



## ***Louanne Success Story: Rossi and Louanna***

*I came to PEEP because the health visitor saw that I was struggling with my new baby and recommended PEEP to me. No one really talks about the struggle having a new-born baby can be. Once I started going to PEEP, I didn't look back. It provides an environment unlike anything else out there for parents and babies. Following on from PEEP, I started going to other baby activities e.g. Book bugs. One of the most important things I learned about having a baby was that they need a routine, PEEP was part of that routine each week.*

*Rossi benefited from PEEP greatly, he loved playing and sharing toys/objects with other children. I believe it was very influential in helping him to understand the idea of sharing! He looked forward to PEEP so much and enjoyed it a lot!*

*I think it gave Rossi a big advantage when he went to nursery. I never had any problems taking him or leaving him at nursery. Due to his interaction with others at PEEP, he has always been able to mix with other children. I believe PEEP helped to make him more confident. He grew up mixing with other children and adults. He interacts freely with other children and adults all the time – wherever we go!*

*As Rossi got older the PEEP activities would reflect his increasing abilities, becoming more interactive for him. One of the best for him and other children was making chocolate cornflake nests for Easter. After this I started to include him in cooking and baking at home. He still helps me making dinner, actively asking to do so. PEEP has also provided me with little keepsakes that we made e.g. Xmas decorations. These are lovely to keep and look back on.*

*Doing the portfolio helped us to see that he was achieving goals. It could also help highlight if there was any areas that needed help/work. It is marvellous to look back on the portfolio and see how young he and discuss it with him. It was also an achievement for me to be awarded an SCQF Level 4 certificate. It was very rewarding to be recognised for something we worked hard on completing.*

*When Rossi started at nursery, I showed the teachers his portfolio and they were extremely impressed. They said not only did it give them great insight into his capabilities; it was a great record to have, Rossi also enjoys looking at it and asking questions as it is from "when I was a wee boy".*

*I also got many different things one the most important being support and a chance to talk to other adults. It was good to share experiences with others in the same position. Rossi is now 4 years old and he still talks about PEEP. I have also made new friends at PEEP and we still meet up.*

*I brought Rossi's little sister Louanna to give her the same opportunities and experiences that her brother had. I can't stress how important I believe PEEP is to a child's development. It gives parents an insight into what they can do to encourage their child's development – early literacy, maths, behaviour, communication, listening, etc. the list is endless. I enquired about Louanna going to PEEP before she was born – she started at 8 weeks old!*

***All I can say to new parents is – give your child a great start in life – take them to PEEP. You will probably enjoy/get a lot more out of it than you think!***