

<b>Year group:</b> Reception	<b>Venue:</b> Parkside GGI
<b>Date:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	<b>Lead teacher:</b> Mrs Julie Lewis
<p><b>Issues:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Response to EYFS Profile Workshop – November 2017</b> <i>'Priorities in 2017-2018 to continue to embed consistent and effective transition into school to support school readiness and Writing – Boys'</i></p> <p>Every setting was asked to bring a copy of an adult-led activity plan together with resources that have been used in class to successfully engaged boys in their writing. Colleagues were asked to present ideas to the group and distribute materials to enable everyone to take home a resource pack by the end of the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Actions from issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most people had attended the EYFS Profile Workshop in November and found it to be useful.</li> <li>• Bold Beginnings – copy of report was shown to the group. Many people had seen it but some hadn't so they were advised to download a copy for information. Mixed feelings – some settings were in agreement with the findings while others found it to be quite controversial. We discussed general responses to the document as portrayed in the news and on social media.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>CPD requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reception staff expressed an interested in any CPD specifically related to Early Years. They were reminded to consult the Yarlside Teaching Alliance website to register on courses at <a href="http://www.yarlsideteachingschool.co.uk">www.yarlsideteachingschool.co.uk</a>.</li> <li>• Very positive comments were received about Joan Stark's recent course 'Developing Vocabulary in the Early Years'</li> <li>• Serious concerns were raised about a different provider's recent 'Writing Course in the Early Years'. These concerns will be passed on to the Teaching School Alliance <u>IMMEDIATELY</u>.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>What is working well in your year group?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At this stage in the year teachers felt that they knew their children well and were working hard to ensure progression for each child.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Questions for Head Teachers:</b> N/A</p>	
<b>Next meeting:</b>	
<p><b>Venue:</b> Cambridge Primary School, Cambridge Street Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA13 9RP.</p>	<p><b>Focus:</b> School Readiness and Transition from Nursery</p>
<p><b>Date:</b> 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018</p>	<p><b>Lead Teacher:</b> Mrs Julie Lewis</p>

## Minutes from Reception Year Group Cluster Meeting


### Schools attending:

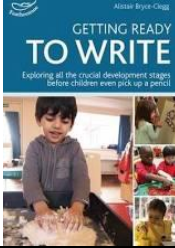
Brisbane Park, Chetwynde, Ormsgill, Holy Family, Ireleth St. Peters, Parkside GGI, St. Columbas, St. Pius, South Walney.

### Apologies:

Barrow Island, Ramsden Infants, Sacred Heart, St. Georges, Vickerstown.

**Ideas to encourage writing in Reception and the Early Years were presented from each school as follows:**

Name of school	Theme / Suggestion	Resources
Brisbane Park	Doodle Den	Information was provided about changing the writing area in the classroom into a 'Doodle Den' and using different surfaces for writing such as cling film or tin foil.
Chetwynde	Power of Reading 'Naughty Bus'	As part of a 'Journeys' topic good, quality Literacy focus to encourage and inspire writing such as signs, story maps and using the tough tray with multi-sensory items including beans, cups and labels. 
Ormsgill	Writing in the Construction Area	Ensure there are plenty of opportunities for writing in the construction area including clipboards, post-its to label models and rolling out big lining paper for recording and mark-making.
Holy Family	Dough Gym	Sessions run approximately 3 times a week depending on other timetable commitments. Children are provided individually with a piece of Play-Dough and they carry out fine motor skills exercises to music. For further information please visit: <a href="https://abcdoes.com/abc-does-a-blog/2013/09/25/dough-gym-week-creating-a-dough-gym/">https://abcdoes.com/abc-does-a-blog/2013/09/25/dough-gym-week-creating-a-dough-gym/</a>
Ireleth St. Peters	Dinosaur Expedition	Linked to a 'Dinosaurs Love Underpants' Literacy theme children could imagine they are going on an expedition to look for dinosaurs. Visual aids are needed such as a real backpack and items to stimulate discussion including useful and useless objects. Copy of planning and writing frame provided.

Parkside GGI	Funky Fingers Carousel	Children in one cohort were identified as needing fine-motor skills activities and additional writing opportunities. Staff planned 15-minute daily sessions after lunch with a carousel of activities, some independent and some adult-supported. These may be funky fingers, phonics or spellings. Planning available from Parkside GGI if required.
St. Columba's Catholic Primary	Helicopter Stories	Information was provided about Trisha Lee's book Princesses, Dragons and Helicopter Stories and an explanation of story-acting and story-telling in the Early Years. Resources were provided for colleagues wishing to try out this activity in their classrooms. Further information: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pl0iCMRImKU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pl0iCMRImKU</a>
St. Pius	'Getting Ready to Write' by Alistair Bryce-Clegg.	Recommended reading 
South Walney Infants and Nursery School (SWINS)	'Fur and Feathers' topic	Ensuring planning includes enhancements and real-life experiences such as a trip to the animal park and participation in RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. <a href="https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/">https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/</a>

Parkside GGI also mentioned their whole school approach incorporating 'no planning on a Friday'. This enables staff to assess the learning requirements of their class on a weekly basis and plan accordingly to fill gaps and meet the needs of their children.

Microsoft Education Package - Parkside GGI also shared information on the benefits of this free resource. <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/education/products/office/default.aspx> They explained that their whole school had signed up and were accessing resources such as Skype calls from subject experts and authors to enhance their curriculum.

Debbie Hurley from St. Pius expressed an interest in being the Lead Teacher for sessions running during the Academic Year 2018-2019.

Many thanks.