

30 Things To Do Before You're 3!

Challenge Update June 2016

A Fantastic Uptake!

We have had a fantastic response from childminders, schools, settings and children's centres to the '30 things to do before you're 3' challenge. The Northumberland library and health visiting services are also promoting '30 things to do before you're 3' with families.

practitioners can't adapt the challenge to provide experiences which will support older children on their journey towards school readiness. It has been so lovely to see how settings have chosen to launch the initiative in their own unique ways with many

Celebrating & Measuring Impact of the Challenge

The Early Years Team would love to know how you are celebrating your children's achievements and any impact which you've seen a result of the challenge. Get in touch to let us know so we can share and celebrate everyone's successes!

If you still haven't launched the challenge in your setting it's not too late. Just get in touch with kay.summers@northumberland.gov.uk or a member of the Northumberland Early Years Team for all of the '30 things' information and resources you will need to get started. Although the challenge is aimed at our funded two year olds, there is no reason why

settings already planning how they will celebrate with families at the end of the challenge. The Early Years Team will provide a certificate template for those settings who wish to provide one for all of the participants in the challenge. Get in touch if you would like the certificate to use during your celebrations.

A Celebration of Learning

...

Prudhoe Children's Centre will be hosting a play day on 3rd August which will include a celebration of all of the experiences which their two year olds have had as part of the 30 Things challenge.

They are inviting families and practitioners in the local community to come along and join in with the fun. If you would like to take part please contact Vicki Mailey.

As part of the celebration event, each child will be presented with a certificate and photograph from the challenge.



How are settings using the '30 Things To Do Before 3' challenge?

Shilbottle Friendly Frogs

"We have set the challenge for all the two year olds and their parents. I have talked to the parents about the activities and have turned the passport into a sticker chart so the children have something to fill in.

We used the picture cards by putting them onto a key ring so the children can carry them around. I have asked all parents to document what they have done through pictures of their children.

"I will be sending Fred the Friendly Frog home with each of the children so they can show Fred the different activities they have been doing at home. They then can fill in his dairy so we can all share it together.

I am planning on doing a stay and play during the summer term where the parents and carers and stay and play with own children for the whole session. I will set up some of the activities and experiences from the challenges so we can all do them together as a group."

Little Tinklers, Corbridge

Little Tinklers have been using Tapestry to share the 30 Things challenge.

"Every Friday we mailshot the parents a 'Tinklers Task' for the weekend which they can then upload photos / videos of for us to share. These have been followed up during the week at Nursery so we have been making bird feeders, planting bulbs, going on spring walks, baking, etc.

Since setting this task, we have seen a much bigger participation in parents adding to the journals - they have even started sharing other experiences / activities they have enjoyed, and the staff can share these and reply."

Maya Morgan, Childminder

"Each child has received a book in which I stick in two of the activities. The children take the book home over the weekend then bring it back to talk about the things they did with their parents. In July we will organize a prize draw to celebrate the children's achievements."

Hexham Priory School

Hexham Priory School is a community, special school for pupils aged 2-19 years who experience severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. The staff at the school have had great success in engaging their families in the '30 Things' challenge. They have particularly noticed the impact of the initiative on one of their more vulnerable and hard to reach families. Before starting the challenge, the family didn't use their garden and it had become overgrown and unusable. The family has since had support to clear the area and has shared a range of photographs via email linked to the outdoor elements of the challenge such as chalking on the ground, playing football and building sandcastles in their new sand pit.

The school has found that printing photographs for families has helped to encourage parents to share the experiences they are having at home linked to the challenge.

Involving parents and children in the implementation of the challenge at Blyth Valley Children's Centres

Here at Blyth Valley Children Centres we asked our parents forum what they thought about the challenge and how could we roll out this information to encourage better participation.

Focus from some of the parents was about the challenge 'make a list and go shopping' with comments

such as:

"it's a nightmare to take them shopping"

"I won't be able to tick that box"

"no way we are going to do that"

Staff at Blyth West Children Centre got creative and asked the children for ideas. A meeting room has now been turned into the 'Monster Market', a shop of their very own that all of the children are able to access and experience. The Children's Centre has also been approached by other local settings who have expressed

interest in bringing groups of their own children along to use the Monster Market.



Moving forward, the Children's Centre are planning to facilitate sessions where parents can come along and use the Monster Market with their children.

Ruth Brooks (Manager)

Some of the children at Blyth Valley Children's Centres enjoying the 'Monster Market'

