

Early Development Group Evaluation March 2022

My child is making progress as a result of attending these sessions

16 Responses



4.75
Avg. Response

16
Responses

Data	Response	%
★★★★★	12	75%
★★★★☆	4	25%
★★★☆☆	0	0%
★★☆☆☆	0	0%
★☆☆☆☆	0	0%

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

What progress/developments have you seen?

Data	Responses
It's useful learning different techniques we can practice at home to aid Luke's development.	1
He recognises the sound learnt within the session during the group activities. He does not like anything to do with numbers but he enjoys looking at and taking part in number activities within the group.	1
Mathematics Communication skills	1
After covid lockdowns our sons concentration and application to activities had become more challenging at times but since returning to regular live sessions things have really improved. He has progressed in all areas but especially due to the involvement of staff from school who attend with him. This means that the EDG approach is being followed in school as every session our sons one to one worker leaves with new ideas to apply at school As a result, our sons learning is enhanced and reinforced.	1
We are learning a lot of new signs to bring into our daily routine. We have also made progress with H'a feeding.	1
My little boy is learning how to sit still and listen better. He is understanding more instructions. He is starting to make more sounds and can recognise the correct sound card to the sound.	1
Improved understanding of phonics, number, reading and social skills.	1
My son has shown a great improvement in understanding numbers and the concept of matching cards(images and objects). But we're still working on understanding the written words.	1
More open, started to communicate with other adults, interaction has improved.	1
J has developed skills such as posting items, using speech sounds, using signs and matching pictures and words.	1

What progress/developments have you seen?

Data	Responses
Listening, focus, speech and gross/fine motor skills. They also encourage me to push Aaliyah to her full potential because having a child with down syndrome, means i don't necessarily know what developmentally she is capable of or has the understanding to grasp and i know i wouldn't push her as hard as i do without their expert knowledge but the leaders of the group give me confidence that she is far more capable than i initially give her credit for and that results in better outcomes for Aaliyah.	1
Socially it's good to see recognition and turn taking. Better at sitting. Has been able to count to 19 and recognise sounds covered for a while.	1
He looks more confident & showing more interest in matching words & recognise the same pictures	1
Progress with numbers, phonics and confidence/willingness to join in with activities.	1
Clapping hands, eye contact when signing and observing others	1
J has developed skills such as posting items, using speech sounds, using signs and matching pictures and words.	1

I feel confident to support my child’s learning as a result of attending these sessions

16 Responses



4.81

Avg. Response

16

Responses

Data	Response	%
★★★★★	13	81%
★★★★☆	3	19%
★★★☆☆	0	0%
★★☆☆☆	0	0%
★☆☆☆☆	0	0%

I feel that I understand my child’s needs and potential as a result of attending these sessions

16 Responses



4.63
Avg. Response

16
Responses

Data	Response	%
★★★★★	10	63%
★★★★☆	6	38%
★★★☆☆	0	0%
★★☆☆☆	0	0%
★☆☆☆☆	0	0%

My child is developing good listening and concentration skills

16 Responses



4.44
Avg. Response

16
Responses

Data	Response	%
★★★★★	9	56%
★★★★☆	5	31%
★★★☆☆	2	13%
★★☆☆☆	0	0%
★☆☆☆☆	0	0%

Do you feel supported as a parent/carer by attending these sessions?

16 Responses



4.81
Avg. Response

16
Responses

Data	Response	%
★★★★★	14	88%
★★★★☆	1	6%
★★★☆☆	1	6%
★★☆☆☆	0	0%
★☆☆☆☆	0	0%

Can you briefly explain your answers to the above further?

