

Project on Safety in Playgroups

Copy of report written in 1981

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The origin of my project really began in February 1978, when the Pre-school Playgroup Association (PPA) of Clwyd County set up a working party to discuss the ideas of producing some slides on 'Safety in Playgroup'.

To finance the project various business organisations were approached with a view to possible sponsorship to cover the estimated cost of £100. It was felt that this was a worthy project but we were unable to obtain sponsorship. Fortunately a plea to the Wales PPA Regional Training Committee came to our rescue and our close association with the Officers of Clwyd County Council Social Services and Education Departments supported the idea resulting in the permanent loan of a carousel projector and technical advice and assistance to produce a slide-tape programme.

The working party met six times and it was agreed that I should liaise with the photographer and six playgroups to produce approximately 200 slides so that eventually we could utilise 70 to 80 slides suitable to show to an audience of supervisors, assistants and playgroup mothers. It was recognised that the programme might also be seen by nursery nurse students and also possibly student teachers specialising in nursery and primary education. However, it was agreed that the main emphasis would be on 'Safety in Playgroups'.

Unfortunately many of the original working party in PPA moved on and as the only original member I was determined that, after all the personal effort involved, it would be a pity not to complete the project with a taped commentary to be used in conjunction with the slides.

Following the selection of slides by the working party, pilot groups of



'The shortest sponsored walk on record' Oakenholt Playgroup near Flint
The Chronicle
These children walked twenty times around their hall

supervisors and mothers were used for critical evaluation of our efforts. The first commentary was discarded as it did not seem suitable for the target audiences we had intended.

In devising the present commentary I attempted to add some humour into what is really a serious subject. To emphasise the seriousness, realistic sounds were introduced into the spoken commentary to purposefully shock the audience and hopefully reinforce the programme and its message.

When the photographer, Mr Ted Freeman, and I visited the playgroups we were usually greeted with enthusiasm tinged with some trepidation. However, without exception, everyone appreciated the value of the exercise

and if only one injury was prevented the exercise would have been seen to be worthwhile.

I had anticipated some difficulty in getting the co-operation of such young children in some of the set pictures which we deemed necessary. However, my experience as a Playgroup Supervisor came flooding back and I greatly enjoyed getting back to the 'grass roots', playing with young children again. It was rewarding to know that I had not 'lost my touch'! The children were very interested and curious and our task was not too difficult.

The tape-slide programme could not have been produced without the help and co-operation of many people, not least the children themselves, their supervisors and mothers.

Liaison with the Ambulance Service and the hospital staff was kindly arranged by the Clwyd Area Health Authority, Area Nurse Child Health and I am indebted to Miss Margaret Roberts for her help.

Undertaking this project was a completely new experience for me and my education has been broadened. In conclusion, I would like to thank Dr John Clarke and his team from the Research Centre, Education Technical Unit of Cartrefle College. His words of wisdom and ideas were invaluable and without his enthusiasm and encouragement this rewarding project would not have been completed.