

ECEC SUSTAINABILITY FORUM MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 3rd August 2021

TIME: 11:00

Attendees:

Cheryl Hadland	Tops Day Nurseries
Nick Corlett	LEYF
Enya Mooney	Enya's Childcare
Amy Jones	Enya's Childcare
John Siraj-Blatchford	SchemaPlay

Apologies:

Mark Bird	Childbase Partnership
Naomi McLeod	Liverpool John Moores University
Claire Brown	N Family Club
Janet King	CACHE
Barbara Chaitoff	Tops Day Nurseries

Minute-taker:

Charli Henley-Carter	Tops Day Nurseries
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Item	Topic	Who	When
1	<p><i>Approve last minutes</i></p> <p>No corrections received</p> <p><i>Outstanding actions</i></p> <p>Cheryl discussing weighing children within settings</p> <p>It is a consideration, but starting to move into care rather than education – each individual nursery's call</p> <p>JSB: Short term and long term call – in the long term, integration of early childhood service which look at sustainability as a whole – 1 or more regions to target their service and create an exemplar</p> <p>CH: Would need to draw on 1 or a couple of nurseries to trial. Setting up relationship with HCV to work with.</p> <p>Enya: Parent who is HCV – singular nursery – then share results as good practice</p> <p>CH: Long-term – we could integrate dentists as well.</p>		

	<p>Amy Jones has written 4 articles – email out to CHC to share out Use it to start our own blog – mental health as sustainability goal Would love to have feedback from the group.</p>	AJ	06/08/21
2	<p><i>Where is your waste going?</i></p> <p>Tops have discovered issue – paid waste contractors to not put our waste in landfill – contract taken over and we assume the same contract was relevant</p> <p>CH asked by JOO where waste was going in Portsmouth – investigated and some of our waste is going to landfill</p> <p>Waste companies are being devious and saying it's a "one off thing"</p> <p>Wanted to alert group to ask waste companies where waste is going</p> <p>MB article – share</p> <p>Has anyone checked recently?</p> <p>EC: It's quite new information that you can ask your waste company to send your waste somewhere specifically - does it need to be local or national?</p> <p>CH: Contact who is collecting your waste currently</p> <p>NC: half and half – so spread out – some are local boroughs and others are individual companies – 12 individual companies collecting waste</p> <p>CH: Some boroughs are better than others; Poole is great, others (Swansea) not so much! Seems to be an on-going thing. As a group we can't change anything, but we can make it a question asked.</p> <p>Tops use 1st waste as a broker – want nothing going to landfill.</p> <p>You should be able to receive a "Waste Transfer Note" for all waste.</p> <p>SJB: Do you monitor your waste?</p> <p>CH: We've asked our NM's but they're so busy, so we rely on maintenance and 1st waste have just done an audit of our nursery's bins. General waste tends to be weighed and if it's heavy, you will be charged, but if everything is thrown into recycling then it ruins to recycling.</p> <p>SJB: Settings definitely needs guidance.</p> <p>CH: We can definitely put our guidance on this on website – there is also some in my book.</p> <p>Waste management – lots of crooks and corruptions.</p>	All	31/08/21

