



Report ECME Forum East The MERYC-England Teach-meet Grant 2020

Introduction

The inaugural meeting of the Early Childhood Music Education (ECME) Forum East took place online on Thursday 15 October 2020. The MERYC-England Teach-meet Grant funded the purchase of the monthly subscription Zoom licence to facilitate this initiative. The grant offered a personal CPD opportunity, empowering me to learn how to use this technology for the benefit of the early childhood community.

Purpose To...

- Create a joined-up ECME network for the Eastern region.
- Communicate, share, reflect and develop good ECME practice.
- Connect by signposting recommendations for conferences, courses, research and resources.

Mission statement

Members of the forum, representing music education hubs, services, agencies, as well as music and arts organisations are committed to making a difference to children's entitlement and access to lifelong music education beginning with early childhood.

Intended outcomes include:

- Improved access, entitlement and quality of ECME provision for the region
- A coordinated approach to workforce development based on expertise, experience and knowledge of members, informed by research.
- Shared responsibility to seek and promote best practice in ECME, underpinned by a reflective and dialogical approach.

Annual Review extract

The success of the Forum membership and attendance this year can largely be attributed to the Zoom meetings, congruent with changes in working patterns, time, availability, location and so on, i.e., as a consequence of the COVID 2019 pandemic.

Sample feedback comments:

- `Friendly, lively and engaging`.
- `It's brilliant that it was online so that we could all attend`!
- `Excellent beginning to a more collaborative sharing approach to Early years in the East`.
- `ECME Forum has really helped get me going again on EYFS – and we are exploring ways of re-vitalising and extending our EY offer`.
- I really enjoyed that session - it was fast paced, interesting and great with the technology.

On a personal note, I would add that my professional development in technology resulting from this grant has continued throughout the year, as I have introduced further software tools e.g., Menti, Jamboard, Padlet to good advantage and benefit of the Forum.