

# BLOG

## NETHERTHIRD

Bookshelf of Reading and Research

## NETHERTHIRD EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE



February 2020



Opportunities for children to take part in **INTERESTING and MOTIVATING LEARNING ACTIVITIES** using meaningful contexts and good use of outdoor spaces

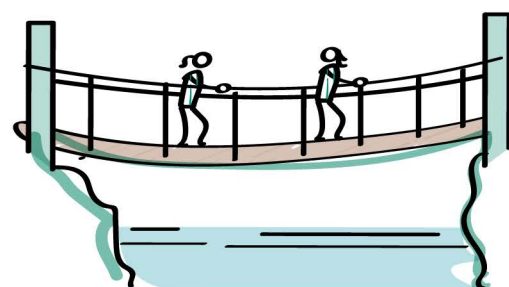
Our previous Depute Head of Centre, Julie Clelland, was the outdoor learning champion and the work with Netherthird ECC and Dumfries House is something that Julie is very proud of in her career.

At first this initiative was daunting for staff, however Julie's enthusiasm and drive led the project forward.

Staff were empowered to take ownership of the project and despite the changes to centre management in recent times, this initiative has continued to flourish.

Key steps along the way included:

- Completing an application for a grant for funding towards the waterproof suits.
- Meeting with Dumfries House staff to get a safe base for the project.
- Planning transport - We were able to make use of the establishment bus to transport the children as we had no 0-3s on Wednesdays.



There are a number of positive impacts of this project. It has developed children's confidence and self-esteem and promoted their independence. The use of the outdoor space supports children's physical development, and their skills in literacy and numeracy.

Children's learning is well documented within floor books and possible lines of development are then created to further their learning. Children's interests are taken forward.

Children, particularly those with barriers to their learning, are motivated to take part when they are outside. Allowing children to explore the outdoors has a huge impact.

Our own risk assessments take place which talk about dangers and develop children's understanding of road safety and the outdoors.

We share our learning weekly with parents and use social media. We held a celebration event at the end of term to highlight good practice and share learning with all stakeholders.

Jemma Donnelly, Headteacher  
Netherthird Primary and ECC

