



THE
MINISTRY OF
PARENTING

Group Skills Training Evaluation Report

Date(s): 28th & 29th May 4th, 5th & 6th June 2024

Venue: Colchester Essex

Trainer(s): Debbi Barnes and Jeannie Gordon

Number of participants: 11

Group skills training

This 5-day training course addresses many aspects of the complex activity known as facilitation. From getting groups started and finished, to dealing with conflict. The course explores the practicalities of session design and underlying ethical issues. This experiential course is structured to include theoretical inputs, group work and reflections on the experience generated within the group. The course aims to enable participants to come out of the course with greater levels of confidence, skills, knowledge of how groups and their members work and ideas for working practically with groups.

12 participants were expected on the training. 1 participant was unable to attend.
11 participants completed the training in full.

Below is a summary of their comments following the training

What part of the training was most helpful to you?

- *I think the group work and the opportunity to facilitate a group to show our understanding of the training.*
- *Being able to realise that doing the facilitation was really helpful towards my own development. I had a sense of pride that I had done it and that it went well.*
- *The facilitation sections where we were able to listen to our peer's feedback.*
- *Group formulation structure*
- *The instructiveness of activities and learning from each other's facilitations*
- *The facilitation and watching the facilitations.*
- *All of it. So well thought out from beginning to end. I really understand the value of facilitation and will bring that into my groups.*
- *Being able to find/see the importance in actually doing the facilitation. Pushing myself and having a sense of pride! Learning from other group members.*
- *Confidence building aspects*
- *Group process, building awareness that storming is an important part of the process. As a typical people pleaser, I found this useful.*
- *Experientials and learning from others*
- *The facilitations*
- *The practice facilitations and the opportunity to learn from others from it. The variety of activities and tasks- their purpose and learning from them was always clear.*

What did you like the most about the training?

- *Facilitating the group*
- *We had fun! Was a really great group and really good facilitators 😊*
- *The treats at break..... also the fun element added, it felt boundaries but still allowed to have a joke/laugh*
- *All of it*
- *Watching the facilitations and the teaching styles of Debbie and Jeannie*
- *Being part of the facilitation sessions by my peers.*
- *Learning from one another*
- *I really enjoyed the group and found the facilitators to be amazing! We had fun, we had a laugh and I feel we all really increased our knowledge.*
- *The empathy and kindness together with professionalism*

- *Interaction of the exercises- they were all designed to be more fun than formal and get us engaged which was helpful. Especially with managing energy levels.*
- *Knowledgeable facilitator. Treats and prizes. Great food, ample refreshments.*
- *Being part of my peer's facilitation*
- *Really enjoyed the comforting nature of the trainers. Made the 5 days really easy and enjoyable.*

How could the training be improved?

- *Nothing x 2*
- *Sloppy sandwiches and carrot sandwiches' x 2*
- *Maybe how long the days felt being in one space (usually a community worker and moving around)*
- *Sitting for feedback*
- *Journey to the training*
- *I found the receiving of feedback after our facilitations difficult at first. However, I don't think it could have been done any differently and in the end, I saw the value of it for both the individual and the group and supporting that learning process.*
- *For my own personal learning: there was difficulty with my own processing skills that made me feel overwhelmed in some of the activities - especially with shorter times to think / complete task.*
- *Pressure from having to facilitate bit this was also the best part as pushed me out of comfort zone and resulted in improved confidence*
- *Delivering my own facilitation and being filmed*
- *The facilitation being recorded but I can still acknowledge the value in it.*

I feel the trainers teaching and leadership skills were:

- 100% Above Standard

I feel the trainer's teaching was:

- 1 standard
- 10 Above Standard

I feel the group discussion was

- 100% Very Constructive

Any other comments

- *I feel lucky to have been part of this training and can't wait until I use the skills I've learnt*
- *I really enjoyed the training when I wasn't sure I would!*
- *The 5 days flew, and I will be taking away things to use in the future*
- *Really enjoyed doing the training and learned so much during from Debbie and Jeanie and the other members rather than reading handouts*
- *Loved it! Thank you*
- *Absolutely fabulous. I cannot express how enlightening your training is and you just set the standard so high. Your passion and care are so obvious.*
- *Really really fun! Enjoyed it so much more than I thought I would*

- *Extremely enjoyable. I felt as if I was on a working holiday.*
- *Thank you so much for supporting me through the process - I appreciate the practical & emotional support.*
- *Great training thank you for your time dedication and care*
- *Lovely training session*

Group photo

