

BFS News



15th Edition

October 2016

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Lucy's Explosion in Reciprocal Communication

When our youngest pupil Lucy, started at BFS last September, she was minimally verbal, usually either taking a member of staff over to where she wanted something or using just a single word to convey her meaning. After a year of 'guiding' (RDI) at school, we found ourselves discussing recently at a staff meeting that Lucy's language seems to have exploded - rather than single words or repetitive scripting, she's been using meaningful sentences in the correct context when sharing simple bits of information. Some lovely examples of this include when Lucy sat with Learning Mentor, Jo, and chose the "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" story to read. Jo used only non-verbal communication by pointing to what was happening on the pages and sharing something about the action, using prosody, gesture or facial expression. When she pointed to the bears, Lucy said: "Put on your coat, put on your hat, put on your scarf" as a way of commenting on and sharing with Jo what was happening in the story. At the end, Lucy said to Jo: "I love Goldilocks" and blew the book a kiss. When Lucy sees Flynn, the school dog, she shows great excitement - giggling and talking about her past memories of Flynn: "No Flynn don't eat the cardigan!" "Flynn eat your dinner!" "Flynn ate the pillow in Saoirse's room."



Recently, Lucy has been socialising outside of school with friend and fellow pupil, Saoirse. Lucy loves to reminisce around this and tell Jo: "Went on a bear hunt with Lauren (Saoirse's Mum), Saoirse and Dinny (Saoirse's brother)" or "Fun on a bear hunt with Lauren." Here are the girls at the park.

School will close for the Half Term Break at 3pm on **Friday 21st October 2016** and will re-open to pupils on **Tuesday 1st November 2016.**
Happy Holidays Everyone!



During a playdough activity (without prompts) Lucy will say: "Make a kitty". Staff turn this into a co-reg activity by putting a framework around the activity so that they work together to make a kitty. Lucy responds to staff's pausing by letting them know what needs to be made next: "Kitty needs a body/ kitty needs a head/kitty needs a tail" and so on. Lucy continues to be fully engaged within this activity using descriptive phrases such as "white playdough is sticky."

Lucy often tells us about family members or what's happened at home too. E.g. "Nana's got a poorly foot, go to bed Nana," or "Was sick at Nana's house on Wednesday," and "Ella said there's a balloon on the moon". She's more readily sharing experiences as well and initiating conversation now on her choice of subject. E.g. "Got a wobbly tooth in Daddy's car" or "I like it at Auntie Sarah's". Lucy loves animals and likes imaginative play and putting the animals to bed. As she pretends to put them to sleep in bed, Lucy will say: "Cover the horses' hooves up" or "Cover up with a blanket". Sasha is Lucy's dog and she loves to tell us about him: "Sasha goes woof" or "Sasha's got big ears" and "Sasha's got a fur coat."

At swimming (weekly on a Friday), we never used to hear any comments from Lucy. Now we hear: "Jo go under the fountain" or "Alex is in the bubbles with Saoirse" and "Emma is swimming with Harry" as well as: "I've got swimming water in my eyes". She's recently started swimming on her back, so will say: "Let's see swimming toes." When Harry was pretending to scare us, Lucy began laughing and screaming, saying to Jo: "Harry's scary" but laughing at this as Harry was pretending to be a monster. Lovely interaction from both pupils!

Last week, in a session with Zoe, Lucy initiated joint attention. This is a key developmental milestone (here comes the science bit): 'Joint attention is the shared focus of two individuals on an object. It's achieved when one individual alerts another to an object by means of eye-gazing, pointing or other verbal or non-verbal indications. An individual gazes at another individual, points to an object and then returns their gaze to the individual. It's important for many aspects of language development including comprehension, production and word learning.' A video clip of the interaction can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/2dyzgEw>

The following day, Lucy initiated joint attention again in a session with Jo. She switched her gaze to the wall where some of her work is hung up. Jo looked at Lucy to see what she was looking at and Lucy pointed to a picture and said "That doggy's got big ears". Jo says Lucy's gaze caused her to look to where Lucy was pointing. Jo spotlighted that Lucy was right about the ears and when Jo looked back at her, Lucy was still looking at her and pointing.....seeking Jo's emotional reaction to her comment.

Lucy's ability to initiate joint attention and her explosion in language is likely to be a result of all the co-regulatory interactions we have been focusing on over the past year here at Bright Futures School. **Team BFS** is having a very proud moment right now:)

ASDAN Home Management

Well done to pupils Harry, Matthew and Marley, as they've just completed one of their challenges towards their ASDAN (Awards Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) qualification! The award helps pupils to develop key skills for learning, skills for employment and skills for life. Each of the boys individually achieved Module 4 - Home Management Challenge 2 - 'Plan and prepare a healthy snack'. Harry made Tuna Fish Cakes, Matthew made Chicken Noodle Soup and Marley made Salmon Burgers. They all did brilliantly and every dish tasted delicious! Here's Matthew and Learning Mentor, Ros, showing off their tasty Chicken Noodle Soup. We're looking forward to our next challenge!



Philip Milburn and Marley helped with the raffle tickets. Reports show that Harry Gibbins was guilty as charged of eating a full plate of cake, cookies and coconut macaroons.



Lionel Richie Tribute Night for FBFS

Our recent Lionel Richie tribute night at The Royal George in Greenfield, raised almost £1,000 which will be used to purchase software and equipment for pupils to use in IT and design work at school. Thanks to all who supported us and to Jason at The Royal George for hosting the evening which was a great success all round!



A Visit from the Lord Mayor

Oldham's Mayor, Councillor Derek Heffernan and Mayoress Di Heffernan visited BFS recently to find out more about the school and the specialist work we do here. Upon arrival, the Mayor and Mayoress were introduced to staff and pupils, then taken on a guided tour of the school by Zoe Thompson, School Proprietor and Head of Development and Alison Hughes, Head of Learning. They also enjoyed a cup of tea and biscuits!



Staff News

We have recently taken on a new member of staff, Michael Bailey (Mike), who joins BFS as a Learning Mentor. Mike has over 20 years' experience working within the creative industries. His work to date includes book illustration as well as graphic and set design. Most recently, he's worked as a full-time Carer and Youth Football Coach. He's also provided group support, delivering a variety of creative classes across a wide age range, including one to one tuition for young SEN students. Mike will utilise his creative flair and experience in his role as Learning Mentor. Welcome to Bright Futures Mike!

Help in the Local Community



Our pupil, Marley, helped local community group, Love Lydgate, with some weeding recently and did a great job!

Macmillan Coffee Morning Success

Bright Futures' Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 30th September was a fantastic success. Pupils, Harry, Marley and Matthew helped Learning Mentor, Alex, plan, organise, deliver and review the event. The boys designed and delivered invitations, made and displayed posters, made baked goods and took on roles on the actual day! Fantastic teamwork was demonstrated and staff couldn't be more proud of all the students who made the event the success it was. Afterwards, the three boys produced an article...

Bright Futures School successfully raised over £200 in cake sales. Marley Servio was the tour guide and showed the guests around the school. Harry Gibbins helped Ben Savage make tea and coffee and a guest asked him to specifically get him a strong, black coffee. Matthew Persse's Grandma won the raffle and chose Roses chocolates for Matthew and his brother James, but it is suspected she ate all the chocolate.

Enterprise - Upcycled Tyre Seat

A pupil and staff member worked together to create a tyre seat, using an up-cycled tyre, some rope, and recycled wood. This can be used inside or outside, as a seat, foot rest or any other purpose. It's on sale now for just £40.

