

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIZENSHIP IN EARLY CHILDHOOD



NEW EARLY YEARS TRAINING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES, HEAD TEACHERS AND EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONERS

SchemaPlay's new training on *Effective Education for Sustainable Citizenship in Early Childhood*. Great resource ideas and practical case study materials

<http://www.schemaplay.com>



A collaborative project between Kent CC and SchemaPlay was launched in October 2016. The work has involved six preschools in developing Education for Sustainable Citizenship (EfSC). Inequality and underachievement provide a significant barrier to sustainable development and the work carried out has therefore been focused as much on raising effectiveness and outcomes, as on the traditional concerns of developing the foundations of environmental, economic and socio-cultural education in early childhood. SchemaPlay has worked with a key person to support educational progress across the EYFS curriculum using the Zone of Proximal Development Flow model (Siraj-Blatchford & Brock, 2015); supporting the balance of teaching and learning and recording the progress of two case study children in each setting. The SchemaPlay model has provided practitioners with support in identifying appropriate focused activities, and on the effective 'seeding' of learning in free-flow play. SchemaPlay have also provided ongoing support to the head teacher/ or designate in auditing their current EfSC provisions across the wider setting, and in setting targets for further development. This work has included the collaborative development of training sessions for whole setting staff. The project has been a great success and we would like to offer to share our case studies with you.

UNESCO (2008) state that an Education for Sustainable Development is

required that provides a means by which every individual may acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future. In order to support this they advocate an education that addresses a range of **key issues, including conservation, the interdependence of humanity with natural world, the interdependency of nations, cultures and peoples, and global issues of poverty and over consumption.**



The Sun Game – Introducing the concept of Interdependence frequently engaged in by young children in the pre-school settings where SchemaPlay have been working to support EfSC

Emergence in EfSC: If we consider the example of children learning to read, our practice in the early years has been strongly informed by the idea of 'emergent literacy' that identifies and promotes an education that emphasises the prerequisite skills, knowledge and understandings that children need to gain before they can read. The child needs to be immersed in an oral language environment, they need to recognise text as meaningful, to hear

stories, sing songs, to make marks, and learn letter sounds. None of these prerequisites are seen as sufficient in themselves to create a reader, and at some point the child has to be motivated to pull them together in a conscious and creative effort to master the skill. The same can be said of learning mathematics: To acquire the skills of addition children need to have basic mathematical concepts such as matching, grouping, grading, ordering and the ability to recognise patterns. Sustainable citizenship should be considered an emergent competence in just the same way. We believe every child's Education for Sustainable Citizenship should start from birth and, just like in the case of there being prerequisite attitudes, skills, knowledge and understandings that the child needs before they can develop the competence to read and write, we believe extant research is showing that there are crucial prerequisite attitudes, skills, knowledge and understandings that must be developed if the child is to become a sustainable citizen.

SchemaPlay has identified many of these pre-requisites and their work in Kent has involved supporting practitioners to identify these and to understand the possibilities for progression.

We have fixed training workshops across the UK and also offer bespoke training.

Contact: Lynnette@schemaplay.com for further information.