9 Responses

Data	Responses
<p>After attending the sessions I have created similar activities at home and we have learning sessions using these activities regularly. I feel I can communicate my concerns and the adult professional will always give good advice and appropriate resources or guide me to where I can get certain information or resources to help my child.</p>	1
<p>He can pronounce the sound 'h' and with his hand to show me. He puts some papers downon a floor, step on it to count the number as he has followed the same activity in the group.</p>	1
<p>Over the years we have learnt strategies for managing behaviour and how to approach learning. We have learnt how to communicate with sign and visuals and school staff are doing the same now too. Without EDG we would never have thought to start teaching number skills so young. The speech and language therapy elements are vital as there is so little regular specialist speech and language therapy available via the NHS. More than this, there is enormous benefit for parents' wellbeing,as learning in a group is lovely. Feeling like you are not alone and having a space where all achievements (however small) are celebrated is vital in these early years.</p>	1
<p>The groups really help with understanding how to support my child with learning a wide range of skills. The group leaders are very supportive. It's also great to meet up with other parents and discuss their experiences.</p>	1
<p>Attending these sessions gives us an overall understanding of H and how to help him be his best. I've also learnt a lot about how to be a better parent to him.</p>	1
<p>I really enjoy these sessions and I think both myself and L get a lot from them.</p>	1
<p>Due to health issues we have missed a lot of the sessions but I do feel when we do go A is alot more alert and interested in the learning at these sessions than if we go to a play group with my other Children</p>	1
<p>Absolutely both in terms of A's developmental & medical needs and my own mental health & wellbeing, which is something I've not found any other service can offer</p>	1

Can you briefly explain your answers to the above further?

11 Responses

Data	Responses
<p>Having the early development group for us a family not just helps our little boy but the whole family . The impact the group has on our little boy with Down syndrome then impacts on the household. Our little boy is learning how to communicate better and learning the importance of the skill to sit still and listen.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>The skills I have learned through attending the sessions have been invaluable to supporting my child. It has made it possible for her to attend mainstream school and better integrate in our local community. I'm so proud to say, that my child is working at the same level as her peers at school and her number work is above level of her peers at this time. I'm deeply grateful to all involved with the centre.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>My son has poor concentration skills and it was confirmed by the professionals. Therefore, his listening skills have not been developed much.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Staff are great sharing their ideas and thoughts.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I learn more signs & trying to use same because some of them how I use are different.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>The groups are really helpful, I can see my daughter making progress and it gives me good ideas of what to do at home.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>The resources we are given to take home reiterate what we do in the sessions, and the activities we do in the sessions can be replicated at home as they are explained clearly</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I really enjoy these sessions and I think both myself and L get a lot from them.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Due to health issues we have missed a lot of the sessions but I do feel when we do go A is alot more alert and interested in the learning at these sessions than if we go to a play group with my other Children</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Absolutely both in terms of A's developmental & medical needs and my own mental health & wellbeing, which is something I've not found any other service can offer.</p>	<p>1</p>

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

Do you have any comments that you would like to make about the Early Development Groups you have attended: (i.e. any benefits/changes for you or your child as a result of these sessions?)

9 Responses

Data	Responses
I do feel that due to the mix of ages and abilities that we would benefit from some more challenging activities. I understand the need for repetition but as Luke is fairly well established in most of the activities I'd like to be able to learn what's next and perhaps challenge him a little further.	1
I've learned quite a lot about my son's development by attending the group and been able to talk about his needs and seeing and talking to other parents who are having the same struggles helps me understand more and also learning the basics of sign language has helped a lot.	1
I feel like my child is concentrating and retaining more information after attending these sessions.	1
If there's no chocolate or any sweets would be good for children. If some biscuits not too sweet or salty would be nice.	1
They're brilliant and have been fundamental in us having a successful start in reception in mainstream school. We were given the confidence in his abilities and potential. And the staff at school have had training and regular support by attending with him.	1
Both myself and my son really enjoy attending the groups. They are good fun while also supporting learning at the same time. It provides the children with great opportunities for interaction with peers with similar needs.	1
We understand there is so much to fit into 2 hours however we do feel that for H the sessions are a little too fast paced. He takes a little time to settle into activities and get comfortable in his surrounds. With us being a little too quick for him it means he doesn't get to reach his full potential within the sessions. We do however get to take everything we have learnt home and use the skills at home ourselves.	1
Understanding the importance of trying to stay calm when it becomes difficult.	1
A has been shielding since covid started, due to being clinically extremely vulnerable & she hasn't even been able to attend nursery or hospital appointments, if not for the groups she would have had zero support for her development or contact with children her age and it would have had no support over the same period. Given Wendy has the experience she does, her expertise is well respected.	1

