Noah's Ark Pre-school went on local walks with the children to develop a sense of belonging and connection to their neighbourhood

After reflecting as a team on how we could help our children feel more connected with our local community we decided we would introduce some very simple short walks around the nearby streets. This had been a previous Bristol Standard target for us and we had found it to be such a positive experience for the children that we wanted to continue and develop it. We had noticed so many benefits for the children from these walks that we wanted to share with their parents and carers and so we wrote an information sheet for families about why we were taking the children out into the local community. We created some simple cards with photos of things to notice and the children love to spot them on their walk. We go out in small groups and take our time enjoying being out and about noticing the things that interest us that day.

We have made laminated cards with photos of things for the children to spot, such as, numbers on doors and other signs with print and symbols. These have been great talking points as the children can work out what the sign might say by linking it to where it is such as this one on the gates to a church car park.

There are always interesting shapes to notice in the environment such as this round manhole cover.

We sometimes cross the road on our walks and can talk with the children about safe places to cross

Our local walks have now become well embedded into our Noah's Ark curriculum offer for all the children. We plan to continue developing them and hope to find ways to encourage families to go on their own 'local walks' near to where they live and share photos with us of the interesting things they see.

Identify something you have noticed that could become an action research project; think about where you are now? Where you want to be? And how you will get there?

Dimension: 3 The Reflective and Researchful Practitioner