

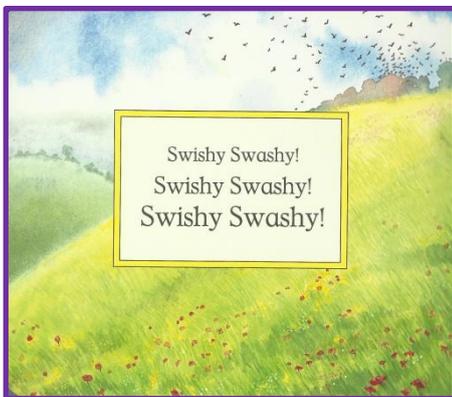
Case study - Snowberry Nursery

Type: Early Years Location: Essex

Website: <http://www.leytonstonechildrenscentre.org.uk/nurseries/snowberry>

This was Snowberry Nursery's first year taking part in No Pens Day. However, rather than opting to participate on a Wednesday like many other schools, we instead chose to have a No Pens Day Thursday, as holding the event on this day allowed us to utilise our music and movement teacher, whose skills and expertise were invaluable.

During the day, we planned activities not just for the children, but their parents too – we believe that strong communication skills are important at any age and this allowed us to bolster child to parent communication as well as child to child communication.



We began the day by performing We're Going on a Bear Hunt – the parents and children were separated into two groups, with the parents leading and the children repeating. The 'call and response' nature of the story really emphasised the importance of listening to the children, as they had to repeat the exact words that the parents were saying. In addition to this, the vivid and evocative language within the piece (such as 'long, wavy, grass' that goes 'swishy swashy, swishy swashy' and 'a deep cold river' that goes 'splish splosh, splish splosh') allowed the children to really express themselves.

We also played a game where the children and adults were placed into separate groups; the name of one of the children was whispered to the adults and it was then up to the adults to describe the child (by saying details such as what clothes they were wearing and what their hair colour was) and for the children to guess who it was based on this information. Again, it was vital that the children used their listening skills in this task as without listening carefully to the descriptions that the parents were giving, it would have been impossible to deduce which child they were describing!



We received very positive feedback about the day from both children and parents. One of our children has Global Developmental Delay and it was wonderful to see them taking advantage of all of the opportunities to improve communication skills that the day provided and the way that they fully embraced the ethos of the day.

The materials provided by The Communication Trust were invaluable in ensuring that the day was well structured and that it ran smoothly. In fact, we still have a lot of the materials that we printed from the website up on our walls! It was wonderful to have an entire day focussed on speech, language and communication, however, this doesn't mean we can't focus on it at other times of the year as well - we have incorporated many of the ideas and activities into our regular lesson plans!

Carol Rawson, Nursery Manager