<p>General waste, recycling bin, yellow bins & food bins (may not need a food bin if you do a lot of composting or food waste collected from kitchen hubs by pig farmers etc)</p> <p>Some nurseries are brilliant at making their own composting</p> <p>EC: Extra composting & waster butts – food waste is something – we have a farm near us which is anaerobic – relationship to teach children. Limited as to what you can put in compost. Anaerobic people will accept meat. EC on the cusp of going vegetarian (1 meat meal a week), and pushing for soya milk but this is a big thing for parents (takes choice away from parent) – not just for sustainable side of things, but allergies are so forefront, going soya would eliminate this.</p> <p>CH: Planning on going vegetarian in September</p> <p>EC: After school club – lots of children coming through as vegetarian and making that choice themselves</p> <p>Suspected coeliac children – oat milk -> soya milk</p> <p>Only one child who has soya allergy.</p> <p>Also children on coconut milk.</p> <p>We do dairy free butter.</p> <p>CH: New milk supplier – taking over from cool milk – will be providing dairy-free milk</p> <p>Business details:</p> <p>Julian Terriaca (Business Development Manager) McQueens Dairies Limited Office: 0330 555 5588 Ext 483 Mobile: 07741648115 E: julian@mcqueensdairies.co.uk W: www.mcqueensdairies.co.uk</p> <p>In Scotland they have started funding non-dairy milk. CH hopefully this will be bought through into England. CH concern if we do not provide dairy milk to children in poverty – they need the good parts that aren't in their home diet. EC: There is more and more children coming through with allergies – and multiple allergies at that. CH: There is some scientific evidence that anti-bac is killing the stomach's ability to handle allergens.</p>		
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	<p>CH & Tops now using BioD on tables – does not kill bad bacteria – turns bad bacteria into good bacteria.</p> <p>EC: Moved over to bamboo toothbrushes – but do not fit in toothbrush holders that have protective lids. How do you store yours to remain hygienic?</p> <p>CH: we use slabs of wood, with holes drilled through them to keep the toothbrushes separate</p> <p>EC: we've been struggling with finding something that isn't plastic</p> <p>CH: We don't cover our brush heads – we haven't been picked up on it so assuming that is fine!</p> <p>CH to share pictures</p> <p>Would be interesting to research on whether you can catch germs from storing toothbrushes that are 3inches apart</p> <p>CH & EC stopped tooth brushing during pandemic – CH starting September, EC just replaced all toothbrushes with bamboo ones and returning to practice in September</p> <p>CH: We want to return to tooth brushing as some of these children are not brushing their teeth at home.</p> <p>Nylon bristles? EC to check.</p> <p>CH: we used to bin the toothbrushes too early (ie for children only in once a week) – how long are we keeping it? As long as it is undamaged. No longer a blanket on 3 months use.</p> <p>Toothpaste – comes in plastic tubes – how do you recycle these? Terracycle – collection point or do for own setting.</p> <p>NC: We have hub nurseries, and these are collected. There are toothpaste powders – mint one for children. Cross contamination could be an issue. Refillable.</p>	
3	<p><i>Doughnut Economics</i></p> <p>CH shared the Doughnut Economics spreadsheet – updated live (attached).</p> <p>Global perspectives vs Day Nursery perspectives and then looking at data, actions, impact and concerns</p> <p>Discussion points:</p>	

	<p><i>Illiterate adults</i></p> <p>Day Nursery perspective: learning out comes for children, pedagogy – sustainable curriculum (LEYF created own curriculum – grade each other and discuss how to improve)</p> <p>Tops using SchemaPlay</p> <p>EC: Earth Friends – linked with nurseries in New Zealand & Thailand, but also inter-generational – children are really passionate when talking about sustainability and what they have learnt (“Do you do composting?”)</p> <p>Children participate in awareness marches – shouting with banners on sustainability – use your voice and you will be heard – pride march (standing ovation from community)</p> <p>Earth Day awareness march – went into shop and down the aisles – couple of negative comments from the public, but gives the children confidence to use their voices</p> <p>SJB: crucial relationship between practitioners and learning journey at home – prioritising communication with parents</p> <p>Add on – volunteers & L1s = help with adult illiteracy – EC have a couple of apprentices – started with L2, carried on to L3. Pedagogical observations. One apprentice at a time to train them up appropriately.</p> <p>SJB: What about having family members in as volunteers?</p> <p>CH: That used to be a highly successful way of getting parents on board. We used to have retired people in as well – sit and talk to children/read stories etc. There are organisations who help elders place at settings.</p> <p>EC: Silver Stories: retired & elderly people – call in to read or discuss stories with children. National charity.</p> <p>NC: Teens and toddlers (see document attached) – requires them to come in – learning about life skills and being respectful (14-17 years), have a child to look after during the program – parents love it (teacher comes out with them). Last heard, they were reaching out for more funding.</p> <p><i>Population living on less than the international poverty line of \$3.10 a day</i></p> <p>Food banks in nurseries – NC setting up 3 new ones, EC – collection for food banks. Reverse advent calendars.</p> <p>Libraries – reaching out to libraries (book lending, toy libraries, nappy libraries), digital divide, Osborne (Great Big Read),</p>		
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	<p>EC: World Book Day – book drive for children's hospital – parents & business in community really engaged. Had to be brand new books due to Covid – collected enough to hire a van.</p> <p>EC finding it difficult to recruit people NC: big apprenticeship drive – 2/3 wanted to be there, 1/3 not interested and have wrong attitude</p> <p><i>Pop. Without access to improved drinking water</i> n/a – encourage metered water bill and check. Tops discovered big leak due to water £ going up. EC – EcoSchools – displays – engaging for children, went over the heads of lots of the younger children Challenge of creating displays and keeping it up to date</p>		
4	AOB Cosy – Send invite out (Peter's Books – good approach for Cosy) Resourcing focus for next meeting BioD? Q&A session		