

# Sharing our Successes

<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Moorhill Primary School ‘Come and Join us’ project (funded by 0-7 project)</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>This project was developed to try and engage with targeted parents/carers of reception/key stage one children, by inviting them into activity sessions within the school day (AM or PM) to actively involve them in their child’s learning.</p> <p>Sessions and activities were created with an emphasis on encouraging parents/carers and children to work together. Staff also wanted to take the opportunity to build relationships with parents/carers with an intention that any additional issues and concerns identified would be supported by signposting/referring to other services where appropriate. The aim, over the course of the year, was to improve interactions between child and parents and to further parental knowledge of their child’s learning.</p> <p>The school identified children from their speech and language register who would benefit from parental involvement within school hours. They also invited parents who had specifically said they needed more help to support their child. Staff recognised that recruiting parents may be difficult but persevered. Eventually, they wrote invitations to the children and asked them to invite ‘Mum or Dad’ into school. With the children’s enthusiasm for this to happen, most of the parents decided to attend the sessions.</p> <p>The parents/carers were then given the choice of a morning or afternoon session and two groups were formed. The sessions followed a ‘time to talk’ format, a speech and language geared agenda because of the needs of the children involved. Staff used ‘Ginger Bear’ as a focal point for activities i.e. ‘how is Ginger feeling?....Ginger would like you to play nicely...’</p> <p>Session activities have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cutting and sticking and how to develop language within the activity</li> <li>• Listening games with Ginger Bear</li> <li>• Rhyme time</li> <li>• Sharing activities</li> <li>• Picture recognition</li> <li>• Drawing faces and talking about emotions</li> </ul> <p>The sessions also provided parents with the opportunities to talk about any concerns they have at home regarding their child’s learning or development. Staff were then able to make suggestions or signpost refer. They were also able to introduce the schools Parent Support Worker to them for additional support.</p> <p><u>Successes of the project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uptake and retention of parents involved. 10 of 11 invited have attended regularly</li> <li>• All children have made progress in Maths, Reading and Writing (KS1/EYFS) results but particularly in Personal, Social and</li> </ul>

	<p>Emotional development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships improving between parents and children (staff observations)</li> <li>• Greater parental self esteem and confidence (staff observations)</li> <li>• Improvement in parent/teacher relationships. Staff report that parents are beginning to approach them in regard to a range of issues</li> <li>• Parents accessing other support and advice services ie. CAB and Parent Support Worker</li> </ul> <p><i>Kim Edwards (Key stage one teacher)</i></p> <p>“The sessions have really helped us get to know parents/carers and they will now approach the school in a different way, realising we are working with them. We have been able to signpost parents to activities at Bevan Lee Community Centre and introduce them to the local parent support worker. The parents involved now see school as part of the community rather than a setting that their children attend.”</p> <p>“We’ve also noticed that parents are focusing less on their child’s negative behaviour and more on the positives.”</p>
<b>Further Information</b>	<p>Kim Edwards  Moorhill Primary School  Pye Green Road  Cannock  Staffs  WS11 4NX  Tel: 01543 510 241</p>