

WEE WANDERS

Evaluation Report January 2016





Introduction

In early 2015, Starcatchers' Chief Executive Rhona Matheson met with Liz Conacher and Meg Faragher from National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) to discuss the potential to work together on an action research project to inform the development of the nursery and family Early Years programmes at the Galleries.

Over a number of meetings a proposal was submitted as a framework for this activity and this report reflects the evaluation of the first part of this project – Wee Wanders which explored engagement with a pre-school nursery.

Context

The National Galleries of Scotland make an offer to nurseries and primary schools through an established programme of visits, tours and workshops at each of the three galleries across Edinburgh. What was apparent from early discussions was that there was a limited number of nurseries engaging with the programme and that there is a desire to understand the challenges and needs of this audience to increase future engagement.

In recent years, there has been an increase in Early Years arts provision in arts venues, galleries and museums across the country and this is an area that continues to evolve and grow in response to the audience.

NGS work with a team of freelance artists to deliver their education programmes and whilst there has been limited uptake in the nursery programme thus far, there are practitioners who have experience of engaging with this audience.

What we did

Following the submission of the project proposal the decision was taken to move forward with the nursery element of the project in Autumn 2015.

Choosing a Setting

The original plan for this part of the project was to work with two childcare settings, one local authority nursery and one private or partner provider setting. Having to make revisions to the budget, meant that this was not going to be practical in terms of delivery and so it was decided to work solely with one setting.

Both NGS and Starcatchers had connections with settings in different parts of the city. An email was sent to two settings initially, one that had recently visited the Galleries and one based in Wester Hailes, an area where Starcatchers is developing a strategic relationship.

Canal View Nursery, the pre-school nursery in Wester Hailes responded immediately to the email that had been sent and they were keen to participate in the project. As a setting in the west of the city, in an area of deprivation, the majority of children have never visited any of the Galleries and are unlikely to do so with parents or carers. The Headteacher at Canal View, is committed to ensuring that the children across the nursery and primary school have access to the expressive arts as part of their education. The Nursery Teacher, Kali Andronikou is equally passionate about ensuring that the children in the nursery have the opportunity to engage with a broad range of arts and creative experiences.

Whilst the staff at the nursery were keen that all 30 of the children in the nursery were able to participate in the pilot project, we agreed with the setting that this was not practical or manageable for this process. As a result, the nursery identified 15 children who they felt would benefit most from participation. They also worked with parents to ensure that there was sufficient adult support to successfully deliver the project.

Artists

The artists involved in Wee Wanders were integral to its success. This was an opportunity for both NGS and Starcatchers to bring together artists with a broad experience of working in the galleries and also working with Early Years audiences to develop and deliver the Wee Wanders project.

NGS identified two artists, Kate Temple and Paula Flavell who deliver regular nursery and schools programmes at the galleries. It was felt that both Kate and Paula were best suited to the project and the age group involved. From a Starcatchers perspective, visual artist Katy Wilson was a natural choice to involve in the delivery of Wee Wanders. Katy has worked with Starcatchers in various ways since 2006 and has extensive experience of working with very young children and parents and carers. In addition, Starcatchers was also able to involve our Trainee Associate Artist, Maria Giergiel in the project.



Wee Wanders

The Wee Wanders project took place over 5 weeks of delivery with the nursery but began with an introductory session led by Rhona Matheson and Heather Armstrong, Starcatchers' Creative Skills Manager. This session was designed to explore some of the wider context surrounding the role of arts and creativity in Early Years and to be a catalyst for the artists to think about how they wanted to shape the project.

This session took place in mid-August a few weeks before the first session in the nursery.

The Wee Wanders project had some key aims:

- To work with the same group of children over a number of sessions
- To visit each of the three NGS galleries
- To offer an opportunity for the children, staff and parents to look at artworks as well as to participate in some practical activity
- To encourage the nursery to continue to talk and explore activities relating to the project when they were back in the nursery

The framework for Wee Wanders was established as follows:

- Week 1:** Artists to visit Canal View to meet and work with the children in their own setting
- Week 2:** Visit to the Scottish National Portrait Gallery including exploring the Head to Head exhibition before some practical activity with clay
- Week 3:** Visit to the Scottish National Gallery and the Bailey's Stardust exhibition including a 'fashion show' of constructed costumes made from paper/materials by the children
- Week 4:** Visit to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and the ARTIST ROOMS Roy Lichtenstein exhibition including some large scale drawing/creating outside
- Week 5:** Artists to visit Canal View to reflect on the project with the children

These sessions were carefully constructed by the artists and they reflected after each session to inform the development of activities for the next week. The application of introductory and follow up sessions was a part of the original Starcatchers proposal approach to this part of the project. This was a key element as it allowed the artists to connect with the children and meet them in their own environment and allow them to begin to think about what a gallery might be.

