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Increasing communication between early years practitioners and families



Outline of the presentation

- Context Hertfordshire, Waltham Cross
- 0-7 Years Partnership pilot
- Children's Spaces Buggy Buddies
- Project development
- Learning identified
- Next steps...





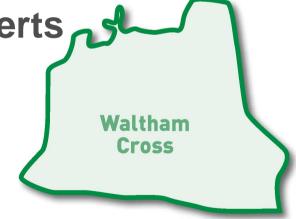
Hertfordshire





Waltham Cross

- Next to London Borough of Enfield
- Just under 14,000 population
- 16% BME families (Herts 11%)
- Unemployment just under 6% (Herts 2.9%)
- 7th most deprived area in Herts
- 29% community live in flats
- 25% without a car





0-7 Years Partnership pilot

Due to end March 2011: ends today

Aim of the initiative:

- The Children's Plan
- Action research projects
- To improve transitions, coherence across 0-7 yr old services, quality





0-7 Years Partnership pilot

- Outcomes driven
- Research questions to investigate
- Monitored and measured
- Supported by TfC
- £1M for Hertfordshire to develop 5 models by March 2011





Children's Spaces

 Children's voices – concern about their environment, alleys/service roads

Healthy weight programme

- Healthy lifestyle
- Parent:child communication
- Attendance, time-keeping issues

 Engaging parents in their children's development and learning



Baseline views

Families

- Walk to school/Children's Centre, drive to shops, doctors
- No go areas
- Feels unsafe underpass, traffic
- Litter, dogs mess, overhanging trees



Practitioners

'I drive in and drive out' Adults talk to each other, not the children Often late, in buggies, dummies/bottles



Children's Spaces

Purpose:

Developing safe routes and improving the environment in order to ensure spaces and journeys are safe learning environments for children and families



Children's Spaces

Key activities:

"I would like to see flowers not rubbish on the floor" "You can cut yourself on broken glass" "Yuk"

- Partnership Working
- Consultation
- Learning resources
- Match funding
- Route planning

"I like plants but not actually stinging nettles"



Consultation

- Photos and visual walks
- Parent questionnaires
- Child and adult discussions

Findings

- Zebra crossings with crossing patrol
- Clear up litter
- More play areas
- Clear up dog's mess
- More fun for children





Buggy Buddies

- Bugs & activities to take home
- Naming competition
- EYFS links
- Partnership working: Children's Centres Parents PVI Settings Childminders





Buggy Buddies



• Stickers, activity cards, poster, ink stampers, card log, reward passport, certificates....

Learning aims – practitioner and family activity

cards







Improving the routes

- Use Buggy Buddy colours
- Planters with wildlife planting
- Replace broken fencing
- Railing to define pedestrian path
- Bird feeders
- Painted footprints
- Child height signs
- Rubbish bins





Increasing communication

Families

"I think they are going to change it and make it nice"

Talking to children about environment Sharing stories about the Buggy Buddies Alleys cleared and kept clear



Practitioners

Understanding the challenges for the community
Better communication with families informally and formally
Buggy Buddies providing home:setting link



Learning from the projects

Challenges...

- Cross border/multi-agency project
- Joining up funding streams (revenue, capital)
- The time it takes!

Good practice...

- Power of children's voices
- Engaging the wider community
- Keep it relevant



Next steps...

Routes to early years services

- Bishop's Stortford project
- Evaluation of the impact
- Model to use in other areas

Buggy Buddies

- Launched to Children's Centre
- School Travel Team early years travel plans, Buggy Buddies website with resources, seasonal activities





www.hertsdirect.org/buggybuddies



