

# Sewing the Thread Back into the Community

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# The Reason Behind. . .

- Staff observed children creating their own clothes using a variety of materials within the nursery environment.
- One child noticed one of our toy owl's wing was broken and was asked what we could do to fix this to which he responded by saying "we could sew it back on."
- As a team we faced barriers in scaffolding our children's learning opportunities due to the relocation of the nursery premises as our nursery building was being refurbished as part of the 1140 hours expansion within Renfrewshire Council.



After some observation & research it was concluded that we would provide our children, families and wider community with sewing opportunities. The project is called 'Sewing the Thread Back into the Community' and will run for approx 18 months with the view of sewing being a sustainable opportunity both in nursery and within the community. During the summer holidays after consultation with our children we developed our sewing area. Since returning from our summer holiday break, the children have had the opportunity to explore the area. Using materials such as weaving looms, ribbon, the children have had the opportunity to develop their fine motor & creative skills which has allowed them to be involved in rich firsthand experiences such as threading and dress making.



**Roan noticed that the little owl had lost its wing, we decided to sew it back on with very little support.**





# Ongoing Progress

- Through the opportunity of reading the story “My Baby” by Jeanette Winter, the children decided they wanted to make their own blankets. One child stated she wanted to make one for her baby brother. She chose a variety of coloured felt to sew together to make the blanket using a needle and thread she was able to stitch patches together allowing the patchwork blanket to be created. The next day the child came in with her baby brother and was very excited to show all the staff that he was keeping cosy with the blanket she had made him.
- To further expand their interest in creating their own items, the children were given the opportunity to explore the non fiction book “Sewing for Children” by Emma Hardy. This led onto the children creating sustainable resources for our small world play, dressing up clothes, bags, decorations for relevant festivals/celebrations, along with having the opportunity to share their learning within their home environment.







## What's Next?

- Within our local community, a sewing group for all ages has started up within the McKillop Centre. We are currently making plans to attend this with some of our children on a Tuesday morning.
- We are also including our families by looking into starting up our own sewing workshop for them to attend.
- Continue with the making of our own resources to allow the children to develop an understanding of how creating these can develop a sense of ownership and responsibility when looking after our resources.



# Our Advice to Others

Our advice for other practitioner's completing this grant is to allow yourself plenty of time to imbed the learning opportunity and to reflect on what you have achieved, what is not working, appropriate spacing & research. We also recommend looking into a variety of books relating to sewing (we recommend "Sewing for Children" by Emma Hardy & "A Dress with Pockets" by Lily Murray). Finally, take your time and enjoy observing the progression of your children & staff!