

Poverty in the 21st century...

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Strategy Two: Flying Start

Introduction on poverty

The topic to be explored throughout this poster presentation is poverty and how it affects children in today's society. There will be clear links made linked to poverty involving relevant theories and legislative documents out in place to help children.

What is inclusion and equality in regards to the Early Years?

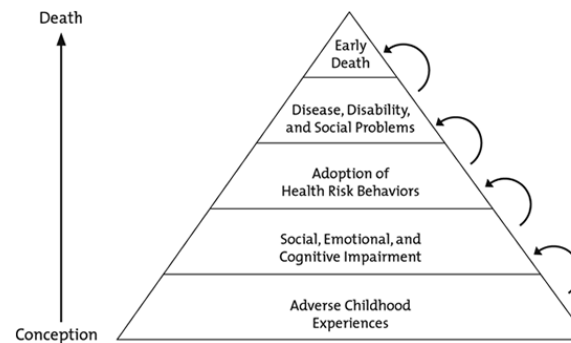
According to Mathieson (2015) inclusion within the Early Year's sector is a vital part of pedagogy and how an inclusive approach can help children build relationships with families and communities. Kay (2012) also adds how inclusion is the Early Years Practitioners obligation to ensure that every child is integrated into the setting. This involves looking at current practices to see if the practices are effective in including all children (Kay, 2012). The current legislation active today is the Equality Act 2010 and (Gov, 2015) discusses how this legislative document sets out to prevent people from experiencing discrimination in the work place and society. However, this does not always happen and in regards to the topic of poverty (Davies, 2008) indicates how children and families experience poverty which defines the discrimination faced as a result of living poverty.

What is poverty and what does it look like in Wales?

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (no date) defines poverty as not being able to pay for essentials for children, rent or bills and being able to heat the home. It means making decisions everyday on what is essential for that particular day. Also, how families cannot provide basic needs of children such as water, food, shelter and clothing (Jenson, 2009). In relation to Wales, Williamson (2018) highlights how Wales has an estimated population of 3 million and how out of that number an estimated 710,000 people are understood to be in poverty. This number includes an estimated figure of 185,000 children living in poverty today in Wales (Williamson, 2015). Therefore, due to this the Welsh Government has implemented a tackling poverty action plans which aims to prevent poverty issues now and in the future (Welsh Government, 2016). This is to ensure that the Welsh government are working toward social justice for everyone living in Wales today (Welsh Government, 2016). However, BBC News (2016) suggests that Wales cannot achieve the goal to end child poverty in 2020 and have as it is not seen to be a desirable goal. Instead the government have put in a place a whole-government approach to tackling child poverty in Wales.

Strategy One: Free School Meals

The first strategy to be discussed in relation to the topic poverty is free school meals and how this aims to improve child poverty. According to BBC News (2017) 760,000 children within Wales today are eligible for free school meals. However, Kentish (2018) suggests that up to 100,000 children miss out on free school meals due to the threshold income of the household. Therefore, families have to have to claim certain benefits to be eligible for free school meals for example income support or income-based job seekers allowance (Gov, 2018). Although, when compared to England Wales seem to dealing with free school meals slightly differently. As in England if children attend a reception, year one or two class then they are already eligible for free school meals. It does depend on household income to determine if a child is eligible or not (Gov, 2018).



(Source: Jenson, 2018)

Education in Wales today is compulsory for children aged 5 and up. Therefore, children are not required to attend nursery at the age of 3 (ref here). Therefore, According to Hutchings et al., (2016) early risk of poor child outcomes were identified and strategies were put in place to try and help both children and families achieve better early outcomes. This is why the Welsh Government came up with the flying start programme aimed at families who have children aged 2-3 to tackle poverty in the early years. The programme is initiated in disadvantaged areas in Wales and currently had 360,000 children attending a flying start by the end of the first term in 2016 (Welsh Government, 2017).



Four main aims of flying start:

- Access to parent programmes
 - Speech, language and communication
 - Free quality- childcare
 - An enhanced access to health visiting services
- (Welsh Government, 2017)

Further reading/ references...

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