

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a large academy trust's curriculum strategy
Curriculum Provision	✓	Bringing to life learning about Role Play
Employer Partnerships	✓	Part of an initiative to promote Allied Health Professions
Reflective Young People	✓	Developing Speaking, Listening and Teamwork skills
Informed Career Choices	✓	Inspiring young children about a career in Osteopathy

Role Play is given purpose for Reception class children with the help of Osteopaths

Nursery and Reception class teachers at Noel Park Academy in North London were keen to bring learning to life about Role Play, particularly finding ways to, '*... bring life and passion out of the classroom, to embed learning in concrete action, to emotionally trigger memory ...*' in order to develop '*... ideas together to support making the role play as close to real as possible to ignite passion and interest*'.

An initial suggestion involved work with Osteopaths, challenging the 3-5 year-olds to use role play to provide posture advice about working at a desk and in front of a computer screen or about avoiding RSI problems from the constant use of mobile phones. But a chance comment from one of the teachers about a back problem led to the idea of helping to avoid back problems when bending down to work with very small children.

An experienced Osteopath, working with a student, recorded an informal 3-minute video to explain the role of the profession before showing correct posture and techniques to avoid problems when working at a desk or picking up a heavy weight, concluding with: '*We hear you're doing some work on the human body in your class and we're really looking forward to hearing the results of that*'.

As well as creating Mind Maps and drawings about the work of an Osteopath, teachers created a short video showing the children role playing the part of an Osteopath. This started with '*Hi, I'm Nadia and I'm an Osteopath*' and concluded with a group of children singing '*Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*'.

Benefits for the Students

What can you remember about the work this person does?

'They make your bones healthy.'

'They do check bones and show how to sit.'

What is the most important thing you learned from this project?

'I like learning bones.'

'I watched the video and also I learned how to be an osteopath.'

Benefits for the School

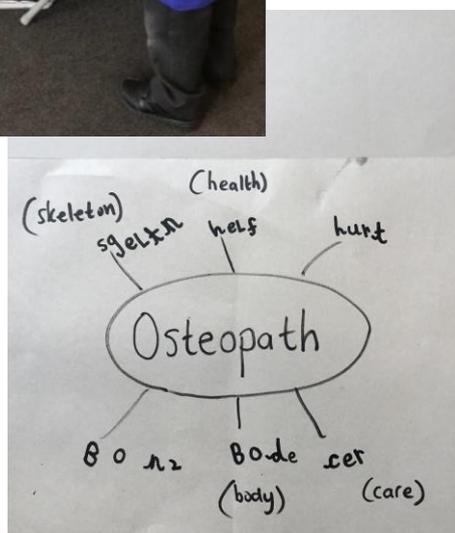
- 'We are very excited about this project.'
- 'We can gather some feedback tomorrow. The children have really enjoyed this project! We are sure they will have lots of positive comments to make.'
- The project supported Role Play, which is especially beneficially for developing language, both for children with English as an additional language and for native English speakers.

Benefits for the Employer

- The short video communicated to very young children that Osteopaths '... learn all about the human body and we work with all different parts of the human body. So, we see a lot of people with neck pain, back pain, joint pain – a whole range of things'. The introduction also allowed a student to share why she was training to become an Osteopath and what she enjoyed about working with patients.
- The project was supported by practitioners from the Institute of Osteopathy, which represents around two thirds of the profession in the United Kingdom.



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An experienced Osteopath sent a short informal video to show reception class children some practical tips that can help avoid problems caused by poor posture and picking up heavy weights incorrectly. As part of Role Play activities in the classroom, children imagined they were an Osteopath, providing advice for their teachers. Group activities also included drawing and creating Mind Maps to consolidate their learning.