



THE NATIONAL LOTTERY FUND FIGHTING ISOLATION BY VIRTUALLY BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

SUMMER AND AUTUMN EYFS ONLINE PLAYGROUPS

Report by Jumoke Quadri

We offered Nurture Me Online Playgroups to the Nursery and Reception children during the Summer through to Autumn/Winter (August 2020 – December 2020). The online playgroups took place weekly on Thursdays with primary year groups upon request, as some of the children had returned to school. The children had access to Microsoft Teams with their individual licences which enables them to use the resources at their convenience.

The children of Nursery to Reception class ages and their families joined the virtual play activities every week to support their wellbeing and school readiness whilst addressing issues of loneliness and isolation. Two adults (the tutor and support) were present online at every session.

Flyers were produced and posted on various social media channels every week to create awareness about the project.

Interested parents went through a registration process and were given joining instructions to inform them about the project and the sign up their children. This gave them the opportunity to receive the zoom link every week to join the sessions.

The children and their families engaged in a fun and interactive manner, connecting with other families with different topics, weekly. A range of prompting styles were used to ensure the children's online experiences were successful and worthwhile while they learned and engaged in the various activities with praise and encouragement offered throughout the session. The children were provided with resources and they explored picture books appropriate to their age, engaged in decision making, story recall, memory-tease activities and were encouraged to contribute to art and craft activities.



Outcomes

- Children are now confident enough to recite nursery rhymes independently which is extremely helpful as they get ready for school and are always eager to log on weekly.
- As a rule, parents continued to adhere to our child protection regulations and virtual etiquette and to date, we have had no unsolicited guests.
- The online playgroup attendance had over 12 families joining weekly and is still growing.
- There are 12 families on the register as reported, which means 12 children plus siblings (if any) on the day, where there is full attendance. Attendance varied depending on families that turned up though there was a minimum of 5 children at most sessions.