

Stockport (Edgeley Cluster) Report 2018

The Headlines

- Mouse Club significantly improved the security and confidence of the children.
- Parents and staff developed positive open relationships much more quickly than was usually experienced.
- Learning started much earlier with book bags going home at the end of the second week!
- There was improved readiness to learn. More children demonstrated improved self-regulation, toilet training, using a knife and fork and could change for PE and put on their coats themselves.
- There was raised inclusion of EAL families
- Regarding building relationships and understanding between staff teams within the school, a greater willingness to share the learning was noticed.
- Staff stated that they had enjoyed the opportunity to network across the cluster.



The Challenges

- Families who spoke English as a second language were not as involved as other families.
- Some parents needed support with literacy.
- It was challenging to involve working parents.
- Some families found it difficult to engage due to family breakdown and mental health concerns.
- Paperwork... the evaluation form was daunting
- The release of key people and available space to operate the Mouse Club workshops.



Where Next

- Early years teams would like to continue meeting to share best practice and develop the Home Learning activities further.
- Greater involvement of the school teams, dissemination of the learning re: working with parents, and how to develop a whole-school strategy.
- Development of a staff inset session which could be delivered across the cluster.
- To explore and develop relationships with cluster private, voluntary and independent settings and Children's Centres, to work more effectively

What staff said about Mouse Club...

"It was brilliant."

"The class have settled so much quicker."

"Fewer tears and tantrums."

"I am much more confident with parents, they approach me much more to talk about their children."

"Enjoyed working with other staff in the school, doing the home visits."

"The meetings have been good hearing what other schools do and sharing ideas."

What the parents said...

"A and J love their mice! It was really nice that Mrs A and Mrs M bought them to the home visit as it endeared them to A and J. I think it was a great idea and really helped the transitions. We'd like more tasks to do too!"

"Mouse became a real comfort for him in the first few weeks of nursery."

"The meetings I attended were really useful ...we liked playdough best"

"I would have liked more games and ideas to do with mouse"

"The workshops helped getting to know all the children and their parents, we started a relationship with both the teachers and the other parents/children"

"The actual mouse is a great idea to link home to school really nicely"

"The most useful was the leaflet and stay and plays"

"The Mouse really helped at bedtimes"

"Parent did not understand the process and gave the whole lot back!"

Summary of feedback by schools

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

- Parents were introduced to the concept of Mouse and mouse club at the intake day for parents. The Stay and Play session modelled mouse activities and parents and children took Mouse and the activities home.
- 'The All about me' booklet really opened the dialogue between the parents and the nursery staff.
- 'It was brilliant... all the mice came back in September, there were no tantrums or issues at the start of term, getting Mouse ready has really increased the children's confidence.
- Parents loved it.'

St Matthew's C of E Primary School

- Home visits were undertaken in the first week of term, and Mouse

was introduced in a pack with colouring book.

- The tip sheets were made available to all parents. The most requested were the ones related to self-care and bedtime routines.
- Parents have enjoyed having the resources and activities, and it has helped build relationships and confidence.

Alexandra Park Primary School

- Home visits were undertaken in June; they were a real ice breaker, and it was noticeable how much more open parents were than usual.
- Mouse Club had two stay and plays and small group taster days, and staff felt that it helped parents get their children ready for school.
- Home learning activities are being posted using Seesaw.

Larkhill Primary School

- Started the project later, but the introduction of Mouse with the children has undoubtedly supported the children to feel more secure.
- A stay and play has been delivered linked to reading.

Larkhill Nursery School

- Lark Hill has not delivered the project yet but is considering introducing it with the rising threes.
- The nursery has lots of working parents, so they are exploring different ways in which parents can participate, e.g. using web site/videos etc.

St Ambrose Catholic Primary School

- Home Visits were conducted before the summer break, and the SDQ was completed with the parents. Although the concept of Mouse was introduced, he had been forgotten by September.
- Stay and plays were delivered in September. Everybody was given a mouse which particularly helped the EAL families.
- Overall it was felt the children settled better, and it has benefitted colleagues to work better together and parents' relationships with staff.

Cale Green Primary School

- An induction meeting was held, and home visits were conducted, where the concept of Mouse was introduced to parents.
- The stay and plays centred around a rock painting activity; subsequent workshops have become more targeted.
- Nursery mouse - 'Magnus Mouse' had lots of adventures over the holidays, which were recorded in his book.

- All the mice were given out wearing the Cale Green uniform, and staff felt that this helped the children settle more quickly.

Ladybridge Primary School

- Mouse was introduced in the summer term to the families. This was followed by stay and play session modelling, mentoring the play dough and building a house for mouse activities.
- The school Learning Mentor was involved in the sessions. This has proved to be very beneficial as parents/families have been supported to access other opportunities offered by the school, e.g. cookery club and running club.
- The children and families have been settled from day 1.

Adswood Primary School

- A team of staff were involved in the project delivery, including the school nurse, across all transition and induction activities.
- The Open Evening was memorable for parents; families were invited to a Mouse Party and built a house for Mouse.
- Parents share their home learning activities with the school using Tapestry and Seesaw.

Cheadle Heath Primary School

- New Intake meetings were held in the summer term, and Mouse was introduced to the families.
- Mouse club stay and play sessions were delivered, and families completed the All About Me booklets over the summer.
- All the mice came back in September; they had clearly provided emotional support to the children. The children settled well, and the curriculum was started so much earlier.