

Sustained Shared Thinking

Trainer—Joanne Vallis

- To develop an understanding of the key features of effective adult – child interactions.
- To develop an awareness of Sustained Shared Thinking in practice.

“...in “excellent” settings, the balance of who initiated the activities (staff members or children) was nearly equal, revealing that the pedagogy of the excellent settings encourages children to initiate activities as often as staff. Also staff regularly extended the child-initiated activities but did not dominate them.” **Research by the Institute of Education under the title of “Effective Provision of Pre-school Education project” (EPPE)**

Young children spend a great deal of their time trying to make sense of the world and practitioners need a sound knowledge of child development in order to support children’s thinking and help them to pursue their enquiries.

Sustained shared thinking occurs when two or more individuals work together in an intellectual way to solve a problem, clarify a concept, evaluate an activity or extend a narrative.

Sustained shared thinking is a key approach in helping children to become life- long learners with transferrable skills. Children who have the ability to enquire, consider, reflect, reason, predict, evaluate and suggest creative solutions will be better equipped to succeed in a world where a job is no longer for life and careers are constantly evolving, demanding adaptability and a flexible approach.

Thinking skills and sustained individual and creative thought must be introduced early in order for children to develop as learners and thrive in the future.