

My Sustainability Scrapbook

Module Code (ECEY6005) Student
number 2009307

Discover

My 15 minute presentation on Sustainability as part of the John Muir award.

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Today it is a privilege to be able to share my experience as part of the John Muir Award.

I am really connected with the idea on sustainability and I really to reflect on the place I have chosen that I feel will contribute well to children in the Early Years and for a great understanding of how to create a modern Wales.

Now as we know well the John Muir Award has 4 aspects of the award this is to discover, explore, conserve and share. So want to share a place close to where I live in Swansea which is within walking distance to the beach and the Mumbles in Swansea.

This green space is called Clyde Gardens near Mumbles.

What makes this beauty spot so unique is how one minute your surrounded a beautiful sandy beach landscape then within just a road distance you have a park with sustainable bio diverse surroundings these surroundings are quite unique to the rest of some the other green space in the city.

When I say unique Clyde Gardens is unique because the contest of colours within plant life and its blossoming botanical features you could call this place a combination of rainforest features were spring comes to life.

You can identify different birds within this setting and despite being close to a very busy road the place is well conserved with wildlife to feel help nature play its part well.

You can identify different habitats of birds easily by hearing them, sing as if there almost having a conversation with you as you identify different the different species of birds such as sparrows, jackdaws, Magpies, Crows, and even woodlarks,

Having worked in the Early Years settings I have observed how children engage in the Early Years within this eyeing and I have seen great enthusiasm of children explore their creativity and imagination within their own learning.

Research has shown by the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act (2015) for Wales stars that there are 7 wellbeing goals these 7 wellbeing goals are going to promote children in the Early years have good understanding of their learning environment to help future generations show Good understanding of sustainability in the society they live in.

However when we speak about future generations having a good understanding of sustainability it si more then just understanding how our environment works.

In order to promote more sustainable society we need to recognize and reflect on some of our own struggles and overcoming barriers which hinder inequality in our society. For example one of the seven wellbeing goals of the future generations act is a more equal Wales.

This means that in the Early Years children will be able to create a good sense of community around them this sense of community is one where children can learn about mixing different cultures and understanding different communities across our society.

Children can learn about different ways of engaging in their natural world this will give children the opportunity to reflect on what they may not appreciate is on their doorstep.

For example The University of Helsinki on Education for sustainable development (2013) states that children can learn many different engaging in their environment such as different forms of role play. This allows children the opportunity to problem and learn great social skills among one another.

Children will also learn how to take risks and understand the balance of how taking risks in child led play will help children understand how to deal with different social situations they engage in.

At the same time children will realise their own limitations when engaging in play.

Different types of outdoor play can help stimulate children, s imagination for example in many Scandinavian cultures such as Finland the (ESD) believe there is no such thing as bad weather or such thing as wet play it is having the right clothes.

Having engaged with children in the Early Years such as Forest School which the Welsh government have been inspired by shows how children really can see a sense of wellbeing around their environments and how their cognitive functioning broadens.

The (ESD) 2013 states that children learn about different wild animals and children have a good sense of Awe and wonder in their surroundings.

I feel that this specific landscape I have chosen will help children explore more of their outdoor learning.

As part of the John Muir Award I will be conserving an aspect of the environment I have decided to create an apple Bird feeder which is going to help the animals feel well looked after this will enable a biodiverse approach it will help children and future generations in the Early Years contribute positively to their outdoor environment.

(Siraj Blatchford (2022) states that one of the aspects of the four purposes of the new curriculum for Wales is children becoming ethically informed citizens therefore children in the Early Years having access to natural landscapes and outdoor learning environments children are becoming ethnically informed citizens by gaining a good understanding of community and issues related to climate change and being well educated on eco-friendly resources. This means children have a good idea on what part they play as they mature into adulthood.

This can be simple things such as children learning to recycle more it could mean children can how to make their own natural resources such as growing their own vegetables in their parents garden or learning how to reduce using plastic. Children becoming ethnically informed citizens will mean that children have a great sense equity among their peer group

children will gain excellent social skills and learn what is considered morally acceptable such as learning to share toys and learning to compromise different activities.

In accordance with the (UNCRC) the sustainable development goals (SDGs) over the years have been adopted by all United Nations members in 2015 to end poverty and help tackle many issues revolving around inequality.

The (UNCRC) 1989 takes into account full consideration of all children's rights many Early Years may have very good understanding of this however many practitioners think they understand there needs to be more recognition on what on how is to support children's rights in sustainability.

Studies have shown by the Froebelian Pedagogy on everyday activism on sustainability agenda states that children over many generations and even in this modern day have really lost connections with the natural world and connected with nature on many levels. Despite some academics and researchers such as Maria Montessori who believe children are the democratic constructor of leading their own play and this being a big part of children's foundations for overall development both physically cognitively and socially.

