Engaging the under 5s – Empowering Children to create their own Museums experience.

Catherine Doran - Northern Ireland War Memorial
Playful Museums

Activities, workshops and events designed to encourage learning and development in under fives.

Programmes are designed to encourage learning and development from an early age and most importantly of all – it’s fun!
AIMS

Activities and stories that can be replicated in a preschool setting

Blended offering that can be loaned, streamed and/or downloaded

Personalise Jeannie with activities that relate to the museum

Link activities to child development & different learning styles and needs

What do the nursery units look like?

What works online for this age group?

What concepts can they understand?

What is the variance in abilities and stages in a typical nursery room
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Stage 1: Research & the ‘Value of Play’

- Intrinsic
- Instrumental
- Institutional
Stage 2: Consultation

- Introduce objects from the museum
- Introduce Jeannie
- Explore what types of spaces the unit has?
- Explore developmental stages are linked to the Jeannie story
- Observe free play
- Observe interaction with Jeannie
“Today Jeannie arrived with her suitcase after being evacuated. We listened to the song on YouTube, talked about Jeannie then explored the contents of her suitcase.

The children enjoyed playing with the toys and making a racket with the instruments.”
Consultation Feedback

Children introduced to Jeannie and told they had a special visitor who has had to move to a new house so has bought her suitcase with her. When Jeannie appeared, a few children shouted a chicken, a few hen and H. said cluck cluck.

- When asked where hens live, majority of children said farm. C said in a henhouse like in “Oh Dear” (by Rod Campbell)

- Asked what needs to be in a henhouse. C said straw. A said food. Asked would she need a bed A said yes with feathers in it. When asked how about toys C said “Don’t be silly hens don’t play with toys”.

- Props we think that may help our picture cards of a farm, the inside and outside of a henhouse. A picture of a Rooster and hen to may help the children to distinguish between a male and female hen.
Stage 3: Collaboration
JEANIE THE HEN
ACTIVITY PACK

CONTENTS
Music and Movement
Hey Little Hen
Chick Chick Chick Chick Chick
Old MacDonald Had a Farm
Games
Happy Hens
Can You Cross the Green Eggs Hunt
Recipes
Carrot Cake
Carrot Lollipops
Cress Heads
Create
Come for Jeannie the Hen
Colouring-in Sheets
Invitations, a Tractor, A Pig and A Cow

NORTHERN IRELAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM
The Egg Question

“We asked the children did they like to eat eggs and what type. The children who answered said scrambled egg.”
We had never heard of Playful Museums before Catherine introduced it to us but really enjoyed exploring Jeannie and her suitcase.

We posted photos on our app of the children so as their parents could see how we were involved in the consultation and received positive feedback.

Stage 4: Evaluation
What did we learn?

• Research the learning and development milestones

• Allow plenty of time

• Factor in observations

• Online – offer music, dance and movement as well as or instead of stories

• Facilitated units have their own schedules

• Developmental variance should be recognized but not feared

• Early Years is a broad term!
Stage 5: What’s Next?

Story Book & Sensory Workshop

“We tried to do the story as we moved around the room. The children followed at first but then began to walk off and play with other toys.”