

CASE STUDY 1

Fostering employability in primary schools: Careers in Care with Edinburgh College

Partners

Edinburgh College partnership with schools in Edinburgh and the Lothians

Focus

Career aspirations and skills – encouraging children to think about different careers, especially careers in care.

Success factors

- Raising awareness of jobs/careers
- Links to the Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence

 “...school/college partnerships which provide opportunities for young people to develop skills in a relevant and, work related environment.”

Building the Curriculum 4

Opportunities to carry out different activities and roles in a variety of settings have enabled me to identify my achievements, skills and areas for development. This will help me to prepare for the next stage in my life and learning (HWB 2-19a)

When I engage with others, I can respond in ways appropriate to my role, show that I value others’ contributions and use these to build on thinking (LIT 2-02a)

I can show my understanding of what I listen to or watch by responding to literal, inferential, evaluative and other types of questions, and by asking different kinds of questions of my own (LIT 2-07a)

- Guest speakers in a variety of roles within the sector
- Addresses gender roles in work
- Reflection: personal and professional
- Mindfulness: useful skills for all careers
- Parental involvement

 “The Careers in Care programme delivered by Edinburgh College has been fantastic for our pupils, it has provided our P6s with an invaluable real-life experience. Not only did the course give our pupils an insight into the care sector, it also helped them to develop many other key skills which will support their future development and ultimately better equip them for life outside of primary school.”

Wallyford Primary School depute headteacher
Lindsey Barley

 “With the government’s increasing commitment to ensure that all children get the best possible start in life, there has never been a better time to begin developing and inspiring the next generation of care workers. A career in care can be so rewarding and the course aims to educate young people about the career options available to them.”

Edinburgh College lecturer Angie Thomson

 “The Careers in Care course provided a meaningful work and life experience where the children became part of a staff team and had the opportunity to learn about a variety of careers in the sector. This course was engaging, inspiring and rewarding. It was a privilege to work with the students, parents and staff involved.”

Edinburgh College DYW Strategic Lead Deborah Robertson

Impact

From 2018 the College worked with 3 councils: Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian. Approximately 240 children had this experience.

Careers in care

Established in 2018, the Careers in Care (CiC) programme addresses the long-term workforce needs of the Scottish Government 2020 Blueprint as well as encouraging role gender equality.

The programme encourages children to think about different careers, especially careers in care. Children are enrolled as a college student for 6 days over 6 weeks. The course is a mixture of attending college and working as a member of staff on a placement. A variety of careers within care are included as well as the skills required for many careers. These skills could be used in many other professions, not just care.

All four college campuses host pupils, the particular campus attended is dependent on ease of travel for pupils. Risk assessing for the children coming to college is of course vital. Red CiC t-shirts are provided to increase visibility. Students have lunch in the canteen and can bring a packed lunch or money for the canteen. The class teacher and lecturer are with the children at all times during their time in college.

Professionals from a variety of other areas of the care sector who are willing to share their experience of working within care are invited to contribute to the programme by giving guest talks.

Encouraging reflection

Within childcare we encourage reflective thinking on all levels. On the CiC course we encourage the children to think about their experiences each day and give honest feedback. We also start looking at SMART objectives and how we can achieve goals.

Mindfulness

Following on from reflection we also encourage the children to take time to think about their body and how it responds to feelings such as stress, hunger and anxiety. We do group tasks to show ways we respond to these feelings.

Parental involvement

We invite the adults from home to join us on day 1 of the course to gain an overview and answer any questions. Each week the children set their own personal challenge to support the development of them thinking as an 'adult'. Adults from home are invited to attend the graduation ceremony where the children showcase their learning and receive their certificate of attendance on the course.

