

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

April 2021

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

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

15 Responses- 1 Empty



4.87
Avg. Response

15
Responses

Data	Response	%
★★★★★	13	87%
★★★★☆	2	13%
★★★☆☆	0	0%
★★☆☆☆	0	0%
★☆☆☆☆	0	0%

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

What progress/developments have you seen?

16 Responses

Data	Responses
Better concentration Enjoys the activities We can use the ideas to teach at home	1
Good eye tracking, sitting up, starting to roll over, making sounds, improving grasp & passing objects from hand to hand.	1
Improved cognition and speech	1
Understanding. Social skills. Basic literacy and numeracy. Speech. Independence.	1
Improved confidence with numbers and sounds, improved behaviour/ following instruction.	1
Improving speech. Good use of sign. Awareness and recognition of numbers through numicon. Simple word recognition	1
Early days yet, but has started to respond to some of the actions in the songs. I have noticed she is sturdier when rocking from side to side on my leg; something which I never would have thought to do.	1
He can make all the different phonic sounds, can count most of the numbers 1-10, enjoys lots of 'blowing' activities and understands a lot of 'action' words. He enjoys doing the actions to lots of counting songs and is definitely becoming more vocal as a result of all of these activities.	1
Probably too many to mention or remember! Counting, letters, sounds/pronunciation. Concentration and listening. Various milestones	1

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

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

15 Responses- 1 Empty



4.93
Avg. Response

15
Responses

Data	Response	%
★★★★★	14	93%
★★★★☆	1	7%
★★★☆☆	0	0%
★★☆☆☆	0	0%
★☆☆☆☆	0	0%

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

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

15 Responses- 1 Empty



4.93
Avg. Response

15
Responses

Data	Response	%
★★★★★	14	93%
★★★★☆	1	7%
★★★☆☆	0	0%
★★☆☆☆	0	0%
★☆☆☆☆	0	0%

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

My child is developing good listening and concentration skills

15 Responses- 1 Empty



4.60
Avg. Response

15
Responses

Data	Response	%
★★★★★	10	67%
★★★★☆	4	27%
★★★☆☆	1	7%
★★☆☆☆	0	0%
★☆☆☆☆	0	0%

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

15 Responses- 1 Empty



4.93
Avg. Response

15
Responses

Data	Response	%
★★★★★	14	93%
★★★★☆	1	7%
★★★☆☆	0	0%
★★☆☆☆	0	0%
★☆☆☆☆	0	0%

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

Can you briefly explain your answers to the above further?

15 Responses- 1 Empty

Data	Responses
I would be completely lost without these sessions they have been integral to my understanding of Down syndrome and everyone has been fully supportive	1
I am provided with brilliant advice and activities for how to support my child's development.	1
The staff have been an absolute god send! I don't know where my daughter would be in terms of learning, if I didn't have the centre's support. I am so grateful to have access to this amazing resource!!! Thank you!	1
The sessions are very valuable to us and they definitely help my son to develop and reach his potential.	1
The development groups provide a great support in terms of my child's learning but also an opportunity to chat to other like minded parents about the challenges we face.	1
The support to us as parents is so valuable. And the guidance and advice going forwards with starting school and offers of training for staff there too. This year has seen so many services stop but the support from DSTSS has continued either online or in person and we are so grateful for this.	1
I have learnt so much and also been reassured/given confidence in what I am doing with her. Listening and concentration skills are difficult to assess at present due to her age. I feel completely supported and know that there are people who are experts that will always give me advice.	1
These sessions have opened my eyes to behavioural traits that I hadn't realised came with having downs syndrome. The sessions and discussions that crop up through the various activities are definitely equipping me with the tools I need to help my son progress developmentally. He enjoys the sessions and gets a lot out of them. His speech skills are slowly emerging and we are noticing a steady	1

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

Has your child managed well with zoom sessions over lockdown? Or do they prefer face to face sessions – comments please

16 Responses

Data	Responses
Face to face	1
My child attended the zoom sessions and we both got a lot from these. We are now attending the face to face sessions and she enjoys the interaction.	1
Face to Face work best. However, having zoom is appreciated.	1
They definitely prefer face to face session. We had better days and not so good. Although the delivery of sessions was great given circumstances we generally struggle with focus and interest during screen sessions.	1
Face to face much preferred. my child coped well with zoom only when he happened to be the only child on the zoom due to illness etc	1
Initially zoom was great and out little boy engaged surprisingly well with it. However over the last few months it has got really difficult and turned into a real battle to get him to watch and join in. (But he is the same with family zoom calls too now.) We much prefer face to face. These have been one to one sessions as others from our group have not been there but have been brilliant and given us all a boost.	1
Face to face definitely; seems more engaged in these sessions rather than via the laptop.	1
Zoom sessions were tolerated by my son. He engaged for a bit and then grew restless having to sit still and watch the session on a screen. He is better with face to face sessions.	1

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

Do you feel like your child has regressed or improved over lockdown. Comments please.

