JANE WILLIAMS The Magpie Project

Prioritising play to protect against the harms of homelessness in pre-school children



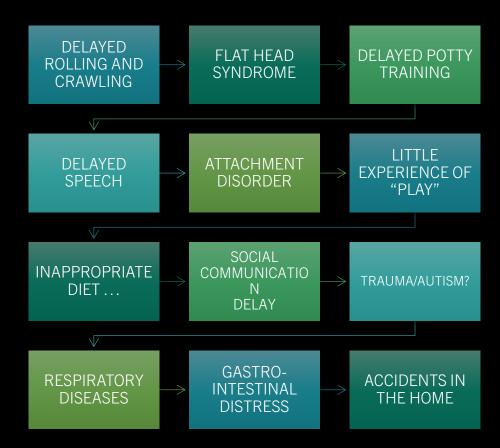
We believe all children have the right to a secure, safe place to play, healthy food, engaged, informed parents, and access to support, no matter what their family circumstances

WHAT ARE OUR CHILDREN UP AGAINST UP AGAINST?

More than 300 families with children in hotel rooms 1 in 12 children homeless in 2,000 homeless under fives without food facilities.... in Newham alone Newham (home office and local authority placements). We welcomed 495 under All of our mums are subject Every other child is living in to the hostile environment fives through our doors last poverty.... when they come to us... year.



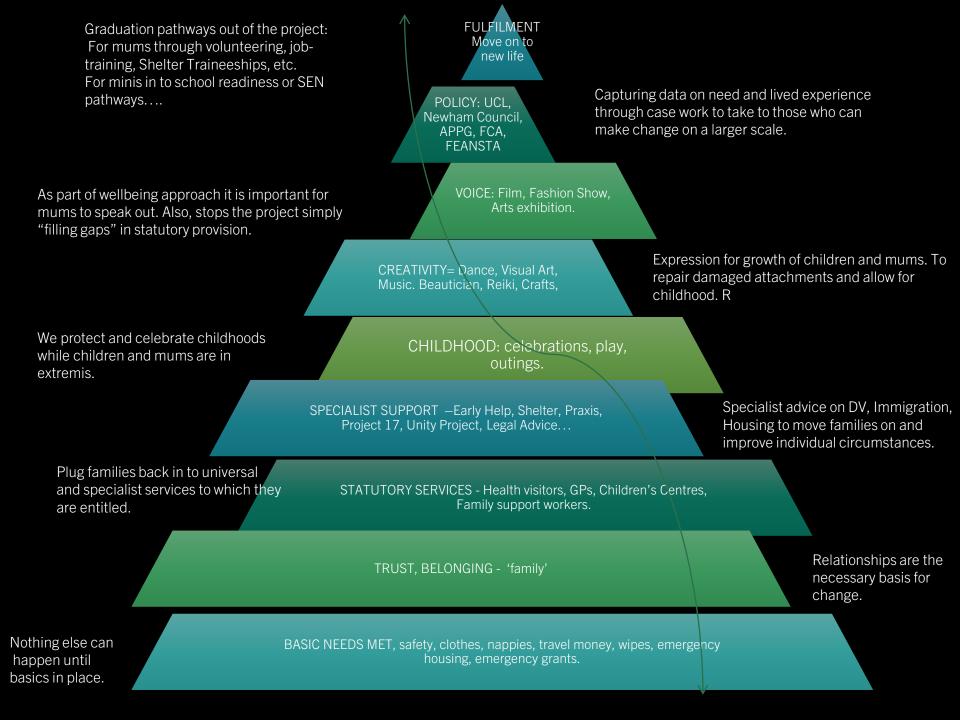
What are we seeing in our babies and toddlers.....





BARRIERS OUR FAMILIES FACE IN FINDING HELP





THINGS WE HAVE LEARNED.....

Keep it simple, both scarcity and abundance can be difficult to cope with...

Outdoor play - cold, unpredictable, worrying

Messy play – stressful and triggering

Play with food (rice, dry pasta, pulses) is a kick in the teeth

The chaos of play is frightening

The fear of judgement foils play

Comparisons can be crippling (charts, age comparisons etc).

The first stage of 'learning to play' is often watching

Small steps

Allowing mums to play first before children....(be the biggest fool in the room...)

Noticing and encouraging (I saw M loved the cars, does he have some at home to play with?)

Valorising, praising, explaining (he is not throwing, he is a little scientist exploring gravity, force, aerodynamics....)

Accepting, reassuring and allowing (don't worry mum, we'll clear up...)

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Be curious – read reports on housing and the hostile environment, understand how this is affecting your families.

Be heard – As professionals speak up about how housing and hostile environment are negatively affecting your families.

Join together – keep making links with charities, local business, social services, civil society, planning, politicians to throw a protective bubble around our precious babies....

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN ³ ^{STEPS} ⁷₀ No child in a home without a kitchen



IMMEDIATE SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR FAMILIES INCLUDING COMMUNITY KITCHENS AND FINANCIAL AID

NO FAMILIES IN HOTELS WITHOUT KITCHENS FOR MORE THAN 6-WEEK LEGAL LIMIT

BAN ON USE OF HOTELS WITHOUT KITCHENS FOR FAMILIES WITH UNDER FIVES

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Thank you...

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www.themagpieproject.dance

www.londonrhymes.org

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