

Improving the service for parents of children with autism

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BUSY BEES

An early intervention group for preschool children with autism and their parents

- Delivered by Speech & Language Therapy and the SENDOS Early Years Team
- 12-15 sessions, once per week
- Focus on early communication, social awareness and play development
- Parents attend session with their child and leave the playroom for the last 30 minutes for a coffee and a chat
- A clinical psychologist developed a pre and post group questionnaire to help evaluate the group which has led to a service improvement.



Old

vs

New

- Pre September 2019, the large venue made it challenging to deliver the communication-focused group intervention to the children
- The children had difficulty separating from parents for last 30 minutes
- Feedback from parents was that they highly valued the support from other parents and also wanted more time with professionals

- Busy Bees resumed in November 2021 in a new venue with access to 2 rooms: a smaller play room for the child group and a meeting room for the parents
- *The Pass It on Parents* organisation provided support and refreshments for the parent group
- A programme of visiting professionals was developed, including information/advice from Occupational Therapy, Specialist Health Visitor, Educational Psychology, Welfare rights etc. for 90 minute sessions

Parent Evaluation July 2022...

Anonymous 10 point rating scale used to gather feedback on how much support parents received at Busy Bees

- ❖ Support from other parents – average rating increased from **7.8** to **9.5**
- ❖ Support from other professionals – average rating increased from **7.4** to **9.6**

“Busy Bees has been the best thing for both of us. I feel more confident as a parent and am not doubting myself about how to parent her”

“Fantastic group and amazing structure and support from all staff”

“I am not alone! There is a lot of support to reach out to, just being around other parents that understand and no judgement”

