

PDTT NEWS

FEBRUARY 2022



Welcome to PDTT News, the first in a series of newsletters for learners at Paddington Development Trust Training.

In this issue we feed back to you what you said about your courses and your tutors; we hear from a learner who has just finished her studies and gone into paid work and we look at what Ofsted (Government Inspectors) thought about PDTT as an organisation.

“She always takes my tiredness away....”

In the latest PDTT survey 87 learners told us what they thought about their experiences answering questions like: ‘Do you get help if you ask for support?’ ‘How would you describe your relationship with your tutor?’ and ‘Have you been helped to achieve your goals?’

The answers were overwhelmingly positive. Learners used words like ‘understanding’, ‘friendly’ and ‘helpful’ to describe their teachers. One said ‘I see her as my supporter’. The atmosphere in classes, both online and in person, was described as ‘professional’, ‘motivating’ and ‘respectful’.

‘My teacher gives everyone a chance to speak,’ said one learner. ‘You can contact her at any time,’ said another, adding ‘If my day is negative, she leaves me feeling positive about what I am achieving’.

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Thank you for your responses to the survey. There is another one coming to you very soon with different questions.

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SO DID OFSTED AGREE?

Well the good news is that they DID agree with the students about the learner experience. They reported that 'many learners on early years courses said that attending learning at PDT has been life-changing for them. They state that the support they receive from their tutors improves their life opportunities and their mental health'.

The inspectors spoke to learners individually across all courses and also visited online classes finding: 'Learners feel very comfortable to raise concerns with their tutors'. They also noted that more and more learners were getting high grades in their qualifications.

However, the inspectors felt some learners who did not have English as a first language were not getting enough support to keep up with others in their class and that some tutors did not have enough information about the levels of knowledge individual students already possessed before they started their courses. They also felt senior managers needed to have more involvement and ask for more information.



The Ofsted report has been read very carefully and we will feed back here on planned improvements in the coming months. We will also be asking for your views about anything you feel should be changed.

LIFE AFTER PDTT.



Ferdousi Akhter left PDT training in October 2021 while studying Childcare Level 3 because she was offered paid work at the nursery where she was doing her placement. Her new role includes supporting a three year old boy who has problems joining in with his playmates.



"I work from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day which suits me because then I can go and get my own children from school. The timing works very well for me although later, when my children are more independent, I may seek full time work and maybe study at Level 4.

I really enjoyed studying at PDTT although it was quite challenging at first. It was a long time since I had been a student – 14 years – and I remember thinking '17 assignments!! How am I doing to do this?' Could I even remember how to use the computer?! But Esther made it fun even though it was online. She kept you on your toes by asking everyone questions. It wasn't just childcare. She taught us how to take notes, how to save material. I really learned a lot.



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LIFE AFTER PDTT.

●●● She related the material to our own lives (we were all mothers) and sometimes she would talk about her own experiences. The classroom had a nice feeling. We were not taught like robots. We would have a laugh and we made a WhatsApp group and helped each other with the work. Obviously it would have been nice to go into a classroom together but if it had not been online I could not have gone as I would not have got back in time for the children.



When I went for my new job it was an internal appointment and it was a competitive interview with the head of the nursery and two others. Because of my theory study I felt able to answer the questions. The knowledge was still fresh in my mind. I remember I mentioned 'structuring learning' and 'scaffolding learning'! I am sure that helped me get the job.

At the moment I am supporting a little boy who finds it hard to share. He won't join in carpet time or group time. He cannot sit still and has real trouble concentrating. I try lots of ways to get him to interact with the other children and I am slowly introducing new language into his play. It's a very interesting job.'

”



PDTT has some spaces on the courses on the next page. Tell your friends to contact us if they would like to know more.

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COURSES WE OFFER



- Childcare Level 2
- Childcare Level 3
- Childcare Level 4
- Teaching Assistant Level 3
- IT Users Level 2 Award
- IT Users Level 2 Certificate
- Functional Skills (English)
- Employability Skills Level 1
- ESOL

Safeguarding: It was good to learn from the Ofsted inspectors found that: “PDTT learners feel safe. They have a reasonable understanding of how to keep themselves safe online. They receive detailed information (about safeguarding) at the start of their course.”

Remember, if something is not feeling right to you or you have concerns about someone close to you, let us know. Issues that can come under safeguarding are: abuse (sexual, financial etc), bullying, radicalisation (people being drawn into beliefs that can be a danger to themselves or others), grooming, forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

PDTT has safeguarding officers who will know how to support you.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

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