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

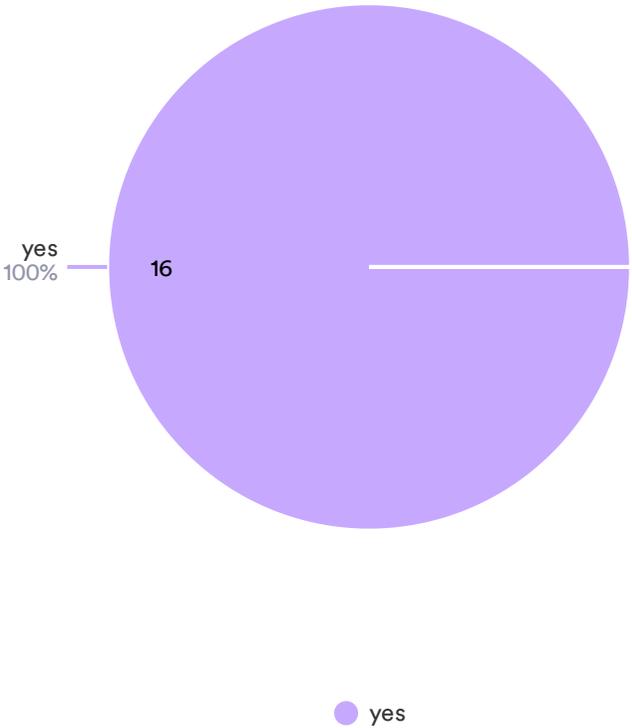
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8 Responses

Data	Responses
<p>In addition to the above. My daughter's confidence has grown from strength to strength since attending the EDG. I can't thank you enough.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>It would be great if some of the early development sessions would run on Saturday because it is impossible to take so much time off work in order to attend the sessions. I need to take time off work when my son gets poorly(which happens quite often, due to his condition) so then it becomes impossible to take even more time off.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Great support and resources shared. Knowledge and skills is great.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Sometimes it's a relief to see Harry in a learning setting and mix with others with similar difficulties but his behaviour can be more challenging with a change in teacher. She handles him well and his behaviour is challenging at home too but I don't think there's much time to discuss this.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Already great</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>The groups are really well planned and ran very well. It's also great to be able to ask questions/get advice on all aspects of development - we have made appointments to see speech and language and the OT as a result of attending. The DSTSS is a great resource to parents and children - it's so good to have people to ask about various aspects of development their support has been a big help to our family.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Improved understanding of learning styles</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>A has been sheilding since covid started, due to being clinically extremely vulnerable & she hasn't even been able to attend nursery or hospital appointments, if not for the groups she would have had zero support for her development or contact with children her age and i too wouldn't have had no support over the same period. Given Wendy has the experience she does, her expertise is well respected amongst medical professionals, as such she agreed with myself that having observed Aaliyah, she didn't appear to be hearing properly and reached out to audiology and expressed her concerns and my daughter was given hearing aids, prior to this i repeatedly expressed to audiology that i was concerned she couldn't hear to no avail but with Wendy's expert input they listened and acted immediately. As such her speech has come on ten fold.</p>	<p>1</p>

Do you think that your child will have a better start in life because of these sessions ?

16 Responses



Can you say how/ why?

8 Responses- 1 Empty

Data	Responses
These sessions help understand the skills and development areas to ensure we are moving in the right direction.	1
Better focussed,better listening skills, remembering numbers and sounds will be useful once entering full time school.	1
It's good to have a small group. The phonics helps him. The resources that I had received are very helpful.	1
Yes! Our son CAN achieve! But he needs help and support to reach his full potential. And we have needed the skills and knowledge. We are enormously blessed that we have such an amazing group in our local area to support us all. So many families try to access this type of group online and it just isn't the same. The community and friendship in the real world is so important especially for a sociable child who learns visually and by copying others.	1
The groups have helped him to develop skills that he would not have learnt otherwise.	1
He is surrounded by people of all ages with DS to be inspired and motivated by them.	1
My little boy has had vital encouragement and support with his sound work and signing . He is 2 years old and is signing already!	1
It has helped instill the love of learning, which impacts her on a daily basis.	1

Can you say how/ why?

