

small talk

Early Years Wales members' magazine

Spring 2020 | Issue 137 | £7

The Well-being at Work issue;

how you are supporting mental health and well-being in your settings

Foundation Phase:

Talking Point – what do high quality physical literacy experiences look like?

'The Lost Words Project'

How one group of students sought to reconnect children with their natural world

Statutory maternity and paternity pay:

an employee's guide

Smartwatches:

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Visit our website
earlyyears.wales

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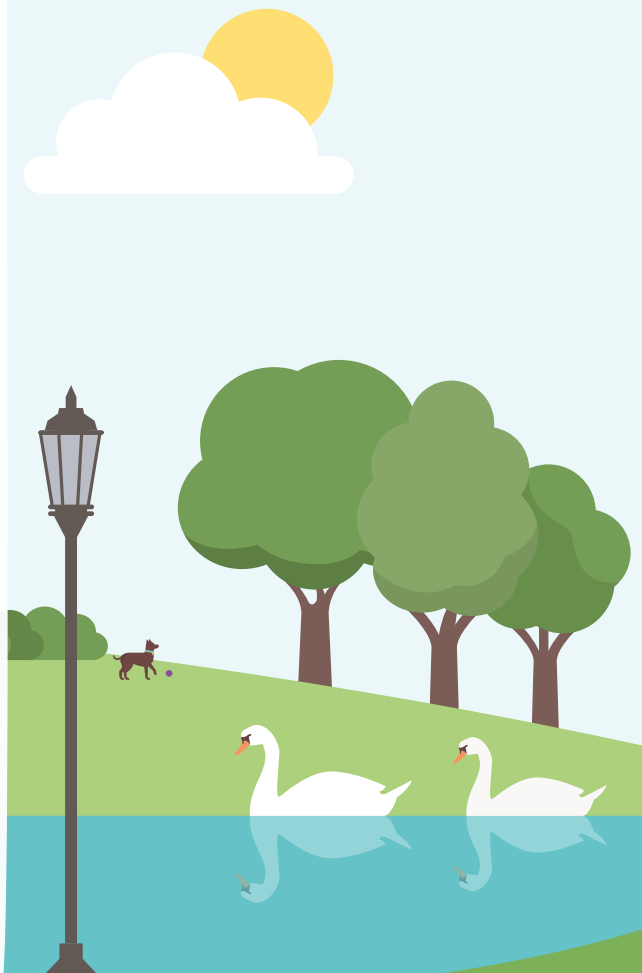
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Early Years Wales Awards 2019



Last but not least...

In our third and final Spotlight article, we introduce you to the final three Early Years Wales Awards 2019 winners.

★ Claire Drake Brockman

from Llandogo Early Years, Monmouthshire
Early Years Wales Volunteer of the Year



This award was looking for a passionate and outstanding individual who goes above and beyond to donate their time to the early years sector.

Claire Drake Brockman (aka Miss Daisy) was our deserved winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award. She has been a huge part of Llandogo for many years, her work with the children – gardening, storytelling, arts and crafts etc was recognised by Estyn as having an Excellent impact on the children's well-being in the settings last inspection.

Rachel Davies tells us how it all began.

"Retiree, Miss Daisy has been a huge part of Llandogo for several years. She first approached us to ask if we'd like her help to teach the children about gardening & we jumped at her offer!

Miss Daisy visits us every week to teach the children about caring for the environment and gardening. As well as passing on her gardening skills to the children she also talks to them about where food comes from and gets them to try the fruit and vegetables we have grown together in our garden. The children always get take to home the produce they have helped grow.

The children are always making lovely things using plants, twigs and other natural resources that she provides.

One of the children's favourite activities is Hobby Horse Racing. Miss Daisy provides hobby horses for the children to pretend they are riding!

She also brings music, singing, creative storytelling and props. A staff member documents the learning and children add their voice to the book.

With the children she has also created 2 beautiful scarecrows for the garden.



We're going on a bear hunt

Miss Daisy hid in the wood to be the bear at the end of our We're going on a bear hunt party.

She has an amazing imagination for storytelling and acting and always involves the children. She is well known to the community for this and the children talk about her all the time. I cannot express how much of an impact she has made on our setting.

The children love that they do not know what they are going to be doing next, and they get very excited if they see Miss Daisy out of session.

"She is an amazing lady who provides such fun for all the children and does it all out of the kindness of her heart. She also visits the local nursing home and dresses as Elvis and entertains the old age pensioners!"

"The children love her. My daughter talks about her all the time and all the crazy things she does! She is a highlight of the school!"

★ Rachel Cinderby

from Cynfran Playgroup, Conwy
Early Years Wales Learner of the Year

This award was looking to recognise an individual who had demonstrated progression and excellence within the Early Years sector.

Rachel Cinderby was awarded the Learner of the Year Award because of her commitment and dedication to Cynfran Playgroup.

Rachel's involvement with Cynfran Playgroup began as the Toddler rep. A role which she did on a voluntary basis for a year. She threw

herself into the role, becoming a key member of our fundraising team also. As a volunteer she signed up for her CCLD Level 2, which she completed with ease and at the time of nomination was somehow through her Level 3.

She also completed a 10-week Elklan speech and language course, a first aid course, food safety, safeguarding and many other short courses. Nothing is too much trouble for Rachel.



★ Marion Lloyd Chambers

from Borthyn Bunnies, Denbighshire
Early Years Wales Practitioner of the Year

This award was looking for a dedicated, passionate & committed professional who puts the child at the centre of everything they do.

Marion Lloyd Chambers joined Borthyn Bunnies as a Playgroup Assistant in 2016, her all-round positive and happy attitude impacts not only on the children but on her colleagues and the parents! It was her incredible character traits that made Marion the deserved winner of the Early Years Wales 2019 Practitioner of the Year Award.

Her naturally calm and gentle approach encourages the children to learn independently and they feel confident learning through trial and error.

Just a few months prior to being nominated for her award, Marion had been promoted to acting Playgroup Leader from Playgroup Assistant. Which she took to 'like a duck to water'. By going above and beyond what is required in her planning and activities, sees the children thrive.

¹Amy Hewitt, Chairperson of Borthyn Bunnies



You may also be interested in:

Early Years Wales Awards 2019 & the winners are..., *smalltalk*, (summer 2019), pg 4-7

Spotlight on...Chuckles Nursery, Newport
- Early Years Wales Innovator of the Year,
smalltalk, (autumn 2019), pg 20-22

Spotlight on...Abacus Day Nursery and Pre-school, Swansea – Early Years Wales Setting of the Year, *smalltalk*, (winter 2019), pg 5-9



Editors Note:

Nominations have now closed for the Early Years Wales Awards 2020 and the response has been phenomenal. Our awards team have been truly blown away once again by the calibre of nominees.

All the remains to be said, is Good Luck to you all and we can't wait to celebrate with you on the 12th June in Cardiff.