The artists had sent a package to the nursery in advance of the first session with a letter introducing themselves as 'The Wanderers', asking them what they thought a gallery was. This was a fascinating question to pose – to understand if the children had any concept of what a gallery is, or might be. It was clear from the response of the children that they didn't know what a gallery was – 'It's somewhere where there's balls and hammers.' 'Where you get eggs with white chocolate and toys and a fairy but they're not real.'

In many respects this was not an unexpected response from these children as none of them had visited any galleries previously with the nursery and it was not something that their parents engaged with either.

As part of the introductory session the artists also talked about portraits, in preparation for visiting the Portrait Gallery the following week. The children and artists then experimented with self portraits and a bit of drawing.



Visit 1 – Scottish National Portrait Gallery

The artists decided to start the project with a visit to the Scottish National Portrait Gallery with a focus on the **Head to Head** exhibition.

The visit began by taking the children up to the top floor of the gallery in the lift. The group then gathered in the gallery and sat on the floor in a large circle and the artists began to talk and ask questions about what a gallery is and this started a dialogue with the children, staff and parents.

The artists did not reintroduce themselves at the beginning of this session and they realised quickly that this was a key component of the session, particularly for parents and staff who had not been at the visit to the nursery.

Following some initial discussion, the group then made their way back down to the ground floor of the gallery to the Head to Head exhibition. The children and grown-ups were given the opportunity to go on their own 'Wee Wander' through the exhibition and examine the different pieces, talking about what they were seeing. The artists also passed round samples of materials that some of the sculptures were made of, so despite not being able to touch the exhibits, the children were able to get a sense of what some of them were made of.





After the wander, the group made their way into the education space where they worked with clay to make their own sculptures, some faces, some heads, some abstract works and even a football field. It was positive to see the children responding to the materials. The adults also responded well to the materials, however this also presented a challenge for the artists.

We had been striving for a child-led approach to the practical activities, however we had not fully appreciated the role that the parents would play in the delivery of this first session. Some parents were able to support the children constructively, modeling or offering assistance where it was needed. For others, there was a sense of wanting their child to create something that was 'polished' or 'finished' which meant that they took over from their child and this created tensions.

On reflection after this session, the artists, NGS and Starcatchers staff all agreed that there was a need for a strategy to support parents engagement in the project. This included:

- Introducing everyone in the group each week to ensure that any new parents knew who was who and also reinforcing relationships between the project team and the children
- Giving the parents a clear role or responsibility which would make it easier for them to engage throughout the session without impinging on the children's creativity



Visit 2 – Scottish National Gallery



From the outset, the artists had identified David Bailey's Stardust exhibition as a space they wanted to share with the children.

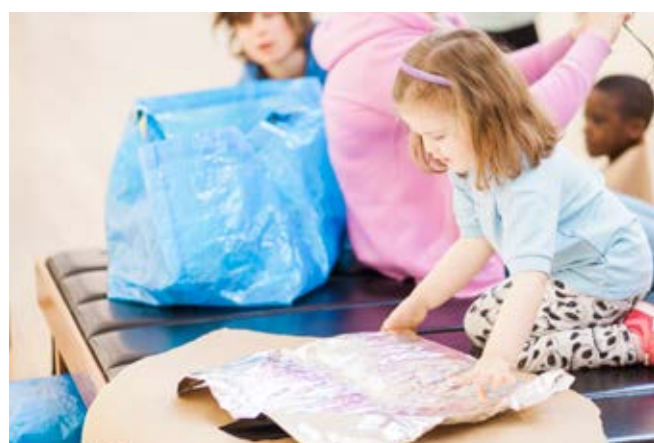
After an introduction to the whole group, the children and grown ups were separated into 4 groups who each got to wander round part of the Stardust exhibition accompanied by one of the artists.

This gave the children time to look at the photographs and talk about what they saw. Being in smaller groups enabled every child to have a chance to share their thoughts.

After a period of time wandering, the group came back together and talked about what they had seen. The children then got to create a costume constructed from paper, foil and other materials before participating in a fashion show in the middle of the gallery accompanied by music by Rod Stewart.

After the wandering, the parents had been tasked with taking photographs of the children in their costumes. Whilst some children needed a little help to construct their costumes, this session was more child-led than the previous week.





Visit 3 – Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art Gallery



The National Gallery of Modern Art offered the opportunity to share the work of Roy Lichtenstein with the group. The artists were keen to introduce the children to the bold colours, sharp lines and pop art shapes used in his work.

After sitting in the first room with the whole group, they were encouraged to walk through the gallery in small groups and identify which works they liked the best. In the final room the group was brought back together and talked about which picture was their favourite whilst listening to jazz music on a cd player - Lichtenstein would listen to jazz whilst creating his work.

