The Importance of Playwork, Carmarthenshire

Natassia's attendance at Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs' online Award in Transition to Playwork helped her in her role in school.

Since starting the playworker course it has really opened my eyes to the importance of allowing children to lead their own play. As a teacher, I am driven by learning objectives, outcomes, progression steps and am constantly assessing to success criteria. Prior to this course, I have never considered that natural progression can occur from the children experimenting and playing.

Looking at the rights of the children was a light-bulb moment for me, especially looking at the right to play. When I consider my classroom and all the different areas I have set up, each one is labelled with a "Can you … " statement. I am very aware now that I model what I would like the children to do in role play, in the sand tray, in water play etc. Whereas, in actual fact I should just be a facilitator of play. By providing the children with resources, they themselves will find the opportunities for play.

Again as a teacher, pupil voice is a very significant part of the planning process but again, I was made aware by this course how much I often lead the discussion by asking key questions linked to a pre-planned topic. In preparation for the new term ahead, I openly asked my children what they would like in the classroom and ended the question there. It was very surprising to hear them suggest the exact same things as the leaders of this course. They wanted materials, loose parts, sticks, mud, chalks, and paint. When I asked what they wanted them for they looked confused by my question and answered, "to play with." This was enough for me to see that my role as a teacher is of course to lead key focus tasks which meet the needs of the curriculum but in terms if my enhanced provision, I merely need to facilitate it. I have now re-designed my classroom into the different play types and have put resources in each area that the children may or may not want to play with. There are no longer can you questions but instead the teaching assistant who will be monitoring supervising the play activities will be asking inquisitive questions, joining in the child-led play and will note observations. We now have a post-it-note wall where the children's photographs are on a display board. When an observation is made the adult will write this down and stick it alongside their photograph so that we can record progression.

I am very grateful to this course, not only has it changed my mind set and outlook on the way and I plan and teach but it has made my life far easier. I know no longer have to spend hours of time thinking up new areas, new activities and new play ideas – the children do this for me! Instead, I can enjoy collecting resources and expanding each area to allow them more creativity and provide them with more play opportunities. And the best part …. the learning is richer, the progression is clearer, and the children are happier.

Contact Us *to find out more about the support Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs can offer your club.*

Pwysigrwydd Gwaith Chwarae, Sir Gaerfyrddin

Bu presenoldeb Natassia yn Nyfarniad ar-lein Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs, Pontio i Waith Chwarae, yn gymorth i'w rôl yn yr ysgol.

Ers dechrau'r cwrs gweithiwr chwarae mae fy llygaid wedi eu hagor i bwysigrwydd caniatáu i blant arwain eu chwarae eu hunain. Fel athrawes, rwy'n cael fy ngyrru gan amcanion dysgu, canlyniadau, camau dilyniant ac rwy'n asesu'n gyson yn erbyn meini prawf llwyddiant. Cyn y cwrs hwn, wnes i erioed wedi ystyried y gall dilyniant naturiol ddigwydd wrth i'r plant arbrofi a chwarae.

Roedd edrych ar hawliau'r plant yn agoriad-llygad sydyn i mi, yn enwedig o edrych ar yr hawl i chwarae. Pan dwi'n ystyried fy stafell ddosbarth a'r holl feysydd gwahanol dwi wedi eu sefydlu, mae pob un yn cael ei labelu â datganiad 'Allwch chi ... '. Rwy'n ymwybodol iawn nawr fy mod i'n modelu beth fyddwn i'n hoffi i'r plant ei wneud wrth chwarae rôl, yn y pwll tywod, wrth chwarae yn y dŵr ac ati. Mewn gwirionedd, dim ond hwylusydd chwarae y dylwn i fod. Drwy ddarparu adnoddau i'r plant, byddant eu hunain yn dod o hyd i'r cyfleoedd i chwarae.

Unwaith eto fel athro, mae llais y disgybl yn rhan arwyddocaol iawn o'r broses gynllunio ond unwaith eto, darganfyddais ar y cwrs hwn pa mor aml yr wy'n arwain y drafodaeth trwy ofyn cwestiynau allweddol yn gysylltiedig â phwnc oedd wedi'i gynllunio o flaen llaw. Wrth baratoi ar gyfer y tymor newydd o'n blaenau, gofynnais yn agored i'r plant beth yr hoffen nhw ei wneud yn y stafell ddosbarth a dod â'r cwestiwn i ben â hynny. Roedd yn syndod mawr eu clywed yn awgrymu'r un pethau yn union ag arweinwyr y cwrs hwn. Roedden nhw eisiau defnyddiau, rhannau rhydd, ffyn, mwd, sialc, a phaent. Pan ofynnais i beth yr oedden nhw eisiau'r rhain fe wnaethon nhw edrych wedi'u drysu gan fy nghwestiwn gan ateb, "i chwarae â nhw." Roedd hyn yn ddigon i mi weld mai fy rôl fel athrawes wrth gwrs yw arwain tasgau ffocws allweddol sy'n diwallu anghenion y cwricwlwm ond o ran fy narpariaeth newydd, wel, does ond angen i mi ei hwyluso. Rwyf bellach wedi ail-ddylunio fy stafell ddosbarth i'r gwahanol fathau o chwarae, ac wedi rhoi adnoddau ym mhob ardal y gallai'r plant fod eisiau, neu ddim eisiau, chwarae â nhw. Does 'na ddim cwestiynau "allwch chi ..." mwyach ond yn hytrach bydd y cynorthwyydd dysgu, a fydd yn monitro goruchwylio'r gweithgareddau chwarae, yn gofyn cwestiynau ymholgar, yn ymuno yn y chwarae o dan arweiniad y plant, a bydd yn nodi arsylwadau. Erbyn hyn mae gennym wal nodion post-it lle mae ffotograffau'r plant ar fwrdd arddangos. Pan wneir arsylwad bydd yr oedolyn yn ei ysgrifennu i lawr ac yn ei atodi at y wal nodion ochr yn ochr â'u ffotograff er mwyn i ni allu cofnodi cynnydd.

Rwy'n ddiolchgar iawn i'r cwrs hwn, y mae nid yn unig wedi newid fy ffordd o feddwl a'm hagwedd at y ffordd yr wy'n cynllunio ac addysgu, y mae hefyd wedi gwneud fy mywyd yn llawer haws. Dwi'n gwybod nad oes yn rhaid treulio oriau o amser yn meddwl am feysydd newydd, gweithgareddau newydd a syniadau chwarae newydd bellach - mae'r plant yn gwneud hyn drosof i! Yn hytrach, gallaf fwynhau casglu adnoddau ac ehangu pob ardal i ganiatáu mwy o greadigrwydd iddyn nhw a rhoi mwy o gyfleoedd chwarae iddyn nhw. A'r rhan orau .... mae'r dysgu'n gyfoethocach, mae'r cynnydd yn gliriach, ac mae'r plant yn hapusach.

Cysylltwch â ni *am wybodaeth am y gefnogaeth y gall Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs ei chynnig i'ch clwb.*