Case study: Daisy Day Nursery, Vale of Glamorgan successful with small grant scheme

All about our Nursery

Daisy Day Nursery have been providing care to children in Barry and its surrounding area since 2010. We pride ourselves on offering a warm and welcoming environment that feels like a child's home away from home. Spacious and inviting inside, our purpose-built setting also benefits from a large, enclosed garden that's easily accessible for lots of outdoor play time.

The children are cared for in rooms based on their age and development stage, where we combine the structure of planned activities with the boundless opportunities that open ended resources and free play offer.

Children are not just cared for, but valued and celebrated in our nurturing environment. We make it our mission to support each child's needs and encourage their interests. Through the day, the children are invited to create, explore, imagine, and follow their interests.

How did you hear about the small grant scheme?

We regularly check the Vale of Glamorgan funding and grants for childcare providers website for all grants available.

The introductory information outlined the eligibility. The purpose of the grant is pivotal to supporting childcare settings by funding essential capital works. Along with replacing worn or broken items to enable them to significantly improve their premises to promote good quality provision both for the safety and development of children. Therefore, as we needed to undertake some internal building works, we felt this grant would suit us.

Were the forms easy to understand and complete?

Yes, we downloaded the form and saved it to our laptop. It gives you an introduction and information about what you can apply for and what is needed.

The Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority, requested that any setting applying for a grant, have their details up to date and published on DEWIS Cymru, which we have. If we needed support The Family Information Service could have helped us.

We had to provide 3 quotes from reputable companies, with a letter headed paper and a clear breakdown of costs. As we were making an application for building work, we had to submit a business plan outlining our proposal. The Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority signed posted us to Making a plan | Business Wales (gov.wales) to support us with this, as we had to keep it short and to the point.

Once we had the quotes, we completed the form, checked and signed the declaration and posted the application form along with the quotes, to the Local Authority.

How long did it take for the Local Authority to respond to your application form?

The panel consider all application forms on the last Friday of every month, and this is outlined in the Vale of Glamorgan's Introduction and Information for the Application form. Which we read carefully before making the application. An officer from the Local Authority arranged a visit to our setting prior to panel.

Once the panel met, the response was a very quick turnaround. The deadline for the application was 28.05.23 and we had a response for the next steps to support our application by 05.06.23.

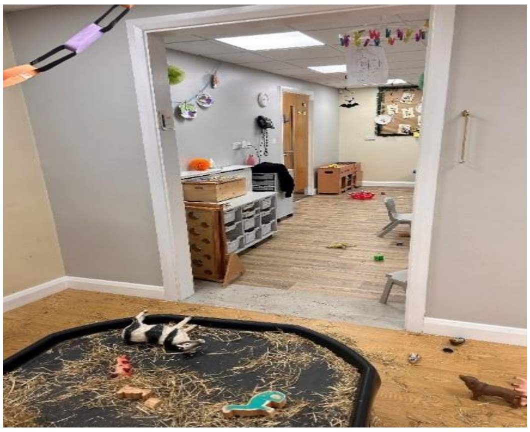
As a setting we had to formally accept the offer in writing and sign up to the terms and conditions of the grant. We had to ensure all the work was completed prior to 31st March 2024, as there is no provision to carry this funding over into the next financial year.

What did you apply for and why?

On our latest grant application we applied for some structural changes to one of our rooms to create a more, free flow environment where the children can independently choose what they want to play with and what space they want to play in.

We also applied for flooring for the rooms that were structurally changed as these would have been bare concreate remaining after structural works were completed.

This is the area that was knocked through leaving bare concrete.



What difference does it make to the children and the setting?

Structural changes between two rooms

The changes that have been made; heave meant that children have free flow access to two playrooms. Previously they had to walk through the children's bathrooms to get to the second room. This meant that they could not free flow.

Flooring for structurally changed rooms (Bumblebees)

When we knocked down the adjoining wall, it took the floor right back down to the concrete – this left an uneven surface with sharp edges.

The work on the floor meant that it could be taken back to an even surface, so no longer a trip hazard, and could be sanded down to remove rough edges. The new flooring made it the same as the rest of the room, which created a warm and nurturing feel.

This is after the new flooring had been laid

Benefits have been:

It’s much more hygienic now that the children do not have to keep walking through the bathroom to access the other room

There is more privacy for the children using the bathroom

The children have increased opportunities to lead their own play

Previously, we sometimes have to limit the use of the two rooms, to one, based on the numbers of staff as we try to avoid lone working. However this barrier has now been removed, as its one big space.

