

Professional Learning for Classroom Assistants in Renfrewshire

Renfrewshire PSDO Kirsty Johnson delivered a professional learning session for classroom assistants to raise awareness and confidence for the delivery of STEM activities with pupils.

It was part of an authority-wide programme of professional learning for classroom assistants which also included sessions on digital, numeracy, and child development.

Kirsty said:

"It was necessary to take into account that many of the participants hadn't undertaken any professional learning for a number of years. There was also a huge spread of experience in the groups generally – some brand new to the post, others who have been classroom assistants for many years. During the sessions it also became clear that there were a number of practitioners with valuable previous STEM experience.

"This was a great opportunity for classroom assistants to network and highlight the important role they play in bringing STEM learning to life."

Laura McCafferty, National Education Officer for RAiSE, said:

"It is wonderful to see the commitment in Renfrewshire to upskill all classroom practitioners. This is a great example of excellent practice which will ultimately lead to better experiences for pupils."

The session included STEM challenges and the opportunity to trial resources including Lego STEAM Park, Botley, Kapla, and a digital microscope.

Topics included the importance of STEM, an overview of the curriculum and STEM's role within that and addressing the concept of science enquiry.

Practitioners said the session was relevant and would impact their work in the classroom having increased their confidence and understanding of STEM.

A link to the professional learning slide deck is available [here](#).



