



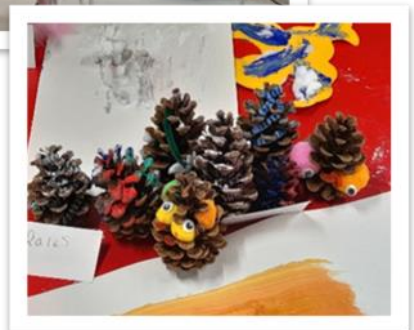
Pop Up Children Centres Summer 2022

This summer the Early Years Alliance (EYA), along with key partners, took the Children's Centre offer out on the road to reach people through service delivery in parks and public spaces.



"Sharing the space with the EYA Children and Family Centre team was very beneficial to us as a service and to the families that we met during each session."

**Feedback from one of
our Partner Organisations**



The objectives, of forming the partnership and running sessions for families, were to:

- Reach families who may not regularly access Children Centre services.
- Promote the full breadth of the partnership's offer to all families.
- Promote our universal parenting offer.
- Provide easy to access support such as the information on the FEEE, access to work and training and health promotional advice for children under 5.
- Provide fun and free family learning activities.
- Provide easy to reach activities for refugee families

During the sessions at the shopping centre parents could access support through our Triple P parenting surgeries, get advice on the '2 year old entitlement' from Lewisham's Family Information Service (FIS) and if parents had a concern with their child's development, they could also talk face to face with a health visitor without having to book an appointment.



Parent consultations

The partnership used the sessions as an opportunity to consult with parents on services in Lewisham; FIS and the Parents Champion collected parental views on access to childcare, quality of provision and challenges to accessing settings.

EYA worked with Impact Matters to consult with parents on their experiences in accessing Children's Centres activities, experiences of sessions, both physical and virtual, as well trying to ascertain the prevalence of support needs in the borough. The results to both consultations can be found on our website www.lewishamcfc.org.uk

Activities provided

To allow our team the opportunity to mix with parents and carers and link them to services we called upon our partners to help provide activities for children.

Horniman Museum and the Wildlife Trust reconnected children with nature, by teaching them about our wildlife's natural habitats and providing bush craft activities at Manor House Gardens.



We organised Circus skills in a number of parks in the borough, providing children with opportunities to learn new skills like plate spinning, diabolo throwing, & pedal-go.

Children learned 'how to become a magician' and were entertained by Gilbert Giggles during our sessions in Lewisham Shopping Centre and, as usual, we provided plenty of opportunities to get involved with messy play with our mud kitchen.



Our Partners included:

Lewisham Family Information Service (FIS), LGT Health Visiting Team, Horniman Museum, Impact Matters, the Job Centre Plus and the Wildlife Trust.

The partnership delivered:

- 15 sessions
- over 6 sites
- to 225 families
- and reached 303 children!

Delivery sites included:

the BOC 'We are Lewisham' space in Lewisham Shopping Centre, Manor House Garden (Pentland House), Forster Park, Chinbrook Meadows, Hilly Fields and Deptford Park.



Feedback from Families

“The entertainer was so fantastic with the children, we wasn’t expecting to have so much fun. For sure we will be back next week!”

“Not the most practical of space, but what a great idea to be in the centre of Lewisham!”

“My little boy sat nicely and was absorbing the entertainment well, especially the magician/comedian Gilbert. There should be more of this kind of activities for families with small children”

“Nice open space for children to be with other children”

“So good having all these services together in one place”

What our partners say

“Sharing the space with Children and Family Centre team was very beneficial to us as a service and the families that we met during each session.”

“Children and their families benefited from having services in one place.”

Benefits of Pop-up Children Centres

Delivering in these large community spaces allowed us to reach larger numbers of families whilst keeping relatively COVID safe.

We could extend our offer to families with children up to 11 years of age and the events gave us the opportunity to attract people to our activities who were in the local vicinity, enabling us to reach new users.

We met local teachers who learnt about our offer to schools, as a result we have plans to deliver in Trinity and Torridon schools later in the year.

Working in partnership with other Lewisham services enabled families to get advice, support and any signposting they needed whilst their children played or were entertained.

Feedback from families and team members made it very clear the free pop-up stay and play session at Lewisham Shopping Centre was needed, especially during the current financial climate.