



### ECEC SUSTAINABILITY FORUM: MEETING MINUTES

#### THEME: Sustainability & Nursery World Conference Feedback

DATE: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

TIME: 12:30pm

#### **Attendees:**

Cheryl Hadland  
Nick Corlett  
John Siraj-Blatchford  
Diane Boyd  
Jan White  
Dawn Jones  
Gill Heyhoe  
Kyla Forry  
Shweta Bahri  
Glenda Tinney

Tops Day Nurseries  
LEYF  
OMEP-UK  
Liverpool John Moores  
ECO  
University of Wolverhampton  
Watermead Day Nursery  
Watermead Day Nursery  
Earth Warriors  
University of Wales

#### **Apologies:**

Peter Ellse  
Amanda Hubball  
Suzanne Gibson  
Louise Lloyd-Evans

Cosy Direct  
Alfreton Nursery School  
Ashden

#### **Minute-taker:**

Thobani Mathenjwa

Tops Day Nurseries

| Item | Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Who            | When          |
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| 1    | Approve last minutes<br>- No amendments received.<br><i>Outstanding actions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Draft a letter</b> which will air our grievances with regards to <b>the vagueness that is in the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change strategy</b>, in terms of having comprehensive details and plans on how to tackle the sustainability issue in the early years. – <b>Everyone will see it, comment on it, and then put their signature in it.</b></li></ul> | Cheryl Hadland | Not Specified |



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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor air quality information – <b><i>performing an academic research and sharing that with the public.</i></b></li> <li>Try and ask for smaller settings to pay less money for Green Flag, instead of the £300.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Taking any suggestions</b><br><br><b>Peter Ellse</b> | <b>Not specified</b><br><br><b>Not specified</b> |
| 2 | <p><b>Nursery World Conference Feedback – Context</b></p> <p><b>First Presentation:</b> Mark Bird – Childbase (short account).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everton School Nursery – no need for an expensive sustainability design for your garden. Just change the educational space to a nice eco-friendly space, hence infusing the healthy environment with education.</li> <li>Busy Bee has joined the sustainability movement as well – Sarah Robertson (she’s willing to come on board).</li> <li>Waste and Energy companies should also jump in into working together with the Early Years Sector, because we are also a sizeable sector as well.</li> <li>We just have to do our sustainability bit and not fully rely on the government because they still do not fund certain important functions in our sector. Hopefully, with time, that will change.</li> <li>Nationalising Early Years would be the only thing that would help push the sector’s sustainability agenda forward.</li> <li>When it comes to measuring our carbon footprint: We have gas and energy companies that we work with, they send us reports of everything; we have smart meters (AMI – Automatic Meters Install) which removes the element of guesswork by providing accurate readings. Then we measure how much water, paper, refrigeration and air conditioning, refuse (waste), and staff travel we use – the calculation metric is tricky because you do not know whether to average the footprint using the number of children under the organisation’s care, staff or even revenue that one makes, to find how much each individual contribute on average.</li> <li>Second Report to be introduced by B-Corp for transparency reasons.</li> </ul> | <b>Mark Bird</b>                                        |                                                  |
| 3 | <b>Remarks Before, Between/After Presentation:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                         |                                                  |



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| <p><b>Sustainability Matters</b> feedback: <b>Things that need to go out</b> - Too much flavour for year 1, Michelle and Felicity story had a dead squirrel, take out reference to the mosaic approach, remove the quote from Mentessori, and the introduction needed to be shortened.<br/>Apart from that, everything else is fine.</p> <p>Instead of saying “We want the children to save water.” There should be clarification on that. Be aware of that, we don’t want children thinking that they shouldn’t drink water but that they should be knowledgeable on the mechanics of involved in saving water, including toilet systems and etc.</p> <p>It should have said “we want them to conserve water.” Like, having a container one use to drink water instead of having it running whilst you drink it.</p> <p>(i). Amend the milk statement to say plant-based milk or use vegetable oil and water. (ii). Play dough - use out-of-date flour, if needed.<br/>Keep an eye out. We don’t want to increase dairy and meat use.</p> <p>What is Childcare for? <a href="#">BBC Analysis</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Care.</li> <li>- Education.</li> <li>- Parent’s work.</li> <li>- Funding for providers, funding for parents and funding for children.</li> </ul> <p>Recommended by Steve Brine, MP.</p> <p>We want to embed sustainability in our practice and not just have it as an add-on.</p> <p>Book – Leadership for Sustainability, Dr David Dixon.<br/>5 C(s): Curriculum, Captainty by Leadership, Community, Campus and Connections.</p> <p>Learning through landscapes is very important, making your outside space greener: from what kind of trees and flower to plant that absorb a lot of carbon dioxide, to keep the environment healthier.<br/>There is obviously the cost aspect attached to the maintenance of that, but I think that should be included as part of being a curriculum for the children to</p> | <p><b>Diane Boyd</b></p> <p><b>Cheryl Hadland</b></p> <p><b>Diane Boyd</b></p> <p><b>Cheryl Hadland</b></p> <p><b>Jan White</b></p> |  |
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|   | <p>learn about a life cycle of that particular plant. A pedagogical opportunity. We have to put effort in running our outside environment just as much as we do to the actual indoor settings.</p> <p>Book recommendation – The Outdoor Play-Space Naturally, <b>Sue Elliot</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Coombes Approach: Learning Through an Experiential and Outdoor Curriculum, by <b>Susan Humphries</b> and <b>Susan Rowe</b>.</li> <li>- Teaching Climate Change in primary school. An interdisciplinary Approach, <b>Anne M. Dolan</b></li> </ul> |  |  |
| 4 | <p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Research on the Laundry Hub *Maricarmen (Oxford Uni &amp; Mexico) started 18/07/2022</p> <p><b>Diane Boyd's</b> Research Draft on Early Years Sustainability.</p> <p>Next Meeting Topic: Leadership in Sustainability.<br/>Speakers: David Dixon</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |

**Next meeting: 06<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 at 11:00am.**