Jakob and Borys – Polish Children Newly Arrived

The Context
A day nursery admitted two children with a Polish cultural and linguistic background. Both children would be transferring to school in the next academic year. The children were new to the country and had no experience of attending a pre-school or nursery setting in the UK. The setting had little knowledge or experience of children and families with limited English language skills. The setting used the Early Assessment Review and made observations of the children to determine their developmental level. Both children were entitled to receive £7.95 EYPP per week.

The nursery decided to combine the money (£15.90 a week) to provide extra key person time to develop the characteristics of effective learning and organise additional visits to school to facilitate transition. Money was also spent across the terms on additional resources to be shared between the setting and the home environment.

What did they do?
- Introduced a local polish interpreter to ensure families felt well informed and could build confidence in the provision (£40 spent over the term)
- Allocated additional key person time to support home visits to find out about the home life, culture and the child’s interests and needs. (£30 spent over the term)
- Liaised with the school to arrange a programme of visits throughout the year and allocated time for the key person to share information with the teacher.
- Purchased dual language story books to be shared at the nursery and at home (£25.00 to be spread over the term).
- Developed a visual time line, and pictures of real life objects, to aid communication (£10)
- The practitioners used commentary, modelling language and talking with the children using activities from Every Child a Talker (ECAT) tool to support language.
- Involved the other children in learning a few words in polish, singing nursery rhymes and songs.
- Displayed pictures and artefacts around the setting (£30)
- The setting visited a local polish shop buying items for snack time, and when it was Easter celebrated ‘Tlusty czwartek’ ‘Fat Thursday’ by buying and sharing ‘paczki’ jam filled Doughnuts. (£15)

What was the impact?
The children’s well-being improved and this was noted on observations and in learning journeys using the Laevers well-being scale and child’s voice.