

GRUMPY

(Creative Ways with Waste at the Blackpool Play Resources Unit)

Funding: ERDF under Priority 2 – People and Communities

Good Practice themes demonstrated: Equal Opportunities and Sustainable Development

What does the project do?

GRUMPY (Greater Manchester Play Resources Unit) is an environmentally focussed charity with bases in Manchester and Salford, established to provide resources and support for adults who work with and care for children and young people. In 2005, with the help of European funding, GRUMPY founded a Lancashire base in a 12,000 square foot building in Clifton Street, Blackpool.

GRUMPY provide a range of services and activities at their centres including:

- Accredited training in creative play
- 'Waste Warehouse' recycling units which offer reusable materials for play, education and community work which have been donated by local businesses
- Low cost play and educational supplies
- Crèche facilities
- Office space available for rent
- Training rooms
- A database of approved "Artists and Workshop Leaders"
- A toy and equipment library



What singles the project out as being sustainable?

- The project links with a number of organisations (from large corporations down to micro businesses) so that a company's non-toxic waste can be re-used as play materials. This has a benefit to the company of not having to pay waste disposal costs and satisfying their corporate social responsibility aims. This reduction in the amount of waste from being sent to landfill is significant because we have less than five years worth of landfill available in the North West. The recycled material is made available at very low cost to communities and voluntary groups as well as schools and colleges.
- Children and young people are educated to look at "waste" as a resource and to think about what they are throwing away.
- Adults and carers are trained and challenged in creative play – reusing the "waste" in new and exciting ways.
- In Blackpool the building in Clifton Street is being refurbished – conserving scarce natural resources (all the buildings owned or used by GRUMPY are refurbishments).

How is the project supporting equal opportunities?

- The creativity of the project – using play – engages with hard to reach communities in a non-threatening way.
- The project has an underpinning ethos of acceptance – this included the layout of the buildings and the integration of refugees, disabled and non-disabled individuals in training courses and practical activities.
- The centres are safe spaces available for multiple uses.

Project Beneficiary: New Kids On The Rock

The Full Gospel Church at New Moston in Manchester has several reasons to be grateful for the service provided by GRUMPY in Manchester and Salford. Their youth groups all benefit in some way or another from the recyclable material, from using materials like old yogurt pot lids to make Frisbees or puppets, to providing the goody bags for their annual Fun Day. Kevin Redmond the Church's youth leader believes that GRUMPY is an "excellent place to help develop play and ideas" and that the £150 to £200 per year is money very well invested. All in all a "brilliant place!"

Further Information:

If you want to find out more about GRUMPY, its activities or how you could get involved, GRUMPY is based at 20 Clifton Road in Blackpool. To find out about activities and opening times, please ring Grumpy at their Salford office on **0161 737 1644**.

website: www.grumpy.org.uk



Project Part-Financed
by the European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

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FOR THE NORTH WEST

