

# Exploring the Wider World Project

*Making the most of what is on your doorstep*

Newsletter issue 3 – July 2019

## Welcome

Thank you again for your continued support for the project and sharing all of your successes so far. We are looking forward to everyone's next steps and celebrating your achievements! Please continue to send any queries, feedback, or other things you want to share to the project lead, Caroline Eaton, by email at [caroline@early-education.org.uk](mailto:caroline@early-education.org.uk).

## Where we are now

The last few initial visits are taking place over the summer and into early September, depending on when works best for the settings. Second visits are currently being held over the summer.

The general training flyer has been sent to everybody now and additional courses are in the pipeline for the autumn. Do make the most of the training being offered – whether that's a single staff member, or a whole team attending, it would be great to see you. If there are any foci that you would like covered that we have missed so far, do let us know.

The Exploring the Wider World Project has a section on the Early Education website and is packed full of useful and practical materials from downloadable resources to case studies and everything in between. We'd welcome any comments about what you think and what would make it even better. You can find all those resources here: <https://www.early-education.org.uk/exploring-the-wider-world>

## Some possible directions for your project

Many of you have role-play opportunities available to the children such as the hairdressers or a shop. It may be worth stopping to think about how knowledgeable children are about what happens in places like this. If you ask yourself, 'how often might/will my children have experienced this?', and the answer is not often, then perhaps the children could be taken by you to experience it so that the role-play will become a deeper and more meaningful experience for the child. For example, think about how often do young children actually go to the hairdressers: if they have long hair, their experience will be more limited, and understanding the process may make their roleplay a richer experience. They don't need to have their hair cut but could watch the floor sweeping, the washing of hair, and the cutting. It may also be worth thinking about setting up a barber's shop as well as or instead of the



hairdressers, as some boys will visit it regularly with their family, and they can then re-enact their life experiences. Shops are also not always visited by young children with the rising number of online shopping opportunities, with more cashless ways to pay, and the general avoidance of taking children shopping due to their pester power!

There are a series of films, available, on YouTube, that you could use as preparation for a visit or as part of the follow up: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EARLYVISION>. You could also make your own and share with us all.

## Practice to share

I have had a 'going out log' sent to me and it was great to see how many times the children had been taken out between the start of the project and now. Do remember to fill yours out, this will help you keep track and will also be a prompt when you are asked about all the links you have with your local communities. Please share your logs with your Associate when they visit.

When I was at a conference recently, a colleague spoke to me about a setting who use stop signs when they are out to warn the children of places they need to avoid or be careful near. One example they used, is if there are stinging nettles, they put out the stop signs to warn the children to be careful. Nettles are not dangerous, but can lead to uncomfortable side-effects.

## Overcoming barriers

On the Exploring the Wider World resource pages there is a section devoted to [overcoming barriers](#). All of the suggestions have come from you at the introductory sessions. Do check it out and let us know if you have any further solutions.

## Exploring the Wider World training – Book Now!

Do sign up and take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to receive training on these key aspects over the next few months. For a reminder of what's on offer, visit the [Training page](#). To book your place, visit the [General Training page](#).

## Exhibition

A group of settings have come together and will be visiting many of the events taking place in Burslem over the summer as part of the Summer of Art. This will culminate in exhibiting pieces the children have been working on over the summer inspired by what they have seen. The exhibition will run from 16th September to the 21st September at the Bare Wall Art Gallery. Do please come along and support these settings and their children. I am sure it will be vibrant and varied. There will be interactive displays as well opportunities to appreciate the works. You could also encourage your

families to come with their children on the Saturday or the evenings that it is open. More details will be sent out closer to the time.

## Summer opportunities

There are going to be lots of different opportunities on offer at venues across Stoke over the summer, with some suggestions listed below:

- Story Quest will be running in Tunstall and Burslem over the summer. There are 6 quests to go on. The first three have already been released. For more details visit <https://literacytrust.org.uk/communities/stoke/story-quest/> or call 07849353729. There are prizes for each trail that the child completes. There are events on 26th July at Tunstall Park, 3rd August at West Port Lake, 10th August at Burslem Park, 17th August at Tower Square, 24th August at Ford Green Hall and 7th September at Tunstall Town Hall.
- There is also a ceramics trail where children could see how crockery is made and the different jobs people in the factories do. This fits in well with the occupations strand in Understanding the World.
- There are also exhibitions of clay at Love Clay, Valentine Clays, Valentine Way, Stoke on Trent, ST4 2FJ. You could take the children there or encourage the families to take the children. Children could then make their own explorations in clay.

You will know many more and it would be great to be able to share, so if you know of anything do spread the word.

## Summer opportunities for your families

There are lots of opportunities for families to do things together and here are just a few:

- Root and Veg. There are opportunities to help produce food which will be used in community food based projects such as a fresh food bank. They are located at Trubshaw Cross Allotments, Mott Place. Middleport, ST6 3RH.
- Apollo: A Moon Odyssey at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery. This is topical at the moment with the commemorations of the first moon landings.
- Crazy Cress Heads at the Gladstone Pottery Museum on 23rd July. Children will be able to decorate a container to grow cress in.
- Staffordshire Hoard Festival on 25th July. The focus for this event will be birds in Anglo-Saxon Art and Folklore. There will be an opportunity to see raptors up close. The venue will be the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.
- James Watt bi-centenary Event at Etruria Industrial Museum on 3rd & 4th August.
- Festival Stoke – Big Weekend. There will be live bands, pot throwing, food, lantern making and much, much more. The venue is Summer Street Centre and Boothern Gardens, ST4 4BU.
- Summer festival on the 23rd and 24th August at the World of Wedgewood.

- Plant Hunters Fair at Dorothy Clive Gardens on the 25th and 26th August.
- The Little Longton Bottle Oven Tour will take place on 31st August from the Gladstone Pottery Museum.
- The Toilet exhibition at the Gladstone Pottery Museum. Young children are quite fascinated by toilets and all things connected to them, unsurprisingly when toilet training is quite central to a young child's life experiences.

If you know of any other opportunities do feel free to share.

## Finally

Thank you once again for taking the time to read this newsletter: if you have any comments or suggestion, please do get in touch on [caroline@early-education.org.uk](mailto:caroline@early-education.org.uk)

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