

The Impact of 50 Things to Do on practice for Settings working within the EYFS



50 Things to Do Before You're Five is the ideal tool to be used by nurseries, childminders and schools, in order to help home be a great place to learn. But more than that, it supports your practice and provision too. In recent research with practitioners using 50 Things to Do, **64%** of settings reported that having 50 Things to Do Before You're Five has **improved practice** and **73%** of settings stated it has **improved relationships with parents. Don't take our word for it, read on to see what others have said...**

Dragonflies Community Nursery, Bexhill

(Previously registered as Rainbow House Children's Centre)

"It has been a really good initiative that has been used repeatedly each year with different cohorts of children."



Improving Parent Partnerships

Parents are showing a real interest in completing the 50 Things before their children are five and we have embedded it well into our long term plans. We have seen that they are using it without our input, they are really proud to show us what they have done. We now have lots of photos in the children's learning journeys of all the nice things which we didn't before, they are really keen to come and show us what they have done.

Supporting Speech & Language Development

We also naturally extending children's speech and language, they are learning new vocabulary through the different experiences they are having.

"Children have developed an amazing vocabulary and confidently use words such as 'gritty' and 'squelching' within their interactions and play."

Ofsted, 2020



Promoting Cultural Capital

Through the group trips we have arranged with families and from the photo's we get we can see we are extending children's cultural capital.

Roselands Infant School, Eastbourne

Improving Parent Partnerships

Having 50 Things to Do Before You're Five has really helped improve the communication between us and the parents. The parents have been really eager to come and tell us what they have been doing. For some parents who find it really difficult to find things to do this has really boosted their confidence.

Building confidence and communication skills

Using the 50 things App and linking it with tapestry has made a big difference with communication for the children because they are so eager to come and tell the other children what they are doing. We put it on the whiteboard and they come up with photos and talk about them. We have had some quite shy, anxious children and this has really helped build their confidence because they wanted to tell the children about the bus ride they have been on or the stargazing.

Supporting the Home Learning Environment

By helping families to make their home a great place to play and learn, you are supporting children's development and contributing to improved life chances. We know that playing, especially outside, positively impacts health later in life and children's brain development.

72%

of parents said that, since using 50 Things to Do Before You're 5 they feel able to help their child learn in more and different ways.

70%

of settings say parents have engaged with more home learning activities since having 50 Things to Do in their setting.

"It has really encouraged joined-up thinking with parents, sharing the activities between us."

"It has helped with sharing home learning and linking what we do at the nursery to the 50 Things as part of our curriculum. This has created more of a holistic approach as parents can really get involved at home."

"It has helped to build strong partnerships and take learning home."

"When they engage in experiences with their children at home too, it has an even greater impact, as The Effective Provision of Pre-School Education (EPPE) Project reported, "All parents who regularly involve their children in early home learning activities that 'stretch a child's mind' can enhance their children's learning and development".

Promoting Cultural Capital and Celebrating Diversity

50 Things to Do encourages families to build on children's interests and experiences to harness the cultural capital they already have. Localising 50 Things to Do enables the celebration of the diversity of individual communities across the country, acknowledging the need for an offer that represents and connects with local people.

70%

of parents said that, since using the 50 Things to Do Before You're 5 app, their child has had more opportunities to socialise within their local community.

"Through the group trips we have arranged with families and from the photo's we get we can see we are extending children's cultural capital."

"The children have talked about places they have visited with their parents at the weekend."

Top Tips from practitioners

- ✓ Each week we share our 50 things activities and parents/carers email us what their children have been doing at home.
- ✓ We place a card up on the group post in family app. Parents then add photos if they manage to do these with their children.
- ✓ We cover all the 50 things over the 50 weeks we are open. We have based our planning intent around each one. We then see how the children develop and we follow the children's interest.
- ✓ We send out what 50 things we will be covering and then send out activities families can do at home. Many parents will upload to our learning journal using the # that they did at home.
- ✓ We use our online journal to promote 50 Things To Do. Parents are uploading the activities they have engaged in. This is then added to our 'We are part of the Community' display board. Some of the activities are linked to the children's interests, as we also enjoy the activities within the nursery.



Improving Language and Communication Skills

By encouraging positive interactions and improved communication, we are improving parents' confidence in supporting the development of children's language, literacy and communication skills. We know that this positively impacts academic achievement in primary and secondary school ages.

58%

of settings have seen increased interactions and/or communication between parents and children since having 50 Things to Do in their setting

86%

of parents said that the 50 Things to Do activities provide different opportunities to communicate with their child.

"The children love telling us what they have taken part in at home and they love sharing their photos and stories about what they have got up to."

"Using the 50 things App and linking it with Tapestry has made a big difference with communication for the children because they are so eager to come and tell the other children what they are doing."

"We are also naturally extending children's speech and language, they are learning new vocabulary through the different experiences they are having."

Promoting Physical and Mental Wellbeing

By encouraging families to play together, establishing active lifestyles through taking part in outdoor activities and connecting with nature, we are having a positive impact on the whole family's mental wellbeing. We are reducing stress and boredom, while promoting feelings of joy and happiness, as well as improving coronary and respiratory health, and lowering obesity.

75%

of parents said that, since using the 50 Things to Do Before You're 5 app, their child has gone outside to play more often.

70%

of settings said that they can see that their children and families are enjoying the activities

"The photos the families share with us are clear evidence that they enjoy it."

"Our parents report that they have discovered more things to do outside and continue to share their experiences."

"Parents are telling me that they have gone for walks with their child more"

"Time spent outdoors, in nature, increases life expectancy, improves well-being, reduces symptoms of depression and increases a child's ability to function in school." Open University's OPENspace Research Centre.

Top Tips from practitioners

- ✓ We try to link a 50 things to our topic/learning too for parental inspiration.
- ✓ We use the Buddy Bear so the children take him home and complete the 50 things sheet. They take photos and share what they have been doing with their peers.
- ✓ We have chosen an activity a week to focus on and parents have done the same activity at home. It's also encouraged parents to share with us other activities and experiences their children have been doing at home - it's really enhanced our home-school working relationships

