

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a Derby Opportunity Area careers initiative
Curriculum Provision	✓	Theme of 'Transport' and 'People who help us'
Employer Partnerships	✓	New primary school resources from East Midlands Airport
Reflective Young People	✓	Evaluated as part of the 'Our Future Derby' programme
Informed Career Choices	✓	Encouraging career aspirations in early years

East Midlands Airport helps to encourage career aspirations in Reception Classes

In the teacher brief, Hardwick Primary School in Derby stated that they, '*... would like to focus the project on Transport/People who help us. This is a topic covered in the Reception Classes ... The resources are car, boats, train tracks, diggers and books related to transport*'.

The topic, titled 'Are we there yet?' includes learning about transport in our local community and around the world. Places near and far (History/Geography) and exploring different types of transport and their materials (DT/Computing).

East Midlands Airport has a significant commitment to community engagement, including an 'Aerozone' education centre. Current resources for schools, including guidance about interview techniques and information about job roles, were mainly aimed at secondary schools. The airport agreed to reshape some of these to test how it could work with children in Reception classes, including role play scenarios and job cards.

Children learned about different parts of a plane and came up with their own design innovations. An area was set up in the classroom for children to use the resources. '*We have spoken about different types of transport and about the people who help us in the last two weeks ... We are introducing the job roles tomorrow in the context of the airport and will be using the scenario cards then.*'

The classroom activities concluded with a visit by a guest from the airport who described more about the job roles and gave children a chance to wear some uniforms.

Benefits for the Students

- Feedback from children showed that they had learned about the different job roles at the airport, including pilot, fire fighter, security staff and cabin crew.

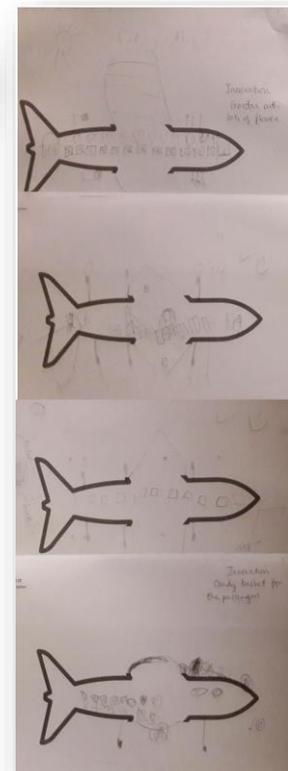
'The children love the airport role play area we have set up and are using it effectively. We have been pleasantly surprised by how much our children already know and lots of our children seem to have already experienced visiting an airport with their families. They are very excited to share their stories with us.'

Benefits for the School

- 'Some of them knew that they needed a passport and what the X-ray machine was that we set up and some of them didn't. So we knew who we needed to target with this.'
- 'It helped by learning about the characteristics and things they needed to do in order to achieve these jobs in the future and think about it in more depth.'
- 'We would usually just look at the transport itself ... It made their learning more meaningful. It stuck more. They got it more. It was real life for them.'

Benefits for the Employer

- The project gave East Midlands Airport a chance to test out how existing secondary school resources could be adapted for use with very young primary school children, also showing how classroom activities can prepare children to make the most of a visit to Aerozone, the organisation's free on site education centre.
- In their evaluation, the airport indicated that the project had been 'extremely worthwhile' and helped them with Corporate Social Responsibility, raising awareness about job roles and their industry sector for both children and teachers, as well as engaging with the local community.
- What do you think worked well with this activity? 'Giving the children items to look at and try on.'



Classroom resources provided by East Midlands Airport were adapted from secondary school materials and used in a role play area and group activity ahead of a visit by a guest from the airport.