



# Northside Primary School

## TRANSFORMING LIVES

8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### Testimonial for Jo Fahey

My colleagues and I were privileged to recently do the online Playful Literacies course run by Jo Fahey. At our school we are constantly looking for suitable Professional Development opportunities for our staff. Since we are an IB world school and follow the inquiry approach to our teaching and learning, the content of this course instantly appealed to me. Nine of us in the Early Years signed up.

What I liked was the 'human touch' of the way the course was delivered. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, we have done most things online and often very isolated. Seeing Jo on the screen as she talked through the modules, regularly referring to photographs, quotes and videos in an easygoing way, felt warm and welcoming. Watching her model the strategies and ideas she was sharing with us was excellent in my opinion.

My colleagues and I have discussed the course and ways in which we can implement some of the elements in our setting. We are not fully play based, but our eyes and minds have been opened to many new possibilities to include Jo's ideas. Every teacher from our school doing the course, is inspired to set up a writing station in their classrooms, some already have. We will certainly be adopting the book basket idea as soon as covid disappears. The many name writing ideas will be added to our current list of name activities.

Although I realise that this is not a PYP course, it is very aligned with the PYP way of teaching. It is definitely the most 'hands on' course I've ever been part of. The weekly Zoom meetings were a wonderful way of connecting with educators from across the world and Jo involved us all in various engagements. The Facebook group is another way in which we were invited to share ideas and lessons and Jo responds to each one personally.

I thoroughly enjoyed the 4 weeks, reaffirming my beliefs and purpose as an Early Years teacher as well as gaining new and exciting practical ideas which we can integrate beautifully into our classes.

I am delighted to have met Jo and will be looking out for similar courses in the future.

Kind regards,

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