We can see a change from their play. They now enjoy being able to explore both areas whenever they want to.

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Meithrinfa Ddydd Daisy, Bro Morgannwg yn llwyddiannus gyda chynllun grant bach Popeth am ein Meithrinfa

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Mae Meithrinfa Ddydd Daisy wedi bod yn darparu gofal i blant yn Y Barria c ardaloedd cyfagos ers 2010. Rydym yn ymfalchïo mewn cynnig amgylchedd cynnes a chroesawgar sy'n teimlo fel cartref plentyn oddi cartref. Yn eang ac yn ddeniadol y tu mewn, mae ein lleoliad pwrpasol hefyd yn elwa o ardd fawr, gaeedig sy'n hawdd ei chyrraedd ar gyfer llawer o amser chwarae awyr agored.

Mae'r plant yn derbyn gofal mewn ystafelloedd sy'n seiliedig ar eu hoedran a'u cam datblygu, lle rydym yn cyfuno strwythur gweithgareddau wedi'u cynllunio gyda'r cyfleoedd diderfyn sy'n agor adnoddau penagored a chynnig chwarae rhydd.

Nid yn unig y mae plant yn cael gofal, ond yn cael eu gwerthfawrogi a'u dathlu yn ein hamgylchedd meithrin. Rydym yn ei gwneud yn genhadaeth i gefnogi anghenion pob plentyn ac annog eu diddordebau. Drwy'r dydd, gwahoddir y plant i greu, archwilio, dychmygu a dilyn eu diddordebau.

Sut glywsoch chi am y cynllun grant bach?

Rydym yn gwirio gwefan cyllid a grantiau ar gyfer darparwyr gofal plant Bro Morgannwg yn rheolaidd ar gyfer yr holl grantiau sydd ar gael.

Amlinellodd y wybodaeth ragarweiniol p’un ai oedd rhywun yn gymwys neu ddim. Mae pwrpas y grant yn hanfodol i gefnogi lleoliadau gofal plant drwy ariannu gwaith cyfalaf hanfodol. Ynghyd â newid eitemau a dreuliwyd neu wedi torri i'n galluogi i wella eu hadeiladau yn sylweddol i hyrwyddo darpariaeth o ansawdd da ar gyfer diogelwch a datblygiad plant. Felly, gan fod angen i ni wneud rhywfaint o waith adeiladu mewnol, roeddem o'r farn y byddai'r grant hwn yn addas i ni.

A oedd y ffurflenni yn hawdd eu deall a'u cwblhau?

Oeddem, fe wnaethon ni lawrlwytho'r ffurflen a'i chadw i'n gliniadur. Mae'n rhoi cyflwyniad a gwybodaeth i chi am yr hyn y gallwch wneud cais amdano a beth sydd ei angen.

Gofynnodd Awdurdod Lleol Bro Morgannwg bod unrhyw leoliad sy'n gwneud cais am grant, yn cael eu manylion yn gyfredol a'u cyhoeddi ar DEWIS Cymru. Pe bai angen cymorth arnom, gallai'r Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth i Deuluoedd fod wedi ein helpu.

Roedd yn rhaid i ni ddarparu 3 dyfynbris gan gwmnïau cymwys gyda phapur pennawd llythyr a dadansoddiad clir o'r costau. Gan ein bod yn gwneud cais am waith adeiladu, roedd yn rhaid i ni gyflwyno cynllun busnes yn amlinellu ein cynnig. Mae Awdurdod Lleol Bro Morgannwg wedi ein annog i edrych ar wefan Wneud cynllun | Busnes Cymru (llyw.cymru) i'n cefnogi gyda hyn, gan fod yn rhaid i ni ei gadw'n fyr ac i'r pwynt.

Ar ôl i ni gael y ddyfnbrisiau, gwnaethom gwblhau'r ffurflen, gwirio a llofnodi'r datganiad a phostio'r ffurflen gais ynghyd â'r ddyfnbrisiau, i'r Awdurdod Lleol.

Pa mor hir y cymerodd i'r Awdurdod Lleol ymateb i'ch ffurflen gais?

Mae'r panel yn ystyried pob ffurflen gais ar ddydd Gwener olaf pob mis, ac mae hyn wedi'i amlinellu yn y ffurflen Cyflwyniad a Gwybodaeth ar gyfer y Cais. Rydym yn ei ddarllen yn ofalus cyn gwneud y cais. Trefnodd swyddog o'r Awdurdod Lleol ymweliad â'n lleoliad cyn y panel.

