



investing in children

Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership: Shildon Library

On 23rd November 2006 I joined the reading group at Shildon Library for their creative writing session. Charlotte, Elly, Elliot and Emma were making up stories with Adam Bushnall. A young creative writer/storyteller/illustrator etc **who worked with the group last year and is back this year, at their request.** Charlotte and Elliot both said *"We wish we could have creative writing more."* I suggested they might think of looking for more funding as a group. This gave them something to think about.

Evidence of dialogue and change

'We are called the Mad Hatters this time' – I had my hat on and said how much I liked it and Elly said we should be called the Mad Hatters. We decided this at the first session. We talked about what we were going to be called and what we wanted to do. I had an idea that each of us could do a little bit, prepare a craft or something. Elliot was Halloween (*"but I forgot – Elliot chipped in), I am Christmas and Elly is Easter."*

- ❖ Apart from preparing their own crafts to share, the group discussed what books they wanted to read and other crafts that they wanted to do.
- ❖ The group meet every two weeks on a Thursday evening from 5pm-6pm. This changes during the holidays as the library provide a wide range of activities and entertainment during each break.

Emma told me *"I have just joined, I came with Elly but I liked the sound of it. I don't know about it, if I did I would have come before."*

The young people also remembered some of the crafts and activities that they already had been involved in –

Elliot said *"Last time Adam came it was good, his stories were good. He introduced an idea, then we had to finish it off. Just like now really."*

"We made bookmarks at Chinese New Year"

"We also made a 'name thing' from a name generator – you put your name in and it comes up with a 'nerd' name."

All of the young people said they still enjoy coming to the library.

Since my last evaluation further evidence of dialogue and change is demonstrated in the wide range of activities and events that are provided for young people.

A sample of these include:

October 2005

- Teddy Bear's Picnic
- Visit to Thornhill Primary as part of local democracy week
- **'A vote was held to choose our favourite character from a story. Willy Wonka was the winner'.**
- 'Bright ideas' suggestions were taken.
The staff team discussed with the children and young people what was, and was not possible
- Halloween Art competition, 46 entries.

November 2005

- Liz Million visited group
- Sue Abel worked with the group to create their own nativity scene.

December 2005

- Christmas party
Inc – book displays with favourite authors
 - colouring in sheets
 - Christmas card

January 2006

- Celebration of Chinese New Year, did Chinese calligraphy with a mini Chinese supper with spring rolls, crackers and dips.

February 2006

- Junior newsletter with articles and drawings by young people
- Eileen Glenton visit
- Puppet time for under 4's

March 2006

- School/class visits to the library
- Creative writing with Adam Bushnell
- Pat Hogg came to make fluffy toys with the group

April 2006

- Another newsletter with 'features'
- Easter egg competition. 111 entries all children receiving an Easter egg

May 2006

- Class visits
- Children asked to borrow books, the staff team organised this.

June 2006

- Themed activities – outer space
- Competition – guess the name of the robot

July 2006

- Spot the ball – world cup competition
- Visit from St John's – library staff arranged activities to fit in with their learning. This activity was alphabetical sequences including the designing of bookcovers
- Launch event for The Reading Mission – craft session making code wheels.
- Craft session making badges

August 2006

- Two events for children and young people every week this month
 - 1st – Charlie the magician
 - 3rd – Liz Million
 - 8th - Zoolab
 - 10th - Storytelling with Eileen Glenton

September 2006

- Redecoration
- Reading group reformed
(Please see first page)
 - various pieces of evidence of activities attached inc photos.

More evidence of dialogue and change:

Newsletter – The staff team use the newsletter to advertise activities, highlight new books and tell young people about any up and coming competitions.
(Please see two copies attached)

Competitions – Young people enjoy and ask for themed competitions with plenty of prizes.

Displays – Young people enjoy their art work displayed in the junior section of the library. The staff team try to ensure that this happens

Shildon Library provides activities and events on a regular basis. The staff team try to ensure that what the children want, they get. Booking visitors that the children and young people request and organising crafts and competitions that the young people want to do as well as making sure that they stock the books the children want to read.

After reading my evaluation the young people said the young people said they were happy with my report and agreed that Shildon Library should remain an Investing in Children member. Therefore in recognition of the continued dialogue with children and young people and ensuring that things are provided for them I am more than happy to recommend this.

Helen Mulhearn
Membership Coordinator
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