint, a spade to dig and a jug of water. The children can then mix their own mud paint and start creating their design. Leaves, seeds and small stones could be added to the design to provide texture and colour.

Shadow Drawing

Lay out paper in the garden, stand an object on the paper and then see the shadow that is created by the sun. Use a pencil or pen to draw around the shadow. This can then be used to be the focal point of a bigger picture or can be left for some time and come back to see how the shadow has moved

