

Case Study – Supporting members accessing the Camau training programme.

Overview of the work

This case study demonstrates how PACEY Cymru have been working with childminders across Wales to support their Welsh language development through the Camau training programme.

What is the background to this work?

With Welsh Government's vision of reaching a million Welsh language speakers in Wales by 2050, there is much more emphasis on the Welsh language being introduced to children and babies as early as possible in order to set the foundations for their learning.

The **Camau** training programme, devised by the National Centre for Learning Welsh supports practitioners in the childcare and play sector to develop and use more of the Welsh language with children in order to give them a good start on their journey towards becoming fluent Welsh speakers.

PACEY Cymru have been working with The National Centre for Learning Welsh and **Cwlwm** partners to provide the sector with tailor made Welsh language training. The Camau scheme is a two part online self-study course at Entry level and has been made available to the childcare and play sector and is fully funded with thanks to Welsh Government funding. The first named Mynediad 1 (Entry 1) and second part named Mynediad 2 (Entry 2). Each course relates to 30 hours of learning.

What did PACEY Cymru do?

PACEY Cymru's main role was to support the promotion of the training with members of PACEY. Through continuous promotion of the course, PACEY Cymru received a great deal of interest in the Camau training. Members were asked to contact PACEY Cymru to express their interests in the first instance, where they would be asked to complete an expression of interest form, followed by a formal registration form to access the course. Once these steps were complete, learners would then have access to the course of their choice with the option of accessing the north or south Wales version of the course.

PACEY Cymru also developed a variety of supporting resources that learners could access on the platform to further enhance their learning. These resources were mapped to the relevant units within the course and promoted by the Welsh Language Coordinators.

PACEY Cymru members were able to access further support during Caffi Clebran sessions. The sessions provided learners with an opportunity to meet other learners accessing the course, to share ideas and good practice, and to ask any questions.

To encourage further learner development, PACEY Cymru have also developed a range of new resources for PACEY members to access which enhances the online course,

focussing on specific themes and interest of the settings. This can be found in the members area of the PACEY website.

To recognise the commitment that members have shown by accessing Camau training or through PACEY Cymru Welsh language support sessions, PACEY Cymru have been able to provide 61 identified individuals with a comprehensive Welsh language resource pack of bilingual books and activity resources. These packs included interactive and sensory books on a range of topical interests including nature, construction, animals, dinosaurs, the weather, toilet training as well as some traditional family favourite tales, which members can use to help enhance the opportunities for children and to further develop the use of Welsh language in a fun and interactive manner.

The response to these packs has been extremely positive and has given members the motivation to continue their learning through Camau and PACEY Cymru.

Testimonial of a Camau learner- Joanne Lane, registered childminder, Torfaen

Joanne has been a registered childminder for one year in Torfaen and cares for nine children between 1-10 years. Joanne heard about the Camau training through PACEY Cymru's e-newsletter and social media posts.

Joanne explained that her reason for taking up the Camau training was to develop her basic knowledge of Welsh having noticed a growth in the emphasis on the language being used in nurseries and schools, and therefore wanted to be able to provide the same opportunities for the children in her care.

Joanne commented that the Camau training was at the right level for her, appropriate for her role and very interactive.

Joanne goes on to say that; *"I've actually been surprised at how much Welsh language has come back to me from my time in school. The units are relevant to my setting and not too in-depth, which is perfect for what I was looking for at the moment. To be able to support those children who are learning in other settings and to send children off on to the next stage of their learning journey with some basic knowledge of the Welsh language is my long term goal".*

Joanne was positive about the support received from PACEY Cymru

Having accessed Camau training, Joanne shared that she has used more of the Welsh language within her practice. Joanne noted;

"I have used basic commands and recently used my Welsh learning to add details to a new resource I was making with shapes and colours. It had also increased my confidence with pronunciation when reading books that contain Welsh language". I have included Welsh words for colours and shapes on a new shape sorting resource that I was making for the children."

Joanne was delighted to receive the Welsh language resource pack as outlined above from PACEY Cymru. , *"I just wanted to say a massive thank you for the Welsh language books and puzzles that I've received this evening. It was such a lovely surprise to open the*

box and see all these wonderful books and I can't wait to share them with the children. I am genuinely touched that you have sent them to me. I was on the look out to get some new books as a lot of mine have certainly seen better days (although I can't complain, many I've had since I started and they have been very much loved!). This will increase the number of Welsh language books I have access to immensely and I'm sure they will be great for building my confidence, as well as enjoyed for a long time to come."

Joanne's advice to those thinking of taking up the training is:

"Go for it! Try to set aside time to work on it, but just do what you can when you can"...

Further information

For any queries please contact PACEY Cymru on 02920 351407 or email paceycymru@pacey.org.uk