

OUT TO PLAY MINI-RESIDENCIES EVALUATION REPORT

MINI-RESIDENCIES TOOK PLACE AT:

Scaraway Nursery
Rosshall Nursery
Hamiltonhill Nursery
Ibrox Nursery Class
Govanhill Nursery
Sandyford Nursery

Sessions delivered: 54

CPD sessions delivered: 6

**190 children and 23 early
years staff took part.**

Between February and March 2022, Eco Drama delivered Out to Play Mini-Residencies at six Glasgow-based early years settings, commissioned by Glasgow City Council. All participating settings had previously taken part in our Out to Play In a Day pilot, in 2021. The Mini-Residencies offered practitioners at each setting the chance to explore the Out to Play methodology in more depth - equipping them with further skills and helping them to build their confidence to lead their own arts-based outdoor learning sessions.

Each setting spent three full days with Drama Artist Saffron Gillies, over three weeks. Practitioners were invited to join Saffron as she facilitated outdoor drama and storytelling sessions with the children in weeks one and two. In week two, participating staff (the 'Out to Play Champions') took part in a CPD session, in preparation for the delivery of their own sessions in week three.

Like all our Out to Play work, the Mini-Residencies programme aimed to facilitate children's interaction with the natural world through quality artistic experiences, to support them to re-think traditional views of nature and notice and appreciate nature within built-up city environments.



Planting Seeds at Rosshall



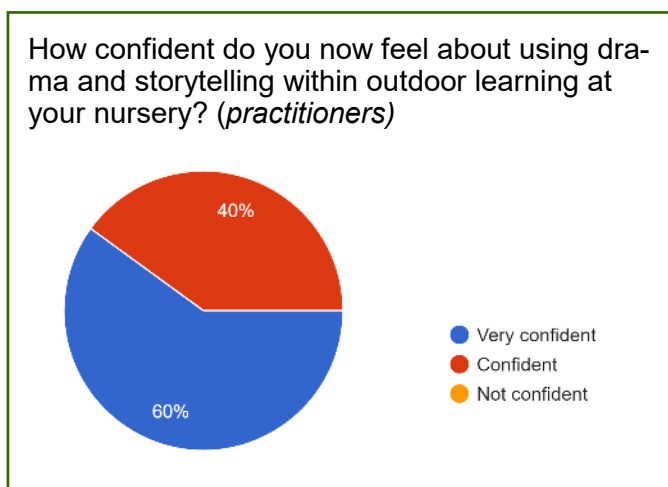
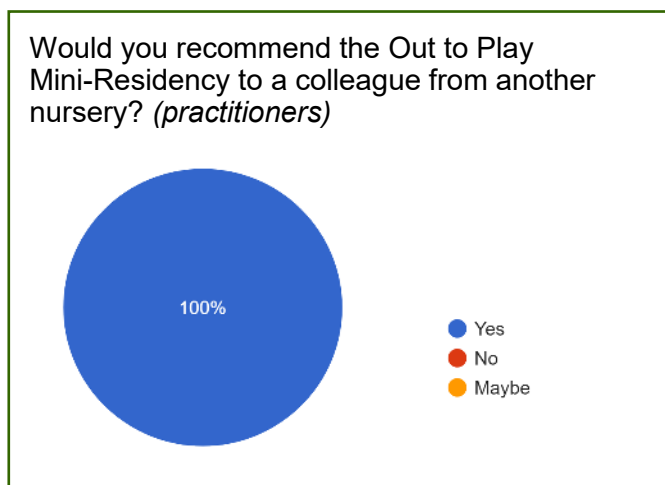
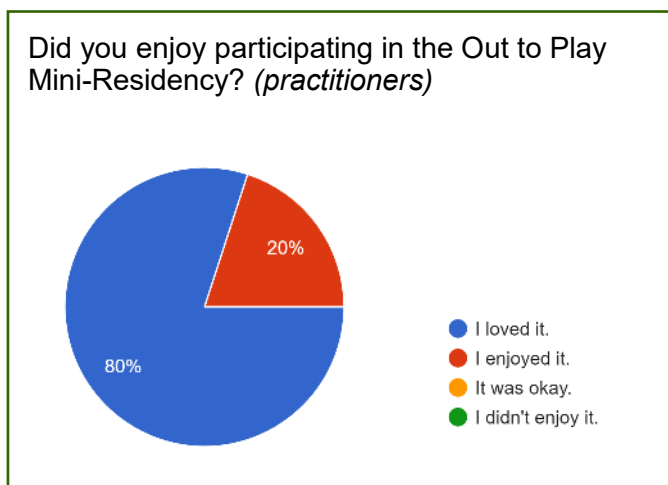
Sleeping Bunnies at Hamiltonhill

'Saffron was such an amazing teacher and led the sessions so well. She was amazing with the children and **it was great to have her demonstrate different sessions then have her there for support for when we did our own sessions.'**
(Practitioner)

FEEDBACK

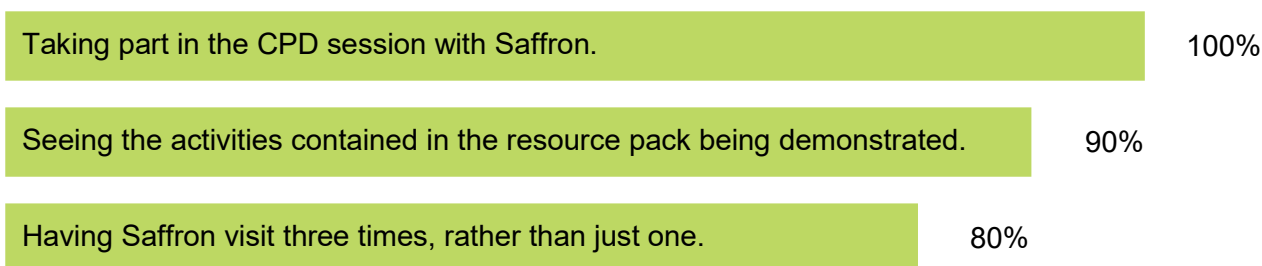
EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONERS AND MANAGERS