The final room visited had a large mural style artwork with thick black lines by Louise Lawler, the group looked at this picture and were told that they would create something similar.

The Wanderers then took the children, parents and staff outside to the Charles Jencks Landform outside of the Gallery and created a large-scale Lichtenstein inspired drawing using thick black pens along with primary coloured tape and stickers. The children were able to take off their shoes and walk right over the large roll of paper and could draw, stick and tape wherever they wanted.

After it was completed the adults held up the finished piece to show the children what it would look like hung on the wall.





Follow Up Session

In the last week of the project, the artists visited the children at the nursery one last time. This was an opportunity for the whole group to reflect on their experience with Wee Wanders and for us to find out what the children remembered from their experiences.

The session encouraged the children to talk about the things they remembered: clay faces, statues of men and women, dressing up, photographs, drawing lines and circles. One of the artists drew a picture with everything the children could remember from the visits as a visual stimulus for the discussion. Then the children were given the opportunity to make some of their own works of art using a range of materials the artists had brought to the nursery including straws, string, orange and pink paper, pipe cleaners, foam and sellotape.

Once the children had finished making their artworks, they displayed them in the Canal View Gallery which was in the reception area of the nursery where all children, parents and staff could appreciate the works from across the project. The artists took the children on a 'Wee Wander' around their own gallery and had some juice to celebrate the gallery 'opening'.

The artists had extended the invitation to this session to parents, however, because of a local holiday and in-service, this information was not shared in time for parents to make arrangements to attend. This meant that in this session the only adults were the artists and staff from the setting, which gave a different dynamic to the activity.

Evaluation - process

Starcatchers applied the Contribution Analysis approach the company uses in other projects to evaluating Wee Wanders. An evaluation framework was created with input from NGS, the artists and nursery staff. This framework identifies anticipated immediate, medium and long-term outcomes for activity and risks and assumptions made in successfully achieving these outcomes.

The artists and the nursery staff were asked some baseline questions at the beginning of the project and this was followed up with an evaluation session with artists and with Kali Andronikou after the project had been completed. The artists also completed a questionnaire outlining their immediate reflections to the project; they had also kept a blog on the Starcatchers website to document the activity taking place. <https://weewandersblog.wordpress.com>

Evaluation - framework

The framework attached as appendix

Conclusions and Recommendations

The overarching feeling from all involved in the project was that Wee Wanders was a success and had both achieved a number of identified outcomes, as well as highlighted other challenges for consideration in future development.

The artists provided a series of live, interactive sessions that connected the children, staff and parents with each of the three Galleries. They enabled the children to explore what was behind the doors of a Gallery and to create their own works of art in response. There is a sense that the project delivered something different to the work that the Galleries already do and that this was done with a sense of playfulness and openness on all sides.

Key findings:

- There is appetite from nurseries for this kind of activity, however catering to a whole class would be challenging for 2 artists without prior contact
- The pre-visit session was important to the artists and to the nursery to establish a relationship in advance of a visit.
- The role of the adult in supporting the children to participate in visits is central, but needs consideration and clarity of focus to ensure that the full value of the session is realised by making the adult confident and clear in their role
- The multiple session format worked well and could be developed further
- The nursery responded to the experience when they were back in the setting, sharing the artwork and project with other children, staff and parents

- Developing some 'pre-visit' materials for children, staff and parents would be beneficial, particularly if the pre-visit session is not an option
- Similarly, developing 'self-guided' materials for staff might also be beneficial, although this may need to sit alongside a CPD for staff as it was felt that a number of staff would not have the confidence to just pick this up and go.
- That NGS information does not always get to the right member of staff in nursery/school settings
- That being able to access the Galleries before the usual 10am opening time, in this instance at 9.30am, was key for the nursery

Other key feedback from the nursery included:

- They felt positive seeing smiles and encouragement from members of NGS staff and from the public in the Galleries
- The staff observed positive behaviours in the children that they had not seen in the nursery
- That the activities were appropriately tailored for 3-5s with lots of opportunity for the children to contribute
- That parents actively engaged and participated

Artist Feedback 1

Think back to before we started and we talked about what success for Wee Wanders would look like – have we achieved that from your perspective?

We wanted to stretch our own comfort zones, challenging what we might usually do with little children in the gallery . We thought the team could potentially do this as half were at home with how things work at the National Galleries and half were at home with working with early years.

I think we did achieve this... we worked as big as we could, with what is perceived as adult rather than child materials, we worked in beautiful spaces rather than classrooms (although the gallery classrooms are nice), played music in the galleries and took over certain spaces with exciting ideas which required permission ,

If I wasn't working with the National Galleries education staff I might not have had the confidence to use their spaces in the way we did (especially in the Bailey and outdoors on the grass at Modern One)

I think the team working on Wee Wanders was highly compatible... it was a thoroughly enjoyable process which I'm sure helped with the atmosphere we created for the participants ... with very little tension and working together as a team we created a fun and positive place to be which I think will have an impact on how the children and their adults recall the gallery experience. Before the project we hoped the children would consider the galleries an inspiring possibly fun (not intimidating) place to go.

