



Appendix 2

Brent Virtual School Attachment and LEGO®-based theraplay Training Offer

In school training was offered to schools with one or more children and young people looked after by Brent Council. The training was provided by Susan Lofthouse of HEY Education, and was funded by the centrally retained Pupil Premium Plus. Susan has over twenty years' experience in education. She works closely with senior leaders in schools and children's social service teams, to secure the best outcomes for Looked After Children.

Susan also offers bespoke training for school staff, social workers, and carers, to help professionals understand the educational needs of children with experience of trauma and loss. She is a Master in the Psychology of Education and a member of the British Psychological Society. She has experience in mainstream, special schools, PRUs, and Local Authorities and has been the operational Lead in three Virtual Schools; she was the Brent Virtual School Interim Deputy Headteacher in 2015/16. Susan is also a member of the Hull Adoption Panel.

2 x two-hour workshops were offered:

1. From Risk to Resilience: Attachment in the Classroom

The session included:

- An overview of the key theories of attachment.
- Features of different attachment styles.
- Practical strategies to support children with experience of trauma and loss and/or attachment difficulties.
- Resources: Brain Box Cards - 40 x A6 cards.

2. LEGO®-based theraplay and construction club workshop

A group play based social skills intervention designed to improve social competence in children with social difficulties. The intervention aims to:

- Promote the development of appropriate social, communication and play skills
- Provide opportunities for children to practice social skills such as: turn-taking, listening, sharing ideas, communication, compromise, problem solving and shared attention.

The workshop included

- An overview of the key theories of LEGO®-based therapy
- Practical play based strategies to help children communicate in a fun and naturalistic way
- Guidance on how to set up a LEGO®-based intervention or club
- During the summer of 2016, the courses were delivered to the Virtual School Team, Kingsbury High School, Sudbury Primary School, Elsley Primary School, and an introduction was presented to the Brent Designated Teachers forum.

Feedback from the training:

What do you like about the “From Risk to Resilience: Attachment in the Classroom Workshop?”

“Very clear layout of the lesson, great hand-outs and materials.”

“Taking turns and personalising to child's needs.”

“Personalised to children, the activities, general vibe.”

“The practical interactive activities.”

“Very informative, well organised and well planned with all the different examples.”

“The video clips are good examples to help you understand.”

“Helps learn through play and understand their role during the intervention.”

“I liked how every strategy that was recommended to us to use with the children, we got involved in first.”

“Given practical ideas as well as the theory behind it.”

“Most of the activity was very useful.”

“I have encountered few scenarios myself especially the looked after ones, where there has been "why". It was reassuring that (most) of the things I practise is fair and right.”

“Susan was great, has so much information, I enjoyed the training.”

“Different strategies to calm the children down.”

“Brain box cards are a useful tool to calm the children.”

“Different ways to help the children we work with.”

Question	Average
On a scale of 1-5, overall, how would you rate the “From Risk to Resilience: Attachment in the Classroom Workshop.”	4.3
On a scale of 1-5, prior to the “From Risk to Resilience: Attachment in the Classroom Workshop” how much of the information that you needed did you get?	4.3
On a scale of 1-10, how likely is it that you would recommend the “From Risk to Resilience: Attachment in the Classroom Workshop” to a friend or colleague?	9

The training offer has continued into the 2016/17 academic year and a further eight schools have taken up the offer so far.