

## The World from our Doorstep - Project Overview

### A new funded project to support practitioners working with young children to learn about sustainability, the world, and their role within it...

#### Introduction

Our children are growing up in an increasingly complex and global world, in which their lives are connected to people and places at the click of a button, or by the purchase of a chocolate bar! The skills and understanding needed to be a 'global citizen' are crucial for children as never before. Almost 9 in 10 of the British public agree that "global learning in school is crucial if issues [such as climate change or international poverty] are to be tackled in the future"<sup>1</sup> But engaging young children in learning about these challenging and complex issues can be difficult and daunting.

The project is designed to explore three main learning themes: the concept of interconnectedness (local-global links), sustainability, and fairness (through Fairtrade). It will do so using a range of stimulating learning resources (story books and topic boxes), approaches such as storytelling, outdoor/experiential learning, and enquiry.



#### Project Aims

The project's overall objective is to raise the awareness and change the attitudes of young children towards development issues and ensure they can take action to support sustainable ways of living.

To achieve this objective, we will work with pre-school practitioners, infant teachers, teaching assistants and other adult helpers, to build their confidence in teaching about development issues such as food, trade and sustainable development. We will do this by:

- Developing the use of outdoor/experiential learning to introduce development issues to young children through the concepts of interconnectedness, sustainability and fairness
- Making links with food producers and rural craftspeople so that the project themes are relevant and real to children
- Working with practitioners in regular Focus Groups to introduce learning resources such as the *Meet Zogg* storybook and topic boxes, and develop new activities and classroom resources alongside practitioners
- Supporting practitioners to develop ways to engage parents and families in learning about the project themes
- Enabling practitioners and children to establish links with the Cumbria Fairtrade Network
- Supporting schools and EY settings to establish and nurture links with schools and food producers overseas, including EU and sub-Saharan Africa.

<sup>1</sup> Think Global (2010) *The Impact of Global Learning on Public Attitudes and Behaviours towards International Development and Sustainability*

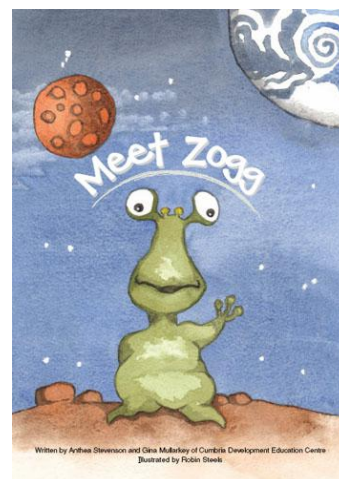
The final project output will be a *World from our Doorstep* Practitioner Handbook, which will include all the methodologies and activities which have been developed, tried and tested, and which can be used by practitioners to build on and sustain the learning.

## Outcomes

- As a pre-school or infant practitioner, you will have increased understanding and confidence, so that you are able to integrate teaching and learning of sustainable development and fairtrade issues into your activities with children
- You will have access to storybooks, topic boxes and related outdoor learning resources to help teach young children about development issues
- You will develop the skills and knowledge to engage outdoor practitioners, food producers and craftspeople in working with children, families and members of the school community in learning about project themes.

## What will it mean for us if we get involved?

The project begins in January 2013 and runs for three years. One of your members of staff will become a member of a Focus Group with practitioners from other schools and EY settings. Focus Group meetings will be held once per term. These will be free twilight sessions, during which CDEC experts will introduce new materials, methodologies and activities which will help build your confidence in engaging children in learning about the project themes of food, trade and sustainable development. Focus Group members will be expected to try out what they have learned with children, and report back to the Focus Group with ideas and reflective feedback. We will be working with you to introduce 'Meet Zogg' our big storybook about an alien from a planet made only from other people's rubbish, and as the project progresses we will create resource boxes for you to use with your children which build upon the learning from the story. We will also be producing two new storybooks based on the character 'Fairtrade Theo' for you to use to introduce your children to the concept of fairtrade. We will provide at least two whole-staff training sessions in your school/setting, we will work alongside your staff to plan and host parent engagement workshops for your children and their families, with input from local food producers, exploring the journey of products from crop to plate (Fairtrade & Local).



So, lots of opportunities for learning new ways of engaging your children in global thinking, lots of new resources for you to use and try out, working alongside practitioners from other local schools and settings, and being supported by CDEC's expert staff – an opportunity not to be missed!

## Who is the project for?

Pre-school practitioners, infant teachers, teaching assistants and other adult helpers. The learning materials and activities will be targeted at young learners, aged 3-8.

### How much does it cost?

This project is funded by the European Union, so the support you receive from our staff, and the learning ideas and materials, are **free** to a limited number of Cumbrian schools and Early Years settings. There is also some funding towards supply cover and travel costs for your staff attending Focus Group meetings and other events.

We do, however, charge an annual project fee of £50, which contributes to the administration of the project. This will also access to CDEC's loans service including topic boxes and artefacts. For more information, visit our website [http://www.cdec.org.uk/resources\\_page/loans/](http://www.cdec.org.uk/resources_page/loans/)

If you already subscribe to CDEC, the annual fee will be reduced by the amount you have already paid for your subscription. (The normal subscription cost is £60 per year, or £30 for schools with fewer than 50 pupils on roll.)

### Sounds great, how do I get involved?

If you would like to become involved in 'The World from our Doorstep', contact CDEC on 015394 31602 or email us on [office@cdec.org.uk](mailto:office@cdec.org.uk).

We especially like to work with clusters or groups of schools who are in a particular area of Cumbria, or who are already accustomed to working together to share ideas and practice.



#### Cumbria Development Education Centre

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