We wanted the children and adults to feel at home in gallery and to know they can use the galleries / ideally want to use the galleries - I am not sure we are quite there yet with the adults I think it could take a longer project to do this (maybe it would need to last a few months?) Ideally we would spend more time on the adult experience .. I still think they think that ' art not is not for them ' .. but they are more receptive to the idea that 'art is for their child.'

We hoped gallery staff would be more used to small children in their work place.

The gallery staff are great - I think things have changed radically in the past year or so with the gallery staff.

What have been the positives you have taken from this process?

The children's skills in drawing surprised me , they were better than I had imagined they would be. It gave me a great feeling that my pre-conceived ideas of working in a nursery in a deprived area were wrong!

I feel better equipped for warming up the adults for future projects.

I think this was an excellent experience for the children. I felt like they were lucky, like it was a treat.

What have been the challenges?

Working as 4 or even 6 has been challenging and a luxury , so many voices and so many thoughts going on.

It is a challenge convincing the adults (parents/ carers) that they can enjoy art. It is a challenge communicating to adults that process is more important than product. Each time we did look at what we produced together... It would feel odd not to... but maybe that reinforces the wrong message ?

If you were starting Wee Wanders now, based on the experience we have had, what would you do differently? (in relation to children/staff/parents)

I would include parents from the start- focus on everyone's journey ,
invite adults into the process for the same amount of time as children but sometimes in a separate space.

Is the multiple session format something that should be considered for future development/delivery? Why?

yes ! It is much more satisfying for everyone. It allows time to make connections, links , observations .On a one off workshop it is difficult not to focus on the vocal or confident children, you start to know their names but not others etc but with more time you have a chance to think about individuals and encourage them to express themselves somehow (possibly not vocally)

Young children need a bit of time to get to know new adults.

Did we give the right information to Canal View in advance of sessions? Are there things that would make this easier?

We could give more information - maybe in the form of a film which gives the right kind of informal/ chatty vibe/attitude (ideally with some beautiful visuals in the galleries on a sunny day) I'm not sure if any more written information would be absorbed. Young children often like to see a film snippet of the sort of thing they are going to see/ do before they do it (to give them context) maybe we could invite the adults and children and teachers to watch this film before a project starts (with cranberry juice) ?

Reflecting on the spaces, permanent and temporary displays within NGS, what do you think are NGS's greatest assets for attracting early years visitors?

Great floor space for crawling / exploring
beautiful rooms and outdoor areas
good quality materials + classrooms
great education team :)
please can I come back!

Artist Feedback 2

Think back to before we started and we talked about what success for Wee Wanders would look like – have we achieved that from your perspective?

Yes, although some successes will be more long term, so not easy to judge at this stage.

Why have/haven't we achieved this?

I think we have all really enjoyed working on the project and experimenting with different approaches, and I think the nursery – children/staff/parents - have got loads out of the project. What will be interesting to see is what the longer term impact will be – will Canal View return to the galleries / visit other galleries? How will the NGS work with nursery groups in the future?

What have been the positives you have taken from this process?

- working with the same group over a period of a few weeks and developing a more meaningful exchange than is possible in one-off sessions.
- seeing the group every week and seeing their confidence in the galleries grow.
- seeing what fun and enjoyment the children were having in the galleries.
- the opportunity to try slightly different approaches each week.

What have been the challenges?

how to meaningfully engage with the parents as well as the children.

If you were starting Wee Wanders now, based on the experience we have had, what would you do differently? (in relation to children/staff/parents)

- I think our first session in the gallery was the rockiest, and as we discussed, we should have engaged the parents more in this session and established the circle conversation as the first activity.
- in retrospect, I realised that all the work we looked at was temporary exhibitions, it would have also been interesting to work

with the permanent collection.

Is the multiple session format something that should be considered for future development/delivery? Why?

Yes, definitely. As I mentioned above, it allows the children to develop confidence in the galleries over time, and allows the artists to develop a meaningful exchange with the children. It also helps the children have a deeper level of understanding about what a gallery is. It also takes the pressure off – you have time to develop ideas and work – it doesn't all have to happen in one session.

Did we give the right information to Canal View in advance of sessions? Are there things that would make this easier?

From my point of view, yes, but I think this is also a question for Kali – did she feel that she had the right amount of info?

Knowing that other nurseries will operate slightly differently, what might we need to take in to consideration for participation in a programme like this from a broader spectrum of settings? (This may be something that we need to research further)

Yes, I think each nursery will have it's own specific needs, and this is something we will always need to bear in mind. That is another reason for working over a longer period of time as it allows us to meet these needs properly.

Reflecting on the spaces, permanent and temporary displays within NGS, what do you think are NGS's greatest assets for attracting early years visitors?

- Diversity of exhibitions/work/spaces – there will always be something fascinating to work with.
- Combination of indoor and outside spaces (partic mod 1/2)
- Lots of space to sit/wander/wonder – and galleries large enough for a big group to fit comfortably in.
- The lift at the PG !
- The bothy

Artist Feedback 3

Think back to before we started and we talked about what success for Wee Wanders would look like – have we achieved that from your perspective?

Why have/haven't we achieved this?

Achieved- live and engaging experiences with a sense of playfulness at the galleries. Also achieved something different to what the galleries currently do.

Didn't achieve- Leaving the children alone to form their own reactions with materials. Also, we didn't manage to build a rapport with the adults.

What have been the positives you have taken from this process?

Me That play is important. That it's ok to let go of control. Loved the wandering.

Kids Observing they are capable of playing and learning without a set instructions beyond placing a material in front of them. Watching how they reacted.

Parents get more from the experience if they are actively involved and given responsibility.

What have been the challenges?

The grown ups- Lack of clarity regarding parent's role, which led them to becoming too involved with the children's making. It was difficult to focus on the children and adults.

Artists Lack of communication regarding our individual roles so we weren't always as organised as could have been

Such a big circle when all sitting down

If you were starting Wee Wanders now, based on the experience we have had, what would you do differently? (in relation to children/staff/parents)

Sitting grown-ups down, in a comfortable space away from kids, where they can absorb what's being said, and explain our aim, why we are doing it and what we hope their role will be helping it happen. Asking for their ideas and opinions of how to achieve it. Getting them on side.

Spend time looking and questioning one art work so they have that experience.

Work in smaller groups when discussion is taking place.

Equip the grown ups with a tool kit for looking at art (a piece of paper with 2 q's on) for the wanders.

Is the multiple session format something that should be considered for future development/delivery? Why?

Absolutely, there was a marked difference between the children and adults participation, engagement and confidence over the course of the weeks. There was a contrast between the children's arrival at the first gallery, where they were quiet and subdued (and a bit of crying), and the 3rd visit, where they were notably excited and looking forward to coming into the gallery. The parents were also relaxed and able to enjoy humour by the 3rd visit.

Have the parents and nursery staff been involved with the evaluation? Would be good to involve them with the whole process, sit them down with a coffee and ask them how they found the experience and what we can change.

Did we give the right information to Canal View in advance of sessions? Are there things that would make this easier?

Do you mean the letter? Did we send the staff and parents any info about what the project was about?

The letter to the children was great.

Info I would give to the grown-ups would include our aims and clarify everyone's role so they know who's doing what.

Knowing that other nurseries will operate slightly differently, what might we need to take in to consideration for participation in a programme like this from a broader spectrum of settings? (This may be something that we need to research further)

Timings- we had to let in before hours. Distance to travel, they need time to get here and get back.

Number in class

Would they always bring so many grown ups?

Reflecting on the spaces, permanent and temporary displays within NGS, what do you think are NGS's greatest assets for attracting early years visitors?

Modern 1

- outside- landform, sculptures, trees
- Art works made from shapes, colours and numbers
- great café

National Galleries

- Wow factor- unlike most places they've been before
- Large spaces
- Ties onto nursery themes- animals, weather
- Clore
- Gardens

Potrait Gallery

- Lift
- Great hall
- Farmer
- Great cafe

Artist feedback 4

Think back to before we started and we talked about what success for Wee Wanders would look like – have we achieved that from your perspective?

I mentioned that I would have liked for the group to return to the galleries, independently. But this is something that we haven't been about to measure yet, so I don't know if this is achieved! Would be interesting to try and find this out!

I think we achieved the aim that it was interesting, I certainly found it interesting to see how the children responded to the artworks to see what strategies worked best. It was interesting to work with the other artists and work inside the National Galleries and get to see the exhibition with a different lens.

We also said we would like the children to want to come back to the gallery. Again, we don't know this as we didn't ask the group explicitly, but it would be good if we could find this out!

Why have/haven't we achieved this?

I think it was kept interesting because we were striving to learn and to get better. I don't think we ever really settled on anything and we always talked about what we were doing and always tried to push it. It was also interesting to do something that was a little bit different like the fashion show. It felt a little bit anarchic, but that was where it was successful.

What have been the positives you have taken from this process?

I've loved being part of the artistic team. The other artists have been great to work with and I enjoyed the dynamic that developed towards the end. I loved seeing the children's responses to the artworks, and it was brilliant to watch the children draw their memories in the final session, as it really demonstrated how much they have absorbed in the time that we were together.

I also think the way that the nursery responded by making a gallery and bringing some of the things we did at the gallery to the other nursery children was a huge positive! It was amazing to see that when we came into the nursery and I think really showed the nursery's interest in the project.

What have been the challenges?

It was challenging at first to negotiate my role within the group of four, but as we got to know each other better this became much easier. The number of artists was great and in equal measure it was a little difficult to negotiate who talks when and who leads what. I particularly enjoyed when we worked in the smaller groups in the Bailey exhibition because the work felt clear and focused. Working in smaller groups, I think helped the conversation to be more in depth. I think that I would also work in those smaller groups more often, as it was those moments where the children who were quieter had the opportunity to speak and express their opinions it also allowed us to develop connections with the parents as well.

It was also challenging to negotiate the parent's role at first, I think we hadn't quite considered how to work with the grown ups at the start. As we got to consider it and as we developed our relationship with the group and the grownups this became easier, but I think we could have made it better for ourselves if we had started to consider it earlier!

If you were starting Wee Wanders now, based on the experience we have had, what would you do different? (in relation to children/ staff / parents)

I would consider the parents from the start. Thinking about what their role is in supporting their children in the experience and how we can help them to facilitate the experience for the children.

I would try and keep the frame of “wandering” in mind from the start. I think the wanders were great, but I would try and put some more focus on how they are facilitated and how they are supported and what they are doing as they look at the art work. I’d try to find ways to make that part of the experience a bit more stimulating for the children who want to touch things and feel everything with their whole body.

Is the multiple session format something that should be considered for future development / delivery? Why?

Yes, I think it’s really great to be able to build relationships and show the variety of experiences at the galleries. We’d talked a little before about it being a real luxury to be able to get to know the children, staff and parents and I think it means that there is less anxiety about being in a new space such as the gallery because they already know our faces.

Did we give the right information to Canal View in advance of the sessions? Are there things that would make this easier?

I think mainly the right information was given. I know the last week was a little different as the message about starting later and inviting parents didn’t get out early enough, but it still worked anyway, mainly as the nursery staff were SO accommodating and relaxed.

Knowing that other nurseries will operate slightly differently, what might we need to take into consideration for participation in a programme like this from a broader spectrum of settings? (This may be something that we need to research further?)

I think starting sessions in the nursery was really useful to get to know the children and staff, I think that was a real strength as it broke down some barriers and made the transition into a new space easier. It would be interesting to know what the general opinion is on a longer term engagement, as I think this really worked for this project. It would be great to think about how the programme could engage all the children in a nursery instead of just 15.

Reflecting on the spaces, permanent and temporary displays within NGS, what do you think NGS’s greatest assets for attracting early years visitors?

I loved the outside spaces at the modern gallery. I think that was brilliant to take the children to see those outdoor sculptures and to be able to make a huge scale of work outside the gallery. I think the head to head was great because of the level of the work, where the Bailey and Lichtenstein were a little harder to access as they were displayed a little higher.

Canal View Nursery School

Baseline Questions

Has the nursery visited any of the National Galleries buildings in the last 3 years?

No

If yes, which ones?

n/a

If no, is there a reason why?

Not aware of any tours/workshops available for our age group – usually more for Primary School children

What is the perception of the National Galleries within the nursery?

Again, connected to lack of awareness, that it isn't somewhere for them

What are the challenges/barriers for a nursery in visiting a venue like the National Galleries?

Workshops relevant to our particular age group

Length of sessions/tours as the galleries do not open till 10.00

Are there things that the Galleries could do to make it easier to access?

Sharing educational projects through council emails or any school area ExA coordinators if any.

Earlier opening times to accommodate early opening of nurseries

Active learning activities more relevant to nursery children's age

What types of creative/arts activity currently takes place within the nursery? (eg. Visual art, drama, music, puppetry, storytelling)

Painting and drawing using a variety of materials & stimuli. Storytelling, music (singing & creating music – magic of music resource City of Edinburgh Council)

How often does creative/arts activity take place within the nursery?

Daily. Children are free to choose the area they want to play in and creative play/activities are encouraged throughout the room. Creative activities range from pretend play (with/out props), storytelling, singing and creating music to dancing and drama

Do you work with any arts organisations/artists?

We have worked with WHALE Arts, Dads Rock and Feis Rois (Fun Folk) project

What expectations do you have regarding the Wee Wanders project?

A range of experiences for our children which will hopefully help engage their imaginative and creative skills. Some children who will participate are a bit shy so hopefully this experience will help boost their confidence as well.

What would success look like in terms of the participation in the Wee Wanders project?

Confidence to express themselves creatively through a variety of activities

Enjoyment in using expressive arts

Being able to talk about their experiences and transfer them in the nursery environment and school

Have any of the Canal View Staff participated in the Starcatchers Creative Skills Programme?

No

If not, would this be of interest?

