

## You Make the Difference - How the training has influenced practise 6 months on

This report details the responses from a telephone questionnaire carried out between Dec 2004 and February 2005 of staff who attended the You Make the Difference (YMTD) training in May 2004.

23 and 21 people attended the YMTD Training Workshops held in May 2004 respectively. 30 were SureStart staff, 10 were Speech & Language Therapists and 4 were Primary School Teachers.

After SureStart staff were sent on the YMTD course it was decided that they would be asked to complete a feedback form in May 2004 and another questionnaire 6 months later.

**This report documents the feedback from the questionnaire 6 months after the training, which was aimed at finding out how the training has influenced their practise.**

### What is YMTD?

YMTD is a parenting skills course aimed at helping Parents to communicate and interact with their children effectively.

When rolled out in the programmes the course consists of 9 sessions held over 9 weeks.

In the first part of each session the course leaders talk to the parents about Parent - Child interaction and then in the second part Parents play with their children putting into action what they have been taught earlier.

## **Relevance to SureStart targets**

The specific targets that the YMTD training can help towards are

### **"Improving Children's Ability to Learn"**

PSA "to increase proportion of children with normal speech and language development at age 2 and increase normal levels of communication, language and literacy at end of foundation stage

As well as having an impact on

### **"Improving Social & Emotional Development"**

PSA "achieve increase in the proportion of babies and young children with normal levels of personal and emotional development for their age"

Although attempts were made to contact 17 people, there were 12 respondents to the survey from across 7 programmes (2 from Uplands, 2 from Rood End, 4 from Burnt Tree, 1 from Friar Park, 1 from Cradley, 1 from Rowley and 1 from Tipton).

In order to ascertain the views of staff they were asked a series of 9 questions.

At the time of the questionnaire only one programme (Rood End) had completed the course to parents.

What follows is an analysis of the responses to the questions asked.

## Could you tell me what you remember learning on the YMTD course?

The responses to this question can be summarised as follows,

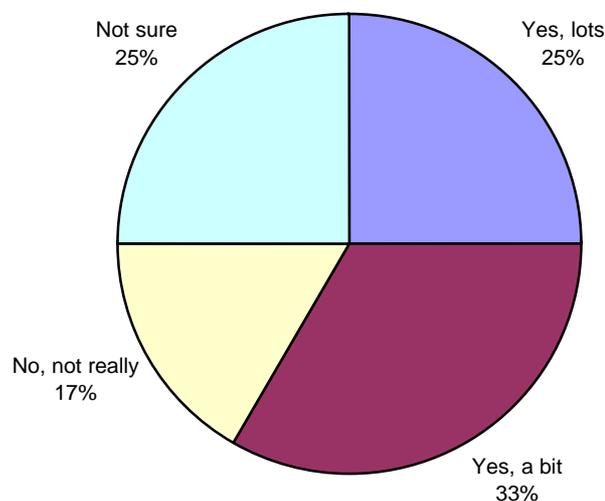
- the Videoing aspect of the course and its use in illustrating to the Parent positives and negative approaches of interacting with their child (5 people)

Video footage is taken with the aim of "catching the Parents being good" - capturing moments where Parents are "in tune" with their children. This footage is later shown to help build the confidence of Parents in the new strategies and also show a before and after effect.

- interaction with Parents (3 people)
- the 'Bubbles' concept (2 people) (during a session the child's reaction is observed whilst bubbles are blown)
- Group work involved and (1 person)
- the "boring repetitiveness" of the course (1 person)

This question is particularly significant considering many respondents were recalling things from over 6 months ago and many of the programmes had not yet delivered the training to Parents.

## Do you feel the training has influenced your work?



Almost **two thirds** (25% Yes lots and 33% Yes a bit) responded positively stating that it had **influenced a bit or a lot**.

