

Family Links workshops at Oxford Brookes University

BA (Education) student feedback

In Autumn 2010, a series of four workshops in the Nurturing Programme were offered to 3rd year students following the SEN pathway of the BA (Education) at Oxford Brookes University. They explored social and emotional aspects of learning, giving students time to reflect on their practice and extend their range of emotionally literate skills for positive behaviour management in the classroom.

Students completed questionnaires before and after the training, with 23 out of 29 completing both questionnaires. The table below shows the significant shift in students' own perception of their expertise (1 = not at all confident and 5 = extremely confident).

Pre-training Evaluation	1	2	3	4	5
Leading a circle time session with a group of children		1	7	14	1
Dealing with challenging behaviour	1	2	16	4	
Taking responsibility for behaviour as well as learning in the classroom		2	9	11	1
Responding empathically to the emotional needs of children			6	16	1
Giving and receiving constructive criticism		1	10	12	
Implementing effective reward systems in the classroom			7	14	2
Post-training Evaluation	1	2	3	4	5
Leading a circle time session with a group of children				18	5
Dealing with challenging behaviour				18	5
Taking responsibility for behaviour as well as learning in the classroom			1	15	7
Responding empathically to the emotional needs of children				12	12
Giving and receiving constructive criticism			1	17	5
Implementing effective reward systems in the classroom			1	7	15

Responses to the question "Which key skills will you take away from the course?" included:

"Confidence in myself and my teaching; relationship building with 'disruptive' children."

"Giving children a choice in their actions. Do not go on the attack. Find the problem and try to find an intervention to help them."

"How to deal with challenging behaviour through the use of choices and consequences. Also how to implement a reward system effectively."

"Try things out, but don't feel forced to use them."

"Use non-verbal attention grabbers. Allow children to choose their rewards."

"How to give and encourage positive praise. Do's work better than don'ts."

Comments about the course overall included:

"A hugely enjoyable and inspiring experience, which will definitely enhance my teaching."

"This course has raised my confidence in the classroom."

The workshops are running again in Autumn 2011. For more information please contact Schools Director Gail Allan gail.allan@familylinks.org.uk.