



investing in children

Evaluation for Investing in Children membership: Trimdon Library

Trimdon Library has an established 'Reading Group' who have continued to meet over the years of their Investing in Children memberships. Lesley Hutchinson continues to ensure that dialogue and change is a daily event with children and young people who use the library. Lesley continues to be supported by Margaret and new member of staff, Lucy.

Evidence is dialogue and change is mainly provided by: -

The Reading Group

The group meet on a Tuesday from 5pm – 6pm each week during term time. I joined the group on 22nd of January for their 'storytelling' session. The storytelling was being provided by Adam Bushnall, a creative writer who is working with many children and young people in library settings across County Durham. Adam tells a story and then the children create their own, developing it from week to week ready to share with friends and family in the last week. Ciaran, Rowan, William, Leah, James, Eleanor and Jess will be making masks, puppets and props in their sessions over the next few weeks.

Ciaran, Jessica and Eleanor met with me last year in the reading group. They shared with me some of the activities they have taken part in since my last evaluation. **Activities and events continue to be organised depending on what children and young people ask for including comments on the questionnaires that the library team continue to use