**17%** stated it had **not influenced** them with **25%** responding **not sure** to the question.

Of those that stated it had **influenced them a lot**

- it had backed up what she had learnt at college (1 person)
- specifically mentioned the 3A principle (Allow the child to lead, Adapting to share the moment, Add words) taught on the course and how it had made her consider how she interacted with children (1 person)
- it had changed the way she worked with parents (1 person)

Of the 4 people who said that it had **influenced them a little**

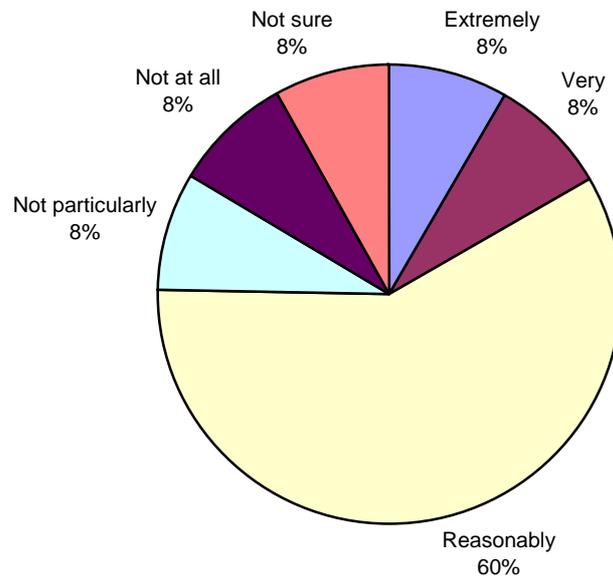
- it was in the interaction with the child e.g. letting the child lead , negotiating with the child (1 person)
- in encouraging interaction between the parent and child during sessions (1 person)
- reinforced practice (1 person)
- did not answer the follow up question (1 person)

Of the 2 people stating there had been **no influence** from the course the responses suggested that they already incorporated practices, such as the child leading, in their sessions.

Of those answering **not sure**,

- they had not implemented the training since doing the course (3 people)
- stressing concerns around Parents possibly not being comfortable being videoed and also stating the structure is too strict and inflexible (1 person)

How useful do you think the training has been to you personally?



2 people found the training to be **extremely useful** or **very useful**. Whilst the majority (7 respondents) found it **reasonably useful**.

2 people found the training **not particularly** or **not at all** useful.

Of the two who found it **extremely Useful** or **very useful**

- used the training on her own daughter and observed the benefits (1 person)
- improved their personal development and built up their confidence (1 person)

Of the 7 responses stating that it had been **reasonably useful**

- would have had more of an effect if they had been using it in sessions (2 people)

The other 5 respondents remarks ranged from

- it being an additional form of support that the SureStart could offer
- backing up previous knowledge.
- another aspect SureStart could offer
- had broadened knowledge
- and that it was a more interesting approach to working

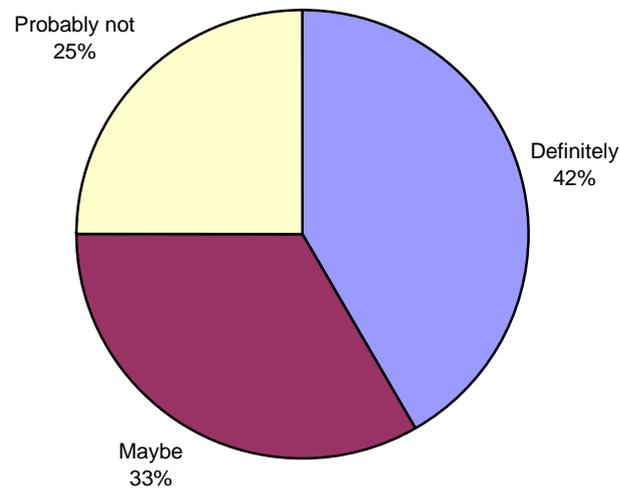
Of the 2 people finding it **Not at All useful** or **Not Particularly**

- having worked in SureStart she was aware of the concepts before anyway and therefore it had not built on her knowledge (1 person)
- 1 person stated that it was not her line of work

This suggests that the majority of respondents , 76% (those answering extremely, very or reasonably useful), view the training in a positive light after 6 months.

