

Peep Progression Pathway Pilot Summary

Peep is a charity which supports parents/carers and children to learn together. We provide services for families and training for practitioners. The Peep Learning Together Programme offers an evidence-based, flexible way to enhance the home learning environment and early attachment by building on what families already do in everyday life. Peep previously offered Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Units which sat alongside our Peep Learning Together Programme but could not be delivered as part of the programme.

The Peep Learning Together Progression Pathway (Peep Progression Pathway) is now an integral part of the Peep Learning Together Programme, offering 27 units at three levels (SCQF 3, 4 and 5), with the development of a SCQF unit at level 7 scheduled for development at the end of 2015.

The Peep Progression Pathway pilot was funded by Education Scotland and delivered in five local authority areas between January and July 2015. The pilot was to be delivered across ten different Peep groups and have fifty parents successfully achieve one accredited unit.

Practitioners were supported to deliver the Peep Progression Pathway by accessing Peep Adult Learning Training (now Peep Progression Pathway Training). It was important to ensure that all practitioners felt confident and capable of delivering accredited adult learning. It also provided us with the opportunity to promote Community Learning and Development (CLD) policies and practice within an early years setting.

The fifty-four parents who participated really enjoyed the Peep Progression Pathway, and benefited from the opportunity, with a high interest in participating in the future. Practitioner feedback was mostly very positive about their experiences of the Peep Progression Pathway, with some improvements suggested in the supporting documentation. The key leads were able to give an overall flavour of the benefits they observed in their staff as a result of participating in the pilot, the mix of parents who were involved, and examples of good practice to be shared and promoted by Peep. They also highlighted the need for the delivery process to be as clear and structured as possible for busy practitioners.

Peep has successfully delivered the pilot across fourteen Peep groups in partnership with practitioners and key leads in North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, West Lothian and Aberdeen Councils. Practitioners and Key Leads were asked to comment on the benefits that CLD principles and practice made to their Peep Progression Pathway delivery. Practitioners were all knowledgeable about the principles and the benefits they brought to their practice. Although no partnership work has yet been created between CLD and Early Years as a result of the pilot, there are indications that this is beginning to happen in some areas.

We have been overwhelmed by the offer of guaranteed interviews and even guaranteed places at local colleges for parents who complete two units of the Progression Pathway, along with other generous partnership opportunities.

The Peep Progression Pathway pilot was very successful, with significant potential to reach parents who could benefit from accessing accredited learning in an informal community-based setting. Based on the evaluation findings, Peep will continue to build on the good practice of the pilot and we will support the roll-out of the pathway across Scotland.

Quotes from the Pilot

Practitioners

‘We are finding that parents who do not feel confident to register as a learner recognise that their portfolio work is just as good as their peers and often have a change of heart and submit their portfolios for assessment. It’s increasing access to parents who would never consider participating in accredited learning’

‘Practitioners love that the progression pathway is sown throughout our existing Peep Learning Together Programme’

‘One parent has five kids and is a single mum. For her the Progression Pathway has been a great confidence boost and she wants to do another unit. She’s asked if she can do maths and numeracy because she feels unable to help her other kids with their maths homework, and this would go some way to helping’

‘A great way for parents to start learning and earning a qualification, while also having fun with their child’

‘I like the pathway very much. I like the variety of topics and also the different levels which cater for all ability levels’

‘We’re seeing a number of parents in our area who are going through the accreditation with the hope of progressing on to co-deliver the groups as volunteers or bank staff where funding allows’

‘We have a parent who is considering volunteering or going to college to do early years, when her child turns four. I think Peep is a good vehicle for them to have a taste at it and decide if it’s something they’d like to do before committing to a college course’

‘I enjoyed the experience and can see the value of the pathway and the enjoyment and achievement the parents get out of it which makes it worthwhile’

Parents

‘I was a qualified teacher in Poland but I don’t know if I have enough experience to teach here. Working towards these units will show that I’m still committed to a career working with children, so it’s great!’

‘It’s good to really consider why you do things and how it benefits your child’

‘I haven’t had to think critically for a while, so it’s been good to get back into it’

‘Have recommended to all my friends. A very worthwhile and valuable experience’

‘Course allowed me to grow in confidence in being able to understand babies needs and wants. The talk time and listening to others helps put own experiences into perspective. Able to listen to baby more now and decipher cries and wants, i.e. tired, bored, hungry etc’

‘Fantastic class and course enjoyed by both mummy and baby. Baby is safe and looked after whilst mummy takes part and learns. Loved the activities and that the babies are free to roam in safe environment’