7 Responses- 1 Empty

Data	Responses
These sessions give me knowledge and understanding how I can support and teach my child.	1
Being a mum of a child with ds is challenging so I highly rely on a knowledge that staff shares with us durring the sessions so that I can support my son as best as possible.	1
Without a doubt, Aaliyah has a big problem with listening & focusing- which would inevitably have affected schooling when she starts in a year, i feel confident that by the time she starts school she will be able to do this with ease, also as previously mentioned the confidence they put in parents to push their children but in an affective way thats fits their learning profile, means she will have a much bigger head start when starting school, that she ever would of without the developmental groups.	1
Because his nursery is just covering some of the things he's learned phonics wise and his signing helps a bit with communication.	1
Because they're know his needs & they deliver the stuff according to a child need	1
My little boy has had vital encouragement and support with his sound work and signing . He is 2 years old and is signing already	1
I feel she will be able to do key things which will enable her to access education and communicate with her peers	1

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

Is there anything you think we could do to improve the Early Development Groups? (e.g. timing, resources, general organisation etc.)

8 Responses- 3 Empty

Data	Responses
See comments above. I really enjoy our group but do wonder if the mix of age and abilities is too vast for everyone to be doing exactly the same thing.	1
Cant think of anything at the moment.	1
The sessions are well organised and structured. We have had a change of teacher this year but Laura has settled in really well and delivers good sessions. Our son is repeating a year which initially, we as parents were a little disappointed with. However it has definitely been the best decision for him! (Maybe we would have been less disappointed if we'd understood the reasons for this a little better/more discussion at that time last summer).	1
Possibly provide some written feedback on progress.	1
I think the group offers everything needed. We have not yet been able to attend the Saturday session which will offer support for us as parents hopefully.	1
I think putting a high up shelf for parents belongings would be helpful . Currently we are leaving our belongings in another room. Understandably this is to avoid distraction of any kind for our children .	1
Can't think of anything. Wonderful service!	1
To have play/ fun time in between the activities would definitely interest my boy. The above would help with my son's concentration and to stay focused on the main activities.	1

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

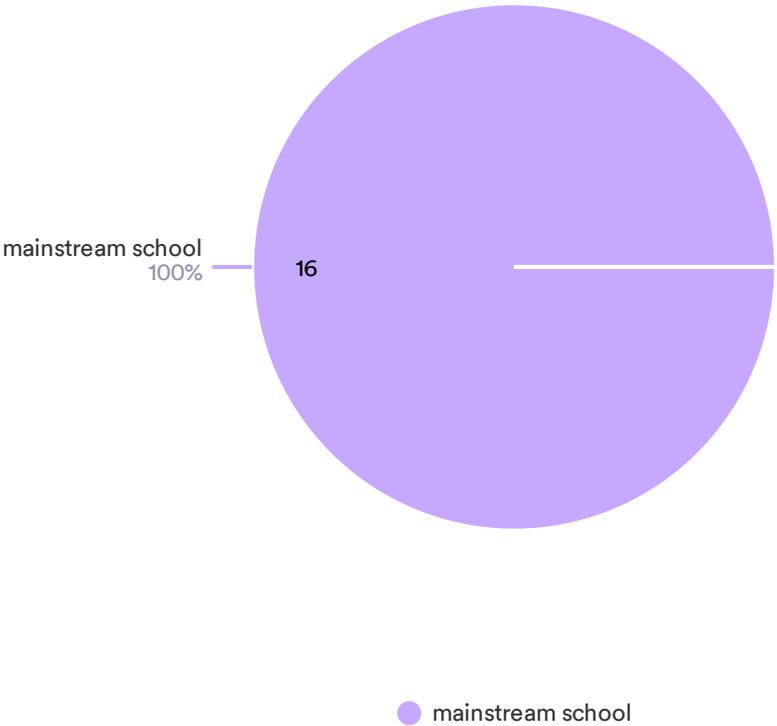
Is there anything you think we could do to improve the Early Development Groups? (e.g. timing, resources, general organisation etc.)

5 Responses- 3 Empty

Data	Responses
Having weekly sessions rather than fortnightly.	1
No nothing, their provide all of the knowledge and resources both at the centre and home.	1
Perhaps allow time for teacher child review every term.	1
Timing	1
It might be useful to know if we are revisiting a specific sound during the next session, so we can focus on this prior to the session as well as during.	1

Which type of school are you planning for your child to attend?

16 Responses



Thank You!

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups