

Family Matters

in Warwickshire

Working in Nursery Settings

The first few years of a child's life, with a particular emphasis on the first two years, are absolutely crucial when thinking about their long term wellbeing. Neural architecture is laid down and patterns of interacting with people and the world around them develop that can last a life time. It is a privilege and a responsibility when a parent entrusts their child to you.

Family Matters offers a range of support to nurseries in this challenging but rewarding task:

Staff training

We can provide informal discussions, workshops or more formal seminars on a range of topics including attachment theory; infant mental health and baby brain development; behaviour management; and promoting positive self-esteem and well-being. This is not an exhaustive list and we are happy to discuss other topics.

Child Observation

If you have concerns about the behaviour, development or emotional well-being of a particular child, then we can observe, assess and/or advise on promoting change. This would need to be with written parental consent.

Room Observation

Sometimes there are one or two rooms in a nursery that seem to present particular challenges. Whether that is due to staff inexperience, complex children or a combination of the two, we can observe a session and provide feedback on how to move forward.

Consultation

More regular contact can be arranged through setting up monthly meetings. These can then be used for whatever seems most pressing at that time: reviewing nursery policy and procedures relating to emotional, social and behavioural issues; a quick refresher on child development and behaviour management; discussing individuals causing concern; revisiting management plans that are ongoing, and so on.

Direct work / Co-working

We are happy to work directly (with consent) with individual children or, more likely, support a member of staff on devising and implementing an intervention. It can often be helpful to involve the parents/carers in this process to ensure the same strategies are being used at home as in nursery. If you have other professionals coming into the nursery, for example a health visitor or speech and language therapist, then we are happy to co-work with them.

Early Years Foundation Stage (2012) implementation

We can offer support to managers and staff when thinking about all components of the prime area of Personal, Social and Emotional Development. We can assist you in observing and assessing the 'unique child'. We have expertise in what a 'positive relationship' actually looks like and the skills required.

Parents Evenings

We could join you on your open evenings or run special parents' evenings discussing topics of interest. Popular themes include managing tantrums, toilet training and how to raise a happy child.

Many nurseries find that having the services of an experienced clinical psychologist to call on, for whatever reason, is a selling point with families and is viewed favourably by Ofsted.

Our work together can be on an ad-hoc basis or through a tailor-made contract. Costs would vary depending on the type of work, the regularity and length of our involvement. Please contact us and we would be happy to visit you at no charge to discuss what we could offer you.