

Case Study – Children’s rights – Katie Toogood and ‘Too Good Tots’ registered childminding service

Overview of the work

This case study has been produced by PACEY Cymru as part of a wider children’s rights in the early years training pack by the Office of the Children’s Commissioner for Wales

About the setting

Katie Toogood has been working as a childminder in Rhondda Cynon Taf for over six years and calls her business *Too Good Tots*. She works with an assistant and cares for 18 children in total at different times of the week. The children in her care age from eighteen months to ten years of age.

Embedding children’s rights in the setting

Katie completed a unit on children’s rights as part of her early years degree and continues to read and research further. Katie has been very mindful of the rights children have and reflects this in the setting’s policies and procedures to meet regulatory requirements. It upholds the promise of the setting to each individual child and family that they will ensure they meet the rights and needs of children under the UNCRC and that the welfare of the children is the highest priority.

Working with younger children

The setting ensures it uses age appropriate methods to hear the views of children and grow their knowledge around children’s rights.

Younger children meet daily and explore circle time together. They discuss and use resources displayed in the setting to identify emotions, thoughts and feelings. Further activities include a laminated ‘teddy tot’ who has removable plasters. Children can talk about if they are hurting anywhere and share stories.





The setting also uses puppets to encourage talking about feeling and emotions. This helps children understand their own feelings and empathy for others and in turn will help with their resilience.

In addition to this children can use a 'news stick' which is passed around the group in circle time. This again encourages children to reflect on things happening in their lives and share these others.

'Participation means listening to children and taking their views meaningfully into account' The Right Way, Children's Commissioner for Wales: 2017

Working with older children



With regard to supporting older children the setting has introduced a 'pit and peek' tool to help encourage conversations. This provides children with the opportunity to discuss achievements, fun times or disagreements together. This can be used to support children to provide advice and guidance to others for example on how best to handle a situation, such as talking to a teacher on their return to school.

The voice of the child

The voice of the child is very important in the setting. Children are involved in decision making including meals and snack ideas, and activity choices. The setting has visual prompts to remind children of their rights and to help nurture their understanding of these.

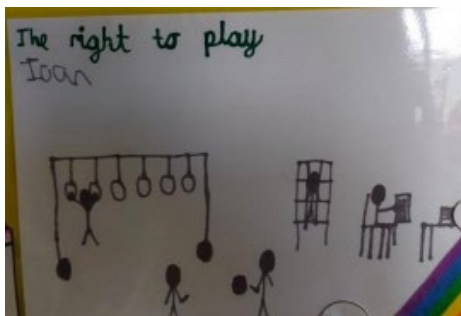
To support the non-verbal child the setting has introduced a laminated resource which has images of everyday routines to help them communicate their essential needs with others in a non-verbal manner. This helps calm and settle the child in a holistic manner and helps other children to communicate with the child.

'Equality involves treating all children fairly, and providing them with opportunities and resources according to their needs, equal with others, ensuring that they are able to develop to their fullest potential' The Right Way, Children's Commissioner for Wales: 2017



Katie explained that the children are often fascinated when they first learn about their rights. They also enjoy learning about children's lives in the developing countries who have more challenging health and amenities than they may be experiencing. Children become aware of what they have and learn to empathise and appreciate that they don't have to walk miles to access water and that they can access clean water at any time.

Katie shared that *'Teaching children about the importance of their voice is the most important article of the UNCRC in my opinion. It encourages them to speak up, express themselves, help others and most of all it teaches them control over their mind and body.'*



Further information

For further information please contact PACEY Cymru by emailing paceycymru@pacey.org.uk.

Further information in relation to children's rights in relation to childcare and early years is available on our website www.pacey.org.uk