At the end of their Mini-Residency, participating staff as well as each setting's manager were asked to fill out an evaluation form. 12 forms were filled out - ten by practitioners and two by managers. The outcomes include:

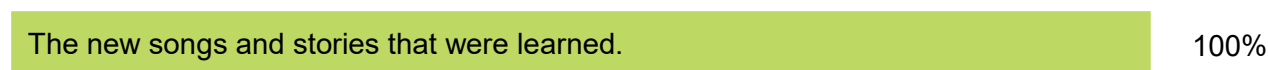


'The communication from the Eco Drama team from start to finish was excellent. Saffron was really professional and instantly became part of the team. The staff team really enjoyed the training and spoke highly of Saffron.' (*Manager*)

Practitioners felt that the most beneficial elements of the Out to Play Mini-Residencies were:



Managers fed back that the Out to Play elements that staff would most likely use in their settings were:



OUT TO PLAY MINI-RESIDENCIES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We used social media to showcase the Mini-Residencies. Many of the nurseries who have Twitter accounts added their own posts too:

Saffron Gillies
@saffronjillies1

Having lots of fun playing outside and making flying creatures at Hamiltonhill Family Learning Centre today! We've even got a big bubble tent to shelter us from the rain while we get making! ☁️ 🧑‍🎨 @EcoDrama1

Ibrox nursery class
@ClassIbrox

Well done to the staff for completing the Out to Play programme and gaining their award. The last 3 weeks have been fantastic for both children and staff working alongside Saffron @EcoDrama1 with lots of outdoor adventures and imaginative storytelling 🙌🙌🎉 @IbroxPS

Eco Drama
@EcoDrama1

Whose footprints are these?! 🐾 We have so enjoyed the first of our #OutToPlay Mini-Residency sessions! Inspired by stories 'The Lucky Seed' and 'I Can Fly' children @rosshallnursery & #ScarawayNursery planted seeds and took their flying creatures on a playground adventure 🌱 🐛

Ms F Ibrahim
@fozia2612

Our last outdoor drama and storytelling session. The children learned about nature and weather and how to play their part in caring for the environment ☀️ 💧 🌧️
🌈 @ClassIbrox @EcoDrama1 @litforalllb @GlasgowLEL

REFLECTIONS AND MOVING FORWARD

The reflections on this page take into account the evaluation forms filled out by participating settings, comments and reflections from Drama Artist Saffron Gillies and our own experience of delivering the Out to Play project. Overall, the Mini-Residencies were extremely well received by participating settings, who were unanimously positive about their experience and loved working with Saffron.



OUT TO PLAY CHAMPIONS

Saffron reflected that the title of 'Out to Play Champion' had helped practitioners to engage with the programme and feel they had autonomy over their own professional development. We are keen to implement the Out to Play Champions element in other strands of our Early Years Out to Play work also, and are currently trialling it with the Out to Play In a Day programme.

'Perhaps a fourth session, a few weeks after the third session, to see how the staff are finding implementing out to play and if we need any further support etc.' *(Practitioner)*

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

In their feedback, a couple of practitioners suggested they would be keen to receive additional support from Eco Drama, in different forms: spending more time with Saffron, or a fourth session at a later date, to reflect on the setting's progress. We will explore how we may be able to further support settings in ways that are most beneficial to them.

'The team at Govanhill would like to say a massive thank you for another fantastic programme. Saffron was amazing and the staff really benefited from all knowledge and the children thoroughly enjoyed engaging in imaginative storytelling outdoors. It was great fun and we are looking forward to continuing and progressing with all that we learned.' *(Manager)*

CPD ELEMENT

Practitioners unanimously agreed that the most beneficial element of the Mini-Residencies was the week 2 CPD session. All settings were supportive of staff attending the session, with most Out to Play Champions able to take part.

We plan to implement a new CPD structure when delivering Mini-Residencies in the future, mirroring the CPD elements of Out to Play In a Day. This will allow early years settings to participate in a Mini-Residency without having taken part in Out to Play In a Day first. In the new structure, CPD sessions would take place in week 1 (for Out to Play Champions and the wider staff team) and week 2 (for Out to Play Champions). A celebration and reflection meeting would bring the programme to a close.

We will continue to emphasise to settings that session times can be tailored to best suit their timetable / staff availability – the CPD session does not have to take place at the end of the day.



Planting Seeds at Ibrox



Flying Creatures at Scaraway



Water Play at Govanhill



Practitioner-Led Session at Sandyford



Making Vegetable Soup at Sandyford

Drama Artist Saffron Gillies shared her reflections on the Mini-Residencies programme in an Out to Play blog post on our website: <https://ecodrama.co.uk/2022/04/kicking-off-our-first-out-to-play-for-early-years-mini-residencies/>

‘I was quite apprehensive about taking part as I am not at all comfortable with Drama within my role. I can not express how much I enjoyed taking part in the sessions with Saffron, she made it look so much fun for the children and they were so engaged with each session it made me want to prove to myself I could do it and I am so happy I did and will continue to build on what I was taught.’ (Practitioner)