Small is beautiful Tlws pob peth bychan. (Project funding from PPL)

Project description.

- Small scale, inspiring ideas to help connect our youngest children with nature
- Creating sensory boxes and delivering seasonal activities.
- “100 tiny things” that excite curiosity and inform in an engaging way, to explore, question and delight in the natural world.
- Small is beautiful shows how the tiniest of things in nature can open worlds that have never been seen before.

Outreach work supporting schools
1. Eco groups,
2. Wild Wednesday’s,
3. Mother & toddler groups,
4. Holiday Playschemes, after school clubs,
5. Rainbows & Brownies, and Beaver Cubs.


Outcome 1.
- Wonderful “Firsts” the first time I saw, the first time I touched, the first time I heard.
- Instilling a sense of wonder through seeing the tiniest of things in nature.
- Sharing the sense of joy.
- Using the imagination to see things in a different way.

Outcome 2.

Children will create images of “100 tiny things” from natural objects found in the field to create worlds and stories, showing how the natural world can be enjoyed by doing small inspiring activities wherever you are.
Outcome 3.

Showing that nature as an amazing resource that schools and families have endless possibilities to enjoy in the simplest of ways. Learning to respect all living things

Evidence relating to project.

This is a breakdown of the number of visits and number of children I worked with.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small is Beautiful PPL Funded Project with Preschool Groups</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Number of children</th>
<th>Number of visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Cylch Rhaeadr</td>
<td>Rhayader</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pips Bach Cefnlyss</td>
<td>Llandrindod Wells</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Rhosgoch &amp; Painscastle Pre school playgroup</td>
<td>Painscastle</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Gladestry Preschool Playgroup</td>
<td>Gladestry</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Jigsaw Nursery</td>
<td>Llandrindod Wells</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Little Learners Playgroup</td>
<td>Llanellwedd</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other group as part of the Project</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Llanellwedd School Wild Wednesdays</td>
<td>Llanellwedd</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painscastle Summer Holiday Playscheme</td>
<td>Painscastle</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbows and Brownies</td>
<td>Clyro</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 21 visits 223 Children

Additionally, I also built a relationship with Sarah Power from Powys Healthy Schools Pre-Schools Officer for food and Fitness who are encouraging greater activity and see the outdoor space as crucial for children’s wellbeing. She suggested preschools that would benefit from working with RWT.

I also contributed information for RSWT’s Nursery Booklet that will be published later this year.

I took part in a pilot Welsh language course called Clwb Cwtch aimed at welsh spoken in Cylch Methrin groups.
Project Feedback & evaluation

1. Clyro Rainbows & Brownies.

“Suzie Fraser from Radnorshire Wildlife Trust has led several sessions with Clyro Rainbows and Brownies throughout the year, both in the field in Cwymbaddog woods and in the village hall. The girls get very excited when they hear that Suzie is coming, and us leaders also love it as Suzie keeps them spellbound for the whole meeting! We love the way that Suzie works with natural resources to let the children create beautiful crafts, and always has a wonderfully flexible approach to the way that the children choose to express their creativity. Holding meetings in the woods has been very popular, and the girls really enjoyed their treasure hunt where Suzie hid everyday objects in the trees and plants—these were surprisingly hard to find! The girls really respond to Suzie’s energy and enthusiasm, and we can’t wait to have her back next term.” Brown Owl. Ros Murphy

2. Rhosgoch and Paincastle Playgroup.

"Suzie from The Radnor Wildlife Trust has been a regular visitor to Painscastle playgroup and has led sessions exploring the natural world. She relates to the children in a really special way, and open the adults eyes to how amazing our natural world is. Sometimes the Mums and Dads need reminding on how important outside time is for the little ones, and Suzie does this brilliantly. We have had some super sessions from worm charming to creating ‘smelly feet’ with all sorts of wonderfully textured lovely smelling plants that the children could walk on barefooted. As playgroup leader I have really appreciated Suzie's input, and we are really excited about our next session where we will get some inspiration about a nature table and also make some baby sensory nature blocks that we can get out each week for the tiniest members of playgroup. Suzie’s enthusiasm is infectious, both for the tots and the parents! Kathryn Tarr Playgroup Leader.

Wonderful Firsts (sensory boxes) Three sensory boxes, each containing artefacts and activities that encourage children to engage with nature were created for Autumn / winter engagement activities for very young children. They were taken to a local playgroup and then taken home by a local childminder who used them at home and with another childminder.

3. Childminder.

As a childminder of toddlers, I found the boxes had multiple uses for me and the children. The activities were clear, inspiring and simple to deliver. The open-ended nature of the activities meant they could be used as one-off/self-contained exercises or could use as a basis for a daily theme.

The resources can be delivered to virtually any age group. They can also be adapted easily when groups contained a range of ages— which is very useful for play practitioners.

The boxes I received were “rain” “wind” and “dark”. I especially liked using the “dark” resource, as this is usually a time when you encourage children to play inside. As a winter activity it was perfect and very exciting to explore our immediate surroundings in a new light (excuse the pun!) using a torch.
The objects used in each box were mainly household items or very inexpensive. This encouraged me to add to the boxes using other “found objects” with little inconvenience to me. It also aided with “spur of the moment” planning.

The setting with which these activities could be delivered is wide ranging. We mainly used them in our small garden and any walks we went on.

Suggestion cards created by Suzie were very inspiring. She welcomed extra suggestions to be added for future use. They are also open-ended; therefore they could be interpreted in a different way with every use (time of day/children/weather/day of week etc)

Resources used focussed on diff senses - visually exciting, favourites were streamers and windmills. Little bowls for listening to rain. Torch for lighting up plants after dark. Flask for adults!!

Children responded very well to all activities and I feel that it really made both children and minders engage with the elements more fully. Sarah & Ann


Suzie Fraser. RWT People & Wildlife. April 2018.