However, studies by the Froebelian Pedagogy critiques that on the sustainability agenda children in this day and age are losing connections with the natural world as Froebel states that children are becoming more and more reliant on adults accessing children, s outdoor play.

This argument has been critiqued by studies on the Froebel approach which explored different aspects of child and adult environmental relations which has balanced mutual relationships between children and adults.

I therefore believe moving forward child led play needs to be balanced with limitations however these limitations should not be too restrictive.

So when Froebel Pedagogy states how child led play should not be too restrictive Froebel speaking about how some aspects of connected with the natural world should have a balanced approach of adult contributions and a balanced approach to child led play.

This means moving forward a holistic approach to Early Years settings will combine positive and proactive mutual relationships adults and children working within the Early Years. Furthermore to this debate Froebelian approach to education explored on preschool family trips within the Early Years and observations have been on Sensory ethnography and explorations has been made on children of the ages of between two and four years of age. This type of exploration in the Early Years has shown the basis of sensory elicitation interviews with parents of children within the Early Years.

This was a great opportunity to allow parents and children revisit what children thought were the benefits of sensory development within the Early Years this means allowing children express what their own point view is on outdoor play in the Early Years.

This is an important agenda within the Early Years as sensory development has had many benefits to children within the Early Years and extra benefits to children with specific Additional Learning Needs.

This exploration made ties in well with (Siraj Blatchford 2022 on the New Curriculum for Wales as another aspect of the New Curriculum for Wales is creative contributors certain creative activities on the New Curriculum for Wales have really benefitted children with ASD such as Sensory.

Sensory has been an activity that helps children engage in visual arts that helps benefit their 4 senses such as seeing hearing, touching, smelling, children will engage in sensory activity such as shaking paints on paper and children getting to feel the texture of the paints on their hands.

This activity also has many benefits of children who suffer with fine motor skills problems as they are able to build up their coordination skills and explore how they feel through creativity.

Historically there have been studies by James Lovelock (1972) on Gaia Theory this theory has great in depth understanding of how everything in our natural world is a living organism. Gaia theory a well-known philosophy about the concept of humanity and how this effects the life on our planet Earth.

Studies have shown that Gaia theory has been quite a controversial topic as it has had conflicting ideas with aspects of conventional scientific thinking therefore scientists have argued that not much has been understood what impacts society would have on physical and biological systems.

Scientists have historically critiqued that if we are part of Gaia theory society it is believed by the scientists that this specific hypothesis is a way of proactive environmentalists to excuse their way of saying that climate change is unstoppable.

However the science has previously argued this is impossible for humans to have an impact on climate change or be able to prevent it happening if there is no human progress to have an impact on climate change or to prevent it from happening.

Furthermore, to this debate Gaia Theory and the natural world being a living organism. There is a critical Analysis on what we call Posthumanism the idea that living in the materialistic world we live in society puts so much pressure on human beings as the centre of all important things without realising the natural world plays a big part in our life cycles.

For example, without plants we can breathe in oxygen without any green space we cannot survive in our environment the human race does not realise that without insects such as bees or wasps our planet will die out and this could result wiping out the entire human race.

Even if humans were not to extinct entirely our diet of food will be impacted tremendously and many of the natural foods we grow such as potatoes and strawberries would never be seen again we may even suffer epidemic of starvation towards the human race if we don't take into consideration how bees play a big part in our natural world.

One of the theories of a post humanist world working progressively could be society becoming Net Zero by 2030 also how we as humans can play our part in the environment makes a big difference such as reducing carbon emissions reducing the cars we have on our planet.

One idea has been made that by 2050 all cars may be electrical.

Taking ownership of the mass production of meat and reduce how much meat we consume making sure that meat is sustainable meat and not abused by any systems which damage our planet.

Learning to recycle more is another way of recognizing our planet.

Having a sustainable development plan is a great way of reinforcing more recognition of our natural world.

In accordance with the European Environment Agency (2022) we as a human race have begun to realise what positive impacts sustainability during the Covid19 pandemic. Just before many campaigns were run by the environmentalist activist Greta Thunberg on the impact of our natural world.

This gave us as humans the opportunity to reflect on our the size of our population and whenever there is a degree of over population a pandemic will take place to allow planet Earth to heal itself this does have a consequently effect by bringing the population down. However what many people began to realise throughout the global pandemic was streets were clearer skies were clearer even in the early hours of the morning less noisy polluted cars no aeroplanes were to be seen.

What many began to notice was how each morning you could hear birds singing in every direction you went it was almost like living in complete harmony.

Growing up in a big urbanised City I didn't have access to a local beach however one of the advantages of growing up in a big City like London was having great local access to the parks where as a child I would enjoy engaging









