

Top Tips

Delivering HENRY Programmes Without Crèche Provision

If funding, space or staff availability mean that you need to deliver some programmes without a crèche, consider:

- **Online delivery:** all HENRY Programmes and Workshops are available for online delivery. Facilitators will need to acknowledge the presence of children in the background and reassure parents and carers they can attend to their children's needs in group guidelines/recruitment discussions
- **Delivering a group targeted towards parents and carers with young babies** – the babies can be included! Keeping young babies with their parents and carers is in line with many health/children centre's policies and supports breastfeeding/bonding etc. Typically mats are laid out within the circle where parents and carers sit, with baby toys/activities/cushions/baby chairs etc. on the mat
- **Have a children's area at one end of the room** - if the room is large enough, parents and carers can be at one end, with a play area at the other end for children. A third Facilitator could help keep the children busy and rotate in and out of delivering topics. This is also helpful in giving as many new Facilitators as possible the opportunity to deliver and keep their skills fresh
- **Have an additional member of staff/volunteer** within the room if possible to meet the children's needs, depending on their age/stage of development
- **Include a relaxed Family Time** with snacks and activities (adjusted so that they are age appropriate) at the start, end or middle of the session

Alternatively offer programmes when children can be looked after elsewhere, and add some sessions of Family Time. Consider:

- Delivering a group targeted towards parents and carers in receipt of government 2/3yr old funding. Arrange the group at a time when children are in nursery/pre-school, if possible within the same venue.
- Delivering a programme in the evenings or at weekends- working parents and carers could also be more easily included this way
- Delivering a programme at a time when children's centres have scheduled crèches already running
- Delivering an online programme

There is flexibility about when Family Time can be included in the Group Programme, but it is very important to remember it is still a **mandatory** element of it with multiple benefits. Family Time can be delivered as two longer sessions (1 ½ to 2 hrs long), either at the start of a Programme (maybe as a taster session – dual purpose), mid way (maybe during a half-term with all the family invited) or at the end of a

programme as a celebration (this may include a shared lunch/picnic). If these sessions can be run in school holidays, no crèche would be needed, and they can be very informal. As long as they include some physical play/activities, rewards and a shared snack/meal, HENRY will be very happy!

And finally, crèche funding may be available from local voluntary or charitable organisations. Some areas have been successful in gaining funding from Rotary/ Lions/Ladies Circle/WI etc.