



THE
MINISTRY OF
PARENTING

Group Skills Training Evaluation Report

Date(s): 22nd, 23rd, 29^t & 30th April 2024

Venue: RNLI, Poole, Dorset

Trainer(s): Debbi Barnes and Jeannie Gordon

Number of participants: 7

Group skills training

This 4-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.

8 participants were expected on the training. 1 participant withdraw on the morning of day 1 due to having to attend to service clients. 7 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?

- The facilitation practices
- All of it
- Learning the dynamics of group work, how to facilitate interpersonal engagement
- The facilitation
- The training as a whole was good with different learning points. And many points to take away.
- I found it very helpful learning the difference between teaching and facilitation.
- All of it. Find these courses very informative and helps my confidence in my knowledge.

What did you like the most about the training?

- The trainer's expertise
- Course Content
- The supportive environment
- It tested me and pushed me out of my comfort zone
- This group was smaller so easier to interact.
- I liked the atmosphere, and the facilitators, Debbi and Jeanie did an excellent job, and they were a joy to be around. The group felt very supportive and empowering
- The activities are always fun and educational. It helps with learning whilst doing.

What did you like the least about the training?

- Role play of silence on the group
- Nothing
- I found it difficult to sit so much
- The facilitation because of how I felt
- How the group started with the setup of the trainers as if they had fallen out set the tone for me, made me unsettled for the whole day which effected the next day. I don't enjoy being put in the spot, when discussing learning styles and the most the group saying they are dyslexic for this to be highlighted at different times made me very uncomfortable. Also, the discussion about how people can be favoured in the group because you relate to them better was evident in this group. As lovely as the trainers are it was clear that they related better to other in the group.

- I was nervous about the facilitation but once doing it I realised the importance of it and how helpful it is
- The end. I wanted it to go on for longer.

How could the training be improved?

- It was amazing
- Don't know x 2
- I don't think it can be for our group
- I understand why they train the way that they do and the reason for the learning behind. Maybe the first exercise could have been done on a different day.
- I don't feel that any changes need to be made
- I'm not sure it could.

I feel the trainers teaching and leadership skills were:

- 6 responses: Above Standard
- 1 response: Standard

I feel the trainer's teaching was:

- 6 responses: Above Standard
- 1 response: Standard

I feel the group discussion was

- 5 responses: Very Constructive
- 2 responses: Constructive

Any other comments

- Very informative and supportive as usual
- Enjoyed group very much
- I found that it gave me a lot to think about. I enjoyed the group being as small as it was, it felt comfortable for me and easier to get to know the other people.
- I have enjoyed all my training with the ministry of parenting group especially Debbie and Jeannie
- Thank you for the amazing training!
- Fabulous group and very quickly felt safe.

Group photo