Yes

Parent Feedback

STARCATCHERS

WEE WANDERS

NATIONAL
GALLERIES
SCOTLAND

Parent Feedback

Thank you for supporting the children and staff at Canal View to participate in the Wee Wanders project – we couldn't have done it without your support! We would be really grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the following feedback form – this will help us develop new projects in the future.

- How many Wee Wanders sessions did you come to?

One / Two / Three (please circle)

- What did your child enjoy most about Wee Wanders?

He enjoyed making his sculptures.

- What was the best bit about the project for you?

The fashion show all the kids loved it.

- Is there anything that didn't work so well?

No enjoyed it all.

- Have you taken your child to any galleries before?

Yes / No

If yes, which ones?

- What do you like about the galleries you've visited before?

- Is there a reason you have never taken your child to galleries before? Please select all that apply:

I'm worried about my child wanting to touch things

Galleries don't welcome small children

My child wouldn't be interested in art

I'm not interested in art

I don't know anything about art

Transport difficulties

Other (please give details)

- After visiting the Galleries with Wee Wanders, would you be more likely to go again in the future?

Yes / No / Maybe

Any reasons why / why not?

STARCATCHERS

WEE WANDERS[®]



Parent Feedback

Thank you for supporting the children and staff at Canal View to participate in the Wee Wanders project – we couldn't have done it without your support! We would be really grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the following feedback form – this will help us develop new projects in the future.

- How many Wee Wanders sessions did you come to?

One / Two / Three (please circle)

- What did your child enjoy most about Wee Wanders?

He enjoyed the show dressing up.

- What was the best bit about the project for you?

I enjoyed doing the clay work as part of a team.

- Is there anything that didn't work so well?

NO

- Have you taken your child to any galleries before?

Yes / No

If yes, which ones?

- What do you like about the galleries you've visited before?

Seeing all the different drawings.

- Is there a reason you have never taken your child to galleries before? Please select all that apply:

I'm worried about my child wanting to touch things

Galleries don't welcome small children

My child wouldn't be interested in art

I'm not interested in art

I don't know anything about art

Transport difficulties

Other (please give details)

- After visiting the Galleries with Wee Wanders, would you be more likely to go again in the future?

Yes / No / Maybe

Any reasons why / why not?

STARCATCHERS

WEE WANDERS[®]NATIONAL
GALLERIES
SCOTLAND

Parent Feedback

Thank you for supporting the children and staff at Canal View to participate in the Wee Wanders project – we couldn't have done it without your support! We would be really grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the following feedback form – this will help us develop new projects in the future.

- How many Wee Wanders sessions did you come to?

One / Two / Three (please circle)

- What did your child enjoy most about Wee Wanders?

The picture at the last gallery

- What was the best bit about the project for you?

The Sculptures

- Is there anything that didn't work so well?

I enjoyed it all

- Have you taken your child to any galleries before?

Yes / No

If yes, which ones?

| |

- What do you like about the galleries you've visited before?

The were good to look at the pictures

- Is there a reason you have never taken your child to galleries before? Please select all that apply:

I'm worried about my child wanting to touch things ✓
 Galleries don't welcome small children
 My child wouldn't be interested in art
 I'm not interested in art
 I don't know anything about art
 Transport difficulties ✓
 Other (please give details)

- After visiting the Galleries with Wee Wanders, would you be more likely to go again in the future?

Yes / No / Maybe

Any reasons why / why not?

I enjoyed the experience

STARCATCHERS

WEE WANDERS[®]NATIONAL
GALLERIES
SCOTLAND

Parent Feedback

Thank you for supporting the children and staff at Canal View to participate in the Wee Wanders project – we couldn't have done it without your support! We would be really grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the following feedback form – this will help us develop new projects in the future.

- How many Wee Wanders sessions did you come to?

One

/

Two

/

Three

(please circle)

- What did your child enjoy most about Wee Wanders?

Dressing up and doing the cat walk.

- What was the best bit about the project for you?

Seeing the children being creative with the clay faces.

- Is there anything that didn't work so well?

No.

- Have you taken your child to any galleries before?

Yes

/

No

If yes, which ones?

National Gallery.

- What do you like about the galleries you've visited before?

Spending time together looking at different pictures and talking about them.

- Is there a reason you have never taken your child to galleries before? Please select all that apply:

I'm worried about my child wanting to touch things

Galleries don't welcome small children

My child wouldn't be interested in art

I'm not interested in art

I don't know anything about art

Transport difficulties

Other (please give details)

- After visiting the Galleries with Wee Wanders, would you be more likely to go again in the future?

Yes

/

No

/

Maybe

Any reasons why / why not?

I didn't know about the modern art gallery.

STARCATCHERS

WEE WANDERS

NATIONAL
GALLERIES
SCOTLAND

Parent Feedback

Thank you for supporting the children and staff at Canal View to participate in the Wee Wanders project – we couldn't have done it without your support! We would be really grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the following feedback form – this will help us develop new projects in the future.