16 Responses

Data	Responses
Yes poor eye contact	1
She was born over lockdown	1
Improved, because they have been going to school with a smaller classroom size. More opportunities for 1 to 1 attention.	1
Improved. Apart from the sessions we did some home learning based on them.	1
Speech Improved due to more opportunity to practice speech in a quiet environment, however he was definitely ready to go back to school - it was very difficult to get him to engage in any learning tasks / activities at home.	1
Some things have improved. Stamina and gross motor skills, mainly as a result of heart surgery last year. His speech is also improving a lot, as is his general understanding and communication. We used the extra time at home in the most recent lockdown to potty train. However we are a bit concerned about the lack of social contact our son has had with other children and adults relative to what he had during "normal life". He does seem less sociable and more nervous with new adults and children than he used to be. It is more of a concern as he starts school in September. Also he is getting more difficult to keep on task. If he doesn't want to do it....he won't! Certain activities such as see and learn cards and the phonics sound cards which previously he could say and do games with really well he now just gets cross and will not engage with at all.	1
Not really applicable to us due to her age.	1

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?)

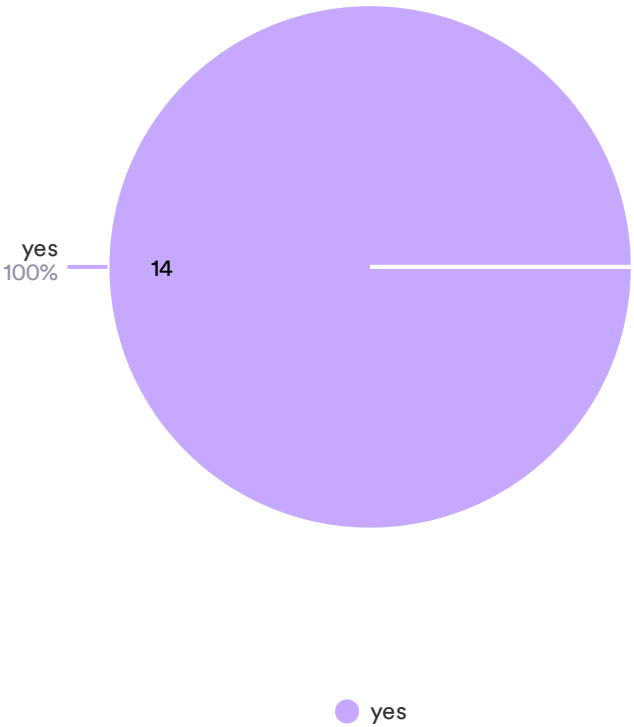
12 Responses- 4 Empty

Data	Responses
They are brilliant! They have given me the confidence to know how to support my baby and give her the best start possible. The advice and activities have had a huge impact on my child's early development.	1
They are absolutely fabulous. My daughter has gained confidence in herself, as well as, improved cognition and speech.	1
These sessions are absolutely vital for both children and parents. Thank you.	1
As answer to first question	1
Brilliant to be back in person! We really appreciate it, especially as Izzi has done the class as a one to one a number of times now as no others from our group have been able to attend. It's a bit intense but very beneficial for us both. Our son needs the structure & practice at sitting and working on tasks with a teacher. Since coming back we have all had a renewed focus and enthusiasm for working on tasks at home. As a parent I really benefit from all the support and help. And especially as we plan for starting school in September the offers of training and involvement from DSTSS for school are a big help and reassurance for us.	1
I love them. It's so nice to be amongst people who understand and who can provide specific, focused interventions which will directly benefit my child. Muscle strength is developing and I know what the next steps are in order to help her progress further.	1
As mentioned above. They have been invaluable for Oliver. For me, having resources and knowing what things to be working on and	1

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

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

14 Responses- 2 Empty



Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

Can you say how/ why?

