

Thomas - An Irish Traveller Child

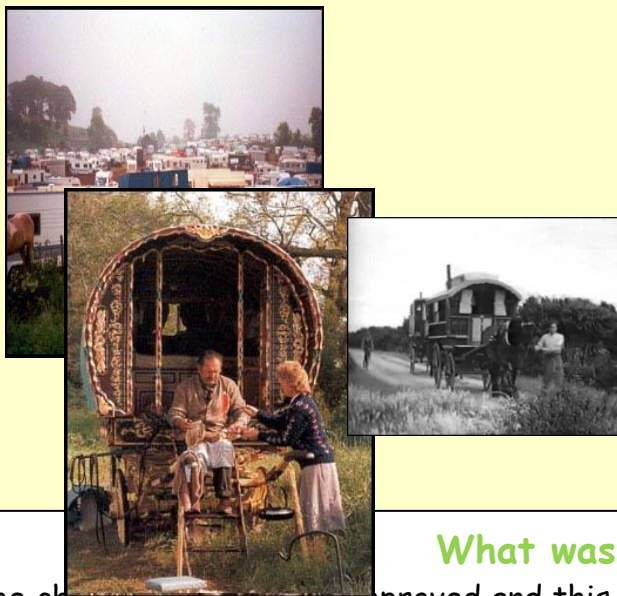
The Context

Thomas is a three year old child from an Irish Traveller family who started to attend a local setting for 15 hours spread over 5 days each week. He is entitled to £7.95 EYPP

The setting have had children from the Traveller site previously and worked with the Family Outreach Worker gathering information.

Thomas appeared very quiet and nervous; he rarely spoke and did not make relationships with adults or children very easily.

The child- monitoring tool showed that he was at risk of delay in talking and social communication. His Mum reports that he is unused to being with anyone other than her and others in their immediate community.



What did they do?

Arranged a visit to the family home on the site and organised a series of home play sessions to support his attachment with his key person to develop his confidence and build a trusting relationship - additional key person time (£15)

Bought resources to send home with him. (Cost spread over term)
Key person attended a training session, focusing on the inclusion of Traveller children. (£20)

Developed a Traveller home corner to give some familiarity within the setting and created a communication friendly space for him, alongside natural resources already in the setting. (£30)

Used alternative ways to communicate with the parent for example texting and face-to-face contact as opposed to written communication.

Visual displays of opening times and term times displayed on the setting door during school holidays - additional to normal practice.

What was the impact?

The children's well-being improved and this was noted on observations and in learning journeys using the Levers well-being scale and child's voice.