

Early Writing and Environmental Print: Opportunities, recognition, interaction, models

Holmsdale Manor Nursery, Ibstock, Leicestershire



Holmsdale Manor
Nursery

Context

Holmsdale Manor Nursery is a private daycare setting for babies through to pre-school children. We are an eco-nursery with an emphasis on the use of natural materials and outdoor experiences including Forest School. We have a history of good parental involvement at numerous events during the year. These range from training sessions for parents to Easter Egg Hunts and our annual 'Party in the Woods'. I am the pre-school teacher and Forest School leader at the setting.

Evening Workshops for Parents

Using the ORIM framework I held two evening workshops looking at ways in which parents could provide: *opportunities, recognition, interactions* and *modelling* in relation to *early writing* and to *environmental print*. Twenty-five percent of parents attended each workshop.

Early Writing Workshop

Parents watched a powerpoint slide show of early writing development.

We used resources from the REALonline¹ website and had time for discussion. Each family took a pack of early writing resources to use at home..



Oliver was keen to bring his letter to Santa to show us what he had done at home.

Environmental Print Workshop We took children on a print walk before the workshop and made a display of photos and examples of print in the community for discussion. Parents found this interesting.



Future work

Owing to the success of these workshops, we have incorporated this work into our annual planning. We intend to hold four workshops each year in future, one on each of the four strands of literacy, for the parents whose children attend the full-time pre-school. We will also involve the team leader

of the sessional pre-school to develop a suitable model for the parents who are more likely to attend events during the day.



Impact

The impacts of the ORIM framework at Holmsdale are many and have included the following:

Excellent feedback from parents, who are keen to attend future sessions.

Our recent OFSTED report, mentioned workshops and our involvement in the REAL project contributing to our result of 'outstanding' in all areas.

Increased parental involvement in children's literacy.

Positive changes in children's attitudes towards developing literacy skills, Parents bringing in or emailing examples and photographs of early writing and use of environmental print at home, which we can include in learning journeys.

Parents making the project their own, coming up with their own ideas such as packaging jigsaws and 'a-z of environmental print' scrapbooks.



Katie Ward

¹ <http://www.real-online.group.shef.ac.uk/>