

Sharing the Ambition

Funded by the BERA BCF Curriculum Investigation Grant

Participant Information Sheet

You are kindly invited to take part in a research project funded by the British Educational Research Association (BERA) titled, **Putting Play at the Heart of Scottish Early Years' Family Learning**.

In February 2020, the Scottish Government published national guidance called **Realising the Ambition**, aimed at supporting the high-quality interactions, experiences and spaces every child needs: from birth to the early years of Primary School and beyond.

Ten settings, from across Edinburgh, volunteered to participate in creating a partner policy for families called **Sharing the Ambition**: a practical, hands-on approach to facilitating play at home. You can learn more about the research, keep up-to-date with the project's progress & contact the researchers via the project website:

www.sharingtheambition.com

Every Early Years setting across Edinburgh is at a different stage in their journey to implement Realising the Ambition: The following brief survey has been designed to learn more about **your views** on, and experiences of, parental engagement and involvement in Early Years education.

The survey should take no more than 15 minutes and should be completed by **14th October 2020**.

Meet the Sharing the Ambition Team:



Charlotte Bowes
Lead Researcher
P1 Teacher



Anita Le Tissier
Principal Teacher



Anna MacPherson
Senior Early Years Officer



Gillian Christie
P1 Teacher



Jemma Jeffrey
P1 Teacher



Kathryn Collier
Depute Headteacher



Laura Taylor
P1 Teacher



Lisa Macleod
P1 Teacher

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Lisa McLaughlin
Principal Teacher



Mhairi Ritchie
Development Officer



Rowan Hagdorn
Early Years Practitioner

Covid-19 Restrictions: Whilst this survey, the research project and resulting resource will discuss engaging families in their child's Early Years education, City of Edinburgh Council and national Covid-19 guidance will limit the nature of parental engagement and involvement. Please offer your answers in relation to the ideal scenario where Covid-19 is no longer a consideration.

Please note that, throughout the survey, the term:

- **Early Years Setting** is used to refer to Nursery 2, Nursery and Primary 1/Reception provisions: schools, nurseries and early learning and childcare centres.
- **Staff** is used to refer to all practitioners that work within Early Years settings.

Section A

Q1. a.) Where do you currently work?

PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

Scotland – Edinburgh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scotland – Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

b.) What setting do you currently work in?

PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

Childcare	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nursery 2s	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nursery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Primary 1 or Reception	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

c.) What is your current job title? PLEASE SELECT ONLY 1 ANSWER

Depute Headteacher	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Early Years Assistant	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Years Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Years Practitioner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Headteacher	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspector	<input type="checkbox"/>
Principal Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil Support Assistant	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior Early Years Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

d.) How long have you worked in Education or Childcare?

PLEASE SELECT ONLY 1 ANSWER

1 year or less	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 – 3 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 – 7 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 – 11 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 – 15 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 + years	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section B

Q1. How confident do you feel in employing a play-based approach to teaching and learning?

PLEASE SELECT ONLY 1 BOX

Not at all Confident											Very Confident	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	<input type="checkbox"/>											

Q2. Which of these statements best describes the **spaces** within your Early Years setting?

PLEASE SELECT ONLY 1 ANSWER

My Early Years Setting is...	
A formal learning environment e.g. a traditional set up of desks and chairs.	<input type="checkbox"/>

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A flexible learning environment e.g. a variety of open-ended spaces and resources (indoors and outdoors).	<input type="checkbox"/>
A combination of both formal and flexible spaces.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3. Which of these statements best describes the **experiences** within your Early Years setting?

PLEASE SELECT ONLY 1 ANSWER

Children engage with...	
Adult-led activities e.g. worksheets, learning carousels & ability groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child-led activities e.g. free-flow play.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A combination of adult-led and child-led activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4. Which of these statements best describes the **interactions** within your Early Years setting?

PLEASE SELECT ONLY 1 ANSWER

Staff teach through...	
Formal inputs with the whole class or ability groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observing and extending children's learning in their play.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A combination of observations, play interactions and formal inputs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q5. How familiar are you with the Scottish Government's Realising the Ambition?

PLEASE SELECT ONLY 1 BOX

Not at all Familiar											Very Familiar	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	<input type="checkbox"/>											

Q6. Which of these factors would you place as most important in impacting upon children's Early Years education?

PLEASE SELECT ONLY 1 ANSWER

The setting's social, emotional and behavioural environment e.g. child-staff relationship and class dynamics.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The home's social, emotional and behavioural environment e.g. family-child relationships and family dynamics.	<input type="checkbox"/>

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The learning support your child receives at their setting e.g. the quality of the teaching and resources.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The learning support your child receives at home e.g. the family activities and experiences.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q7. In what ways would you prefer families to be involved in their child's learning at your Early Years setting?

PLEASE SELECT ONLY 2 ANSWERS

Families involvement with their child's Early Years setting should focus on...	
Collaborating with the Community e.g. whole school events such as Mass, themed celebrations, use of community facilities...	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communicating (Academic) e.g. sharing information about my child's learning, class visits, parents evenings...	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communicating (Other) e.g. sharing information about the school, an open door policy with management, newsletters...	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision Making e.g. feedback surveys, parent council, parent-led curriculum...	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family Learning e.g. parent workshops, homework support, shared projects...	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parenting e.g. linking to community groups, support with attendance, home visits...	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remote Involvement e.g. text messages, the school website, social media...	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteering e.g. class trips, seasonal fayres, helping in the classroom...	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q8. What strategies does your Early Years setting currently use to facilitate parental engagement/involvement?

PLEASE WRITE YOUR ANSWER BELOW

Q9. How successful are the strategies your setting currently employs to facilitate parental engagement/involvement?

PLEASE SELECT ONLY 1 BOX

Not at all Successful											Very Successful	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

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Q10. What strategies would you like to use in your Early Years setting to facilitate parental engagement/involvement?

PLEASE WRITE YOUR ANSWER BELOW

Q11. What barriers/challenges have you experienced when facilitating parental engagement/involvement in your Early Years setting?

PLEASE WRITE YOUR ANSWER BELOW

Q12. In your setting, would you use a parental engagement and interest policy aimed at putting play at the heart of Early Years' family learning?

PLEASE SELECT ONLY 1 ANSWER

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't Know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Would you be interested in participating in a follow up (virtual) Focus Group?

Yes No

If yes, please complete your contact details below:

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

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In anticipation of more than 10 responses, participants will be chosen at random.

Thanks

A huge thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

If you have any further questions regarding the research, survey or participation please feel free to contact me via the project website: www.sharingtheambition.com.

Thanks again,

Charlotte Bowes & the Working Party Team