14 Responses- 2 Empty

Data	Responses
Definitely! This early intervention is already impacting on her early communication & physical development. Can't wait to see what she can achieve!	1
Without a doubt, the early development groups have played a crucial role in the learning and growth in my child. I would be absolutely lost without them. I better understand DS and what techniques I need to use to support my child. It's wonderful to see her blossom, something I was told by doctors she might not do. The staff at the centre are extremely knowledgeable and I'm grateful.	1
We are able to apply some tips and ideas in everyday situations. Whether supporting general learning or taking the edge of frustration linked to communication issues. Support in terms of Early skills development will definitely be an advantage in a school setting.	1
The sessions give guidance on the best way for our children to learn and under normal circumstances their school 121s are also in the group to take the skills back to school.	1
Absolutely! These groups have given us so much help! 1. Communication- how to use sign and communicate better with our son. To help his understanding and to help develop his own speech and communication. Use of articulation sounds has been a massive help. 2. We would not have introduced number or whole word recognition without the help of this group. We have a much better awareness of how our little boy can be helped to learn. I feel we are more optimistic about a future in mainstream school as a result and are more confident in that decision. Overall we have a much better awareness of how to parent a child with additional needs. We already have an older child but we have had to learn a slightly different way of parenting this time around! Our sons behaviour is sometimes a challenge but I feel we have better tools to deal with this. Also I think the emotional support and friendship has been invaluable to me. It is good to know that we're not alone. For example when we were struggling with behaviour during a long hospital stay we could contact Wendy and Izzi in a crisis who knew us all and could give us some brilliant advice about what to do. Thank you to you all!	1

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups

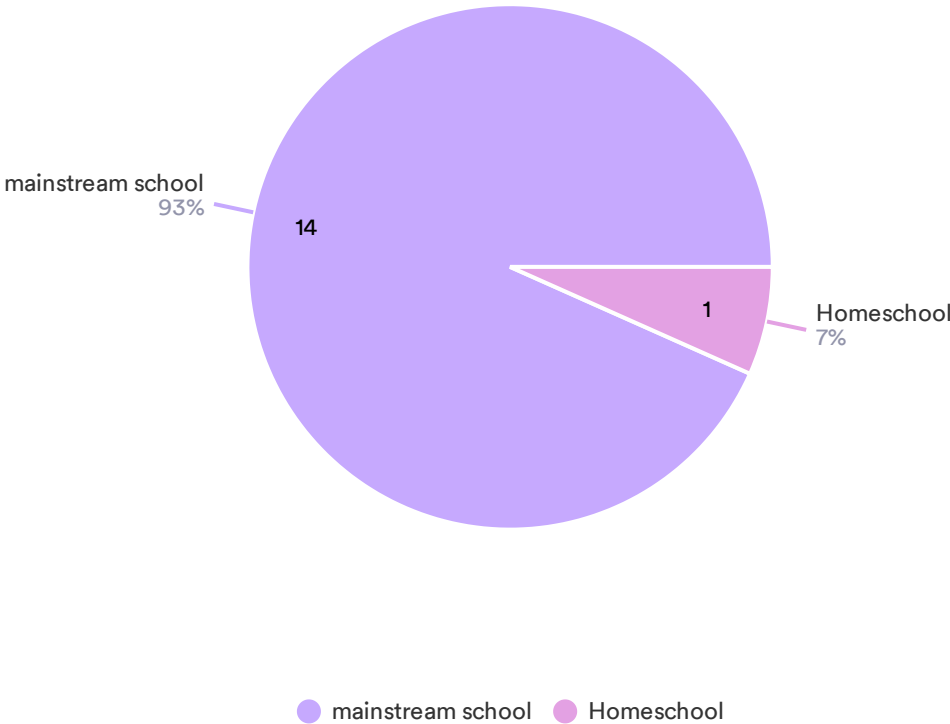
Is there anything you think we could do to improve the Early Development Groups? (e.g. timing, resources, general organisation etc.)

13 Responses- 3 Empty

Data	Responses
No. They're run really well	1
Increase the number of face to face sessions a month.	1
It's great. Let's just get back into the class. 😊	1
Perhaps a summary email of what was covered in the group for reference in future - sometimes there are tasks that my child is not ready for, so having the information on file for the future in school would be useful.	1
If the other children from our group are not going to return in person we would be happy to join with another group at a different time if that is easier for you. (I think our son would also benefit from the social interaction and learning in a group again as these are important skills for school).	1
Not really, only been to a few so far and have felt they've been beneficial.	1
This is a very personal view.... But have the children sitting at table and chairs in the groups. Oliver focuses a lot better and is distracted by other children being noisy or active. The speech and language group we attend has the children all seated and it works well (obviously only in the age group where the children are sitting independently) And for the moment, maybe continue to offer a zoom session for those who have not yet returned to face to face groups.	1
No	1

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

15 Responses- 1 Empty



Thank You!

Early Development Group Evaluation:our groups