**EYPP – Summer Report July 2017**

I**ntroduction**

Early year’s pupil premium (EYPP) is for the children that are entitled to extra funding due to their financial situation at home. Willow nursery school receives the funding which is for each child which is currently £100 per term. This money needs to be spent on these EYPP children for them to have quality time together as a group or as individuals using different teaching methods. At present there are now 7 who are receiving EYPP and taking part in the programme.

**Findings**

**Cooking Activity**

This year I changed the cooking lessons a little bit as two of the EYPP children took part in them last year. I wanted to make it different for them as to what they had experienced previously. The recipes this year were taken from the cook book called ‘Children’s Cookbook’ by DK. The recipes were easy for me and the children to understand as the time for the lessons to happen was restricted to an hour and a half. I explained to the children what we would be doing at the beginning of each lesson and showed them the coloured pictures in the book to explain each step. I would keep the children focused by saying ‘oh what do we need to do now?, I’d better check in the book’.

The children made sure they washed their hands first and I explained why we were doing this to them. The ingredients were from a wide range of foods and were either fresh, frozen, tinned or cooked. The recipes were also cooked in a variety of ways. By oven, microwave, kept in the fridge, on the hob, grilled. This was to show the children food can be cooked in a variety of ways before we eat it. The children also learnt how to chop, grate, mix, roll, squeeze the ingredients to turn them into what we were making, it was a fun process and the children were totally focused on what they were doing for the time they had. I am a believer in the children trying the foods and ingredients along the way. Some weeks they didn’t all want to taste but as the weeks went on they got braver and enjoyed the different tastes.

To also make the cooking a bit different this year I introduced better containers and pots for the children to take what they had made home. This I thought may encourage the children to cook again at home with their grownups together. For example we made bread one week and for us to cook seven loaves of bread would have taken all day. So the children mixed and kneaded the dough. They then put their dough in a metal loaf tin and by the time they had taken it home it was ready to put into the oven to cook with their grownup. On another week they had plastic salad bowls and a small lidded pot with their dressing. When we made pastries they took home a baking sheet so it could go in the oven at home. I found by the time I looked for throwaway containers and trays it wasn’t that much more money to have one that was reusable and I think it worked better. I also printed the ingredients off for the parents to see what was in the cooking each week and noted on the food if it needed to be put in the fridge or cooked etc. At the end of the ten weeks of cooking with the children they each received a copy of the cookery book we used and a mixing bowl, spoon and cutters along with an apron. They are blue and pink for a girl and boy. I think the cooking experience has been even better than last year. Having the cooking lessons later on in the term is also better as the children are more able and find the experience a special time. The children quite often come up to me on the days we don’t cook in nursery and ask ‘what are we cooking today Mrs Brinkley? ’.

**Growing and Digging**

I have made use of the Catkins garden this year and made sure they explored it well. I set up mini activities in the garden to encourage the children to learn about what nature is around them and get them talking about the things they find. We looked for bugs and insects, used spades and rakes to do some digging, bird watching etc. I also played a snail race game which the children had to take turns with to move the snail after they had rolled the coloured dice.

**Take home activities**

The take home activities were the same as last year as none of the children had taken part in the take home activities before. They included an activity from each Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) area. This included maths games, art sets, puzzles, Lego, reading books. These were played with and taught at nursery with myself and then the children got to keep the activity and shared it at home again with their parents and carers.

**The Zoo Trip**

The Zoo trip took place on the 7th July 2017. The children again travelled to and from the Zoo by mini bus with Barton Coaches. They had lunch in the café, a train ride, an ice cream and got to choose a souvenir in the gift shop on the way out. The day was a huge success and the children were very well behaved. A risk assessment of the day was planned before the trip. I feel the trip to the Zoo is one of the highlights of the year for the children and they gained so much as a group for sharing the experience.

**Children’s View**

Throughout this last year I have been constantly asking the children for their feedback and ideas with how the EYPP process has gone. When they had the take home activities I asked the children if they continued to play or complete them at home. They told me that they had finished them with their grownups and their siblings at home and played the game which is great to hear. Before the cooking each week I ask the children about the week before and to see whether they enjoyed it or not. They have either told they still haven’t eaten it yet or they have eaten it with their grownups. If I see the children around the nursery I quiz them a little bit and ask them ‘what did we cook this week?’, ‘how did we cook it?’. Did you have it for dinner last night ?.

At the end of EYPP year I had all the children in room 5 for a chat and look back at all the activities we have done this year. The children enjoyed looking at all the pictures I had taken while they had been busy completing their activities. We also talked about the Zoo trip and what we all did together in the day. The children then had their aprons, mixing bowls and cook books to take home as an end to the cooking weeks they have had. LBr all asked the children in turn what they have enjoyed the most this year they said:

I said ‘the roll one’ – Lbr replied ‘when we made bread I’

A said ‘fruit salad’

Z said ‘pasta’

N said ‘the Zoo lots of animals

I said ‘the Zoo all the animals there’

M said ‘ I like cooking’

A said ‘ the Zoo were we went to the café’

C said ‘ the Zoo’

Z said ‘the Zoo elephants’

**Parent View**

LBr also asked the parents how they would rate the EYPP programme overall. I sent out a questionnaire to the parents. The majority thought the experience was outstanding for their children to take part. Some of the comments were :

‘Excellent, the Zoo experience way so good. Still talking about the experience and the toys. The cooking class was outstanding and the take home gifts outstanding. A great help in their education’.

‘I feel it added to improve the nursery/home learning experience, and inspire new ideas. Much thanks’.

‘An excellent programme, which both me and my child enjoyed. Thank you’.

‘A really enjoyed taking part especially with cooking. He was very proud of what he had made and enjoyed sharing it at home. The programme overall is very good, I’m so pleased A was involved’.

‘Sean has enjoyed the cookery lessons, and comes home very proud every week with what he has made. The learning games have been great, and we have played with them often’.

**Assessment records**

I have looked at the assessment records and broke them down so it is easier to analyse:

N, C, Z, A, In, S all started in Catkins and were developing well by the time they came into nursery in September 2016. By the time they left Willow in July 2017 all of these children were secure in the 30-50 and 40-60 assessment. They had made steady progress throughout the year and achieved on par with the other nursery children, and in some case scored higher. M came to Willow in the spring of 2017, for M her scores had nearly doubled before she left in July 2017 she was developing in the 30-50 and emerging in the 40-60.

**Conclusion**

This is the second year now that we have run the EYPP programme at Willow. I feel that this past year has been yet another exciting experience. The children have enjoyed very part of it, whether it be playing a board game to cooking a pasta salad. Every week I have enjoyed spending time with these children and finding ways in which I can extend their learning on even further.

As the children have gained the knowledge and skills week on week it has shown in their individual assessment in July. I always welcome any comments from the parents and carers as I feel this feedback is essential in the planning of the next years EYPP programme. Their feedback is conclusive that the programme is outstanding at Willow and that they find the experience a positive one for their selves and their children. I think this is because the take home activities and the cooking can be shared at home to enable the learning to continue together.

The EYPP programme gives the children the confidence and independence to talk in small groups and learn new skills that they might not have experienced before. For example how to use a child’s knife, how to make a salad, how to knead bread, how to take part as a team. The sessions form a solid foundation for the nursery children moving on to school with new skills that we have worked on together each week throughout the year.

Mrs Lisa Brinkley

EYPP Coordinator