This ties in with the initial enthusiasm picked up in the questionnaire conducted soon after the course.

## Would you recommend YMTD training to other SureStart programmes



**42%** said they would **definitely recommend** the YMTD training to other SureStarts with a **33%** stating **maybe** and a **25%** stating **probably not**.

Those stating they would **Definitely Recommend** the training did so due to it being a way of

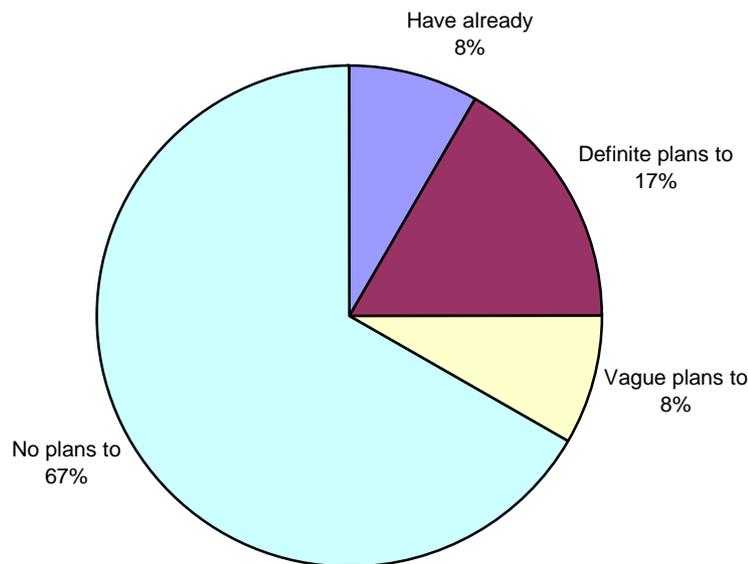
- identifying problems (2 people),
- a positive way of getting the parent and child to interact (1 person\_
- and beneficial for families and children (1 person).

Of those stating that they would **Maybe Recommend** it

- 1 person stated that it was necessary run the training once the course was done

- whilst another stated that although the course was good it would be time consuming to implement and costly in terms of staff and resources.

## Have you contributed to a YMTD programme for Parents / Do you have any plans to over the next 3 months



Of those questioned across the 7 programmes over two thirds (**67%**) had **no plans** to undertake YMTD training as opposed to **17%** who had **definite plans** intended and **8%** who had already rolled out the YMTD and a further **8%** who had **vague plans** to roll out training.

This raises the question whether the responses would be different had more programmes actually rolled out the training whereas many are now responding from a viewpoint of not actually having rolled out the training to Parents.

Of further examination would be the question, why since May 2004 have so few programmes implemented the training and over two thirds have no plans to implement the training ?

Responses from the previous questionnaire conducted soon after the course in May suggested that **18/44 people** (of the 44 people 30 were SureStart staff) expressed **definite plans** to run a YMTD course in the next 6 months with another **6 respondents** stating that they **hoped** to be able to do so .

## Do you have any other comments about the YMTD training or approach?

Of the 11 people who responded to this question

- 3 commented on the time constraints in implementing the training.
- other views expressed were

the enthusiasm of the trainers who had delivered the course (2 people)

the long length of the course and questioned whether parents would be willing to undertake a 9-week training course

they had implemented the "share" approach (2 people)

it would be OK to run the courses but success was dependent on the community it was rolled out in (1 person)

## Conclusion

Though the YMTD course is generally viewed positively 6 months after the initial training, a key concern that appears from these findings is that so few programme have delivered the training.

Considering the cost entailed in sending staff to the training (approx £20,000 based on calculations from previous report) greater consideration will need to be given about implementation before such expenditure is incurred on future courses.

Furthermore, the length of time between staff being trained and staff training Parents could have an impact on how well the training is delivered.