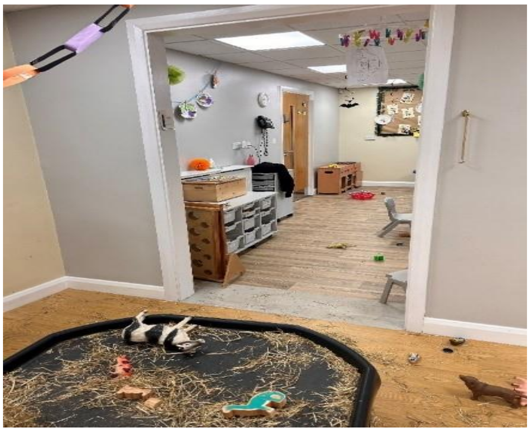
Ar ôl i'r panel gwrdd roedd yr ymateb yn gyflym iawn. Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer y cais oedd 28.05.23 a chawsom ymateb ar gyfer y camau nesaf i gefnogi ein cais erbyn 05.06.23. Fel lleoliad, roedd yn rhaid i ni dderbyn y cynnig yn ffurfiol yn ysgrifenedig a chofrestru ar delerau ac amodau'r grant. Roedd yn rhaid i ni sicrhau bod yr holl waith wedi'i gwblhau cyn 31 Mawrth 2024, gan nad oes darpariaeth i drosglwyddo'r cyllid hwn i'r flwyddyn ariannol nesaf.

Beth wnaethoch chi ymgeisio amdano a pham?

Ar ein cais grant diweddaraf, gwnaethom gais am rai newidiadau strwythurol I un o'n hystafelloedd I greu amgylchedd gyda mwy o lif rhydd lle gall y plant ddewis yn annibynnol yr hyn y maent am chwarae ag ef a pha le y maent am chwarae ynddo.

Gwnaethom hefyd gais am loriau ar gyfer yr ystafelloedd a gafodd eu newid yn strwythurol gan mai concrid noeth a fyddai wedi bod yn weddill ar ôl cwblhau'r Gwaith.

Dyma'r wal a dynnwyd lawr gan adael concrid noeth.



Pa wahaniaeth y mae'n ei wneud i'r plant a'r lleoliad?

Newidiadau strwythurol rhwng dwy ystafell

Roedd y newidiadau a wnaed yn golygu bod plant yn cael rhyddid i chwarae rhwng dwy ystafell chwarae. Cyn hynny roedd yn rhaid iddyn nhw gerdded trwy ystafelloedd ymolchi'r plant i gyrraedd yr ail ystafell. Roedd hyn yn golygu na allent symud yn rhwydd rhwng 2 ystafell.

Lloriau ar gyfer ystafelloedd sydd wedi'u newid yn strwythurol (Bumblebees)

Pan wnaethon ni dynnu wal gyfagos i lawr, fe aeth â'r llawr yn ôl i lawr i goncrit - gadawodd hyn arwyneb anwastad gydag ymylon miniog. Roedd y gwaith ar y llawr yn golygu y gellid mynd ag ef yn ôl i lawr gwastad, gellir ei sandio er mwyn cael gwared ar ymylon miniog fel na fyddai perygl o faglu mwyach. Roedd y llawr newydd yn ei gwneud yr un fath â gweddill yr ystafell, gan greu teimlad cynnes a meithringar.

Mae hyn ar ôl i'r lloriau newydd gael eu gosod.

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Mae'r buddion wedi bod fel a ganlyn:

Mae hyflendid yn llawer gwell nawr gan and oes rhaid I'r plant gerdded drwy'r ystafell ymolchi I gael mynediadi ir'r ystafell arall

Mae mwy o breifatrwydd ar gyfer plant sy'n defnyddio'r ystafell ymolchi

Mae'r plant yn cael mwy of gyfleoedd I arwain eu chwarae eu hunain

Yn flaenorol, a weithiau roedd yn rhaid I ni gyfyngu ar y defnydd o ddwy ystafell, I un, yn seiliedig ar nifer y staff wrth I ni geisio osgoi sefyllfoedd gweithio ar ben eich hun (lone working). Fodd bynnag, mae'r rhwystr hwn bellach ddim yn briodol, gan ei fod yn un lle mawr.

Gallwn weld newid yn y plant o ran eu chwarae. Erbyn hyn maen nhw'n mwynhau gallu archwilio'r ddau ardal pryd bynnag maen nhw eisiau.

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