



When Billy Became Batman!

Billy attends Granby House Nursery, a private day care setting for children of ages 0-5 years, in Rotherham.

Kirsty Buckley is a nursery practitioner based in The Buttercup Barn (3-5 years) and is Billy's Key Worker. In this Case Study, Kirsty looks at how she can support Billy and his Mum as he learns a second language – English.

Introduction

At Granby House we are focusing on the ways we can develop partnerships with our families and support early home learning, especially for our EYPP children. Some of our children are learning English as additional language. We have children from a range of different cultural backgrounds, some children speak Punjabi and Cantonese. We knew it was an important priority to support these families to help with children's progress and development in all areas especially language skills.

Billy has attended our setting since June 2013 his first language is Punjabi; he has shown a great improvement in all areas of development especially Personal, Social and Emotional development.

This is what we did

As Billy's key person I looked at the importance of working alongside the family especially as he is learning English as an additional language

I focused on Billy's interests. Billy loves to dress up, he enjoys trying out all the different costumes and his favourite is Batman. I began to speak to mum about his interest in dressing up and I showed her some photographs of Billy; she asked for a copy of the photograph of him dressed as Batman as he talks about it a lot at home. I printed off the photograph and laminated it, then showed it to Billy, he was so excited to take it home. At home time Billy ran to greet mum at the door holding the photograph "Momma, me look Batman." Billy's mum loved the photograph and was so grateful she couldn't thank me enough.

The next day when Billy arrived his mum asked if I was there. I came to greet mum at the door and she asked about Billy's day and if I had any more photographs to show her, so I shared some pictures of him playing in the water outside.

Building on this I decided to make a communication diary all about his week at nursery for Billy to share with his family. I take one photograph of him doing something he has enjoyed and stick it in his book then Billy takes this book home with him on Fridays to share with all his family.

This way of communicating between home and nursery is working really well. I have recently shown mum Billy's progress file and talked with her about how well he is doing in all areas and how pleased I am with his language development.

"The things that children are interested in are usually the things that they know most about in their home language – this makes a BIG difference for children learning English as an additional language"

How did following Billy's interest in Batman support his development and build a strong relationship with his family?

Building Billy's self esteem

Billy was so proud of the photograph and was excited to take it home to share with his family. He loves his communication diary with all the photographs of him. We look at it together before he takes it home and talk about what he has done.

As Billy's key worker I believe my confidence has built just as much as Billy's. I am so proud of the way his language has progressed. Billy is now able to have a two way conversation compared to using simple sentences a few months ago.

Developing Communication skills

Communication skills have improved because the language barrier has been broken down between the family and setting. Mum finds it easier and has developed in confidence talking with us and sharing things Billy has done at home. We are using a shared language of the photographs of Billy to talk together connecting home and nursery.

Supporting Billy's social development

By breaking down the language barrier social skills become easier to use. Being welcoming and sensitive through sharing Billy's interests together have led to him coming to nursery eager to talk and make friends.

Building relationships with Billy and his family

By listening to Billy's Mum when she asked for a photograph, the relationship developed and so did her trust. We are building on this, taking small steps, and taking the lead from Billy and his Mum



Supporting Billy's language development

Through Billy's interest in Batman we have broken down the language barrier for both Billy and his mum. He always wants to talk about Batman to everyone at home and nursery and we have noticed how his use of English is increasing every day.

Developing confidence of both the child and parent

Both Billy's and his Mum's confidence has grown due to the relationship that has developed between home life and the nursery.

Next steps

- We will ask mum to add photographs from home into Billy's communication diary
- Using Bella the bedtime bear we will ask Billy to choose a story and encourage him to share this with his family at bedtime; and ask mum about the experience to jot down in Bella's diary
- Continue to support Billy's love of superheroes by planning interesting activities based around his interests