

Name: Paula Titterington

Course: **PINECL Parents' Informal Network for Early Childhood Learning**

### Evaluation

I had received an e mail from the school where my daughter attends informing me about the PINECL course and enrolled on it. I decided to enrol for several reasons

- As a **parent** to gain further ideas in bringing up my child and enhance my personal development
- As a **teacher** of children in a nursery setting and early years classes in order to enhance my professional development

I attended the PINECL course from April to June 2015 (12 weeks) with Lisa Sparkes as the tutor each week.

Course content included a wide and very relevant range of topics such as the importance of play, speech and language, positive parenting and personality test as well as encouraging us to develop our ICT skills.

### Personal Development

All aspects of the course were of great value. It was well balanced with discussion and use of case studies to gain and share ideas related to children in this age range. My daughter is now 11 years old and I was able to reflect and share on my experiences during this stage with her but I also found that various aspects of the course were still relevant and could be used with an older child, particularly when considering my parenting style and encouraging her to make good choices.

### Professional Development

The PINECL course was invaluable to me from a professional point of view.

It has made me think about more methods and strategies which can be used when teaching in Early years to enhance the learning potential of the children in my care.

It has also influenced my thinking when I consider what experiences children have when they come to a preschool setting.

I feel the course has given me ideas that I can share with the parents of the children I teach to enhance learning and aid development in their child. This includes all aspects of the Nursery curriculum from personal, social and emotional to physical as well as experiences related to mathematical experiences, creative opportunities and the world around us. A vital aspect of the Nursery curriculum which the PINECL course included was Speech and Language development. This is vital to a child's learning at home and in a school setting. The PINECL course emphasised this and we investigated a wide range of methods to help with speech and language. This was invaluable to everyone as parents and also as a teacher. I gained a wide range of ideas which I feel I could share with the parents of children that I teach.

The course also emphasised the importance of play which is a key element to the Early Years curriculum and home learning. Albert Einstein described play as “the highest form of research” and the PINECL course reinforced this thought. As a group, we were able to gain and share ideas for play inside and outside.

I feel that what I have gained from the course would be of immense value to share with parents of early years children. Ideas could be discussed covering many aspects of how to enhance and support your child’s development.

The PINECL course has been beneficial in a

- Personal Development as a parent which is a lifelong commitment. All good advice and ideas are always valued. I wish there was a course like this when my daughter was younger, as it would have been so beneficial. I have been involved in organising a mums and tots group in past years and could see how the information and advice from PINECL would be beneficial to those who attend.
- Professional Development as a teacher gaining ideas and strategies to use in the classroom and making teachers more aware that children do come in to the school setting having different experiences with regard to their development at home.

I feel the PINECL course has given me information and insight which could be shared with other parents potentially during parent/teacher consultations but also in a discussion group. Booklets and informal discussion mornings/evenings could be organised for parents to give help and advice with their children in order to support the development of their child. The various aspects of the PINECL course would be invaluable to all parents and carers of young children as it included positive parenting, the importance of play and language development.

Paula Titterington Nursery School Teacher and Mum!

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