- How many Wee Wanders sessions did you come to?

One / Two / Three

(please circle)

- What did your child enjoy most about Wee Wanders?

Lily Said she enjoyed all the sculptures best.

- What was the best bit about the project for you?

I enjoy all of it was interesting.

- Is there anything that didn't work so well?

No I think all went well me and Lily really enjoyed

- Have you taken your child to any galleries before?

NO

Yes / No

If yes, which ones?

- What do you like about the galleries you've visited before?

- Is there a reason you have never taken your child to galleries before? Please select all that apply:

I'm worried about my child wanting to touch things

Galleries don't welcome small children

My child wouldn't be interested in art

I'm not interested in art

I don't know anything about art. ✓

Transport difficulties

Other (please give details)

- After visiting the Galleries with Wee Wanders, would you be more likely to go again in the future?

Yes / No / Maybe

Any reasons why / why not?

		Risk/Assumptions (to get to next step)	Monitoring Criteria
Contribution (Final Outcome)	<p>NGS & Starcatchers have greater understanding of the needs and barriers for nurseries engaging with the Galleries.</p> <p>The nursery become a regular visitor to all 3 Galleries (NGS, Starcatchers and the artists have developed a new model for delivering Nursery activities across the 3 Galleries)</p>	<p>Assumptions: all nurseries are the same</p> <p>Risks: the pilot nursery may not be representative of other nurseries.</p>	<p>Base line statistics – compare number of nursery visits before and after the project. Compare staff definitions of 'creativity' levels in the nursery before and after project.</p> <p>Trial new ideas on other nurseries that book visits to the galleries and compare impact (this is outwith the scope of this pilot but something for NGS to take on)</p>
Behaviour/Practices (Intermediate Outcomes)	<p>Increased skills in delivery and development of Early Years activities in the Galleries context</p> <p>Artists experiment with new and different approaches to practice</p> <p>Nursery staff using the experience as inspiration for other activities within the nurseries</p> <p>Children are revisiting activities in the nursery setting</p>	<p>Assumptions: Nursery will want to revisit activities in nursery setting.</p> <p>Risks: nursery staff may not perceive benefits of the activities, or may not have the scope to revisit in the nursery context, without reference to actual artworks; activities need to be broad enough to work with a variety of artworks and not be specific to any one artwork or exhibition.</p>	<p>Artists need to communicate reasons for activities to nursery staff. Before and after reflections from artists and staff.</p>
Capacity : Knowledge, attitudes, skills (Immediate Outcomes)	<p>Nursery staff have more awareness of what the National Galleries can offer and have better knowledge and understanding of the arts</p> <p>That nursery staff and artists have increased understanding in how the children engage with the Galleries/ activities</p> <p>Artists are more confident in their abilities to deliver Early Years activities</p> <p>Other Gallery Staff begin to understand the needs of this audience ***Childs response</p>	<p>Assumptions: Staff are open to collaboration, open to new approaches and welcome new ideas</p> <p>Staff see the artist as having valuable skills and knowledge</p> <p>Good relationships between artist, staff and management.</p> <p>Risks: Staff lack confidence in engaging with art/artists</p>	

		Risk/Assumptions (to get to next step)	Monitoring Criteria
Awareness/Reaction (Immediate Outcomes)	<p>Nursery setting are open and excited about participating in the project</p> <p>Children enjoy participating in the project along with staff and other adults (parental support?)</p>	<p>Assumptions: staff are open to participating in the venues and activities.</p> <p>Risks: formal atmosphere of the galleries puts off staff and children. Unwanted attention from other gallery visitors (eg taking photos of children)</p>	<p>Clear communication with nursery staff about potential risks. Welcome open dialogue about how they felt in galleries.</p>
Engagement/Involvement	<p>Setting commits to participating in the full pilot programme</p> <p>Artists commit to working collaboratively on the development and delivery of the pilot</p> <p>Staff and artists enjoy the project</p> <p>Starcatchers and NGS staff offer appropriate support and attend sessions where possible</p>	<p>Assumptions: setting completes project. The same children will participate throughout.</p> <p>Risks:</p>	<p>Ensure staff know about potential to bring other children to the galleries after this project, to ensure all the nursery's children benefit equally.</p>
Activities/Outputs	<p>Programme to be developed by artists, Starcatchers team, arts staff and contribution from centre staff and informed by parents and children</p>	<p>Risk: too many adults observing sessions!</p>	<p>Starcatchers & NGS staff need to discuss / share attendance and be clear about roles when attending.</p>
Inputs	<p>NGS Staff</p> <p>Artists</p> <p>Starcatchers</p> <p>Resource</p> <p>Canal View Nursery</p>		