

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 19 SEPTEMBER 2000

THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Education Committee of The Hundred Languages of Children Exhibition and other events which involved staff and young children from East Ayrshire schools and nurseries, and nurseries in the private and voluntary sectors.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Hundred Languages of Children is a display of art work produced by children attending pre-school centres in the town of Reggio Emilia in Northern Italy. Pre-school in Italy is for children up to the age of six years.
- 2.2. Reggio Emilia has become renowned worldwide for its forward thinking and exemplary approach to early childhood education.
- 2.3. The Reggio Emilia pre-schools have a very child-centred approach to the curriculum, much of which is accessed through Expressive Arts.

3. THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN EXHIBITION

- 3.1. The exhibition is touring the United Kingdom and was on display at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum from 1st August to 15 September 2000. East Ayrshire Council was an official sponsor of the exhibition and as such was afforded staff development opportunities linked to this event. Officers from Pre-Five Services and Quality Development attended the official launch of the exhibition on 10 August 2000.
- 3.2. The Principal Officer Pre-Five Services and the Quality Development Officer (0-8) met with Officers from North and South Ayrshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Councils to identify ways of taking a joint approach to promoting this important exhibition.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1. An Information Evening was held in Greenwood Teachers' Centre on Thursday 24 August 2000 to inform staff about the Exhibition and the underlying principles of "The Reggio Approach". Staff from North, South and East Ayrshire Councils attended along with staff from Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Councils.

- 4.2. During the course of session 2000-2001 each of the above Councils will implement their own programme which will have an emphasis on Expressive Arts and in the summer term 2001, a further joint venture will take place.
- 4.3. Throughout the first two weeks of August several nursery schools visited the exhibition in whole staff groups. On the inservice day, 19 August, all staff from the three community nurseries were present at the Exhibition.
- 4.4. During the period 27 September to 30 October 2000 there will be a rolling exhibition of young children's artwork at The Lighthouse, Glasgow. Artwork produced by young children in East Ayrshire will be on display during a one-week period. Precise dates for the East Ayrshire display have yet to be announced.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Any costs will be met from Pre-Five Services Training and Development budget or from Quality Development budget.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1. It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

GOS/JA
15 August 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Education Sub-Committee 11 November 1999 - The Hundred Languages of Children Exhibition

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or Janie Allen, Principal Pre-5 Officer, Tel: (01563) 576185 or Grace Scott, Quality Development Officer, Tel. (01563) 555650.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR, HEAD OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

AGENDA