

Case study – Early Years Professional Status – Long Pathway



Gorete Farkhard shares more about how undertaking Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) has empowered her to deliver even better quality care and early learning for children and how achieving the status is like ‘winning a prize’.

Gorete is owner of Poohs Nursery School in Eastbourne. The setting was recently graded ‘outstanding’ in all areas at its Ofsted inspection. Much of this achievement is down to Gorete’s passion, vision and innovation but she does not doubt that undertaking EYPS has played a key role.

“I have always believed in training and development,” she reveals. “When I read about EYPS I knew that it would provide a way forward in empowering me to deliver better provision.”

She chose to undertake EYPS with NDNA in partnership with the Open University as it gave her the freedom to study in ways which suited her work patterns as a nursery owner. Gorete is clearly hugely passionate about working with children, and she says “I connect with children and feel a great sense of accomplishment in helping them achieve and enjoy their time at nursery. Working with children gives me so much joy and happiness.”

This drive to do the very best for children in her setting motivated Gorete to undertake EYPS. She was inspired by how it could help her become a ‘change agent,’ with the skills and knowledge to make a huge difference.

Gorete admits that working towards the EYPS standards “proved to be challenging”, but shares that she enjoyed the programme and felt supported by the NDNA team and her mentor. “My mentor was always there for me, she was supportive and always looked at the good things I was doing,” comments Gorete.

There have been many benefits for Gorete and the setting from the EYPS journey. She describes “achieving EYPS like winning a prize, I feel elated and ecstatically happy.” This has had a hugely positive impact for children too, with Gorete revealing the skills and knowledge she developed helps to ensure children become confident learners.

However, the positive benefits of EYPS was confirmed by an Ofsted inspection which saw the nursery achieving a fantastic 17 ‘outstanding’ ratings – which meant that the nursery had received this rating in every area. Gorete’s strong leadership skills were even recognised by the Ofsted inspector who commented: “The manager (Gorete) is a true inspiration. The

passion she has for her work wholeheartedly motivates her team, who all show a clear sense of purpose and extreme commitment to offering an exceptionally inclusive environment for all children.”

The EYP Status helps practitioners reflect on achievements and continuously develop, and Gorete shares that even when she has achieved the best possible ratings from Ofsted, she believes there is more to be done: “I am still busy putting systems in place to ensure I maintain this status. As a reflective practitioner I continue to evaluate and use every opportunity to progress and be innovative.”

Parents too have recognised the importance of the status, and Gorete shares that her EYP Status has helped to confirm to parents that their children are in the best possible hands, cared for by people who understand how children best learn and develop.

So why would Gorete recommend EYPS for other practitioners? “EYPs are agents of change and make a difference. As an EYP, you understand how children learn and develop and you are an inspiration to others in ensuring they too want to achieve excellence for children. I would say to anyone who is thinking of EYPS to simply do it! Knowledge is power, don’t be daunted – see EYPS as a way forward to delivering the best possible practice,” she shares.

Gorete intends to continue on her path to excellence, and is already looking forward to further training and development. She has decided to become a mentor for NDNA and help to support others on their Pathway to EYPS. She also intends to help others experience the huge range of benefits undertaking EYPS offers by supporting others to achieve the EYPS standards.

“Early Years Professionals make a difference and I want to be part of the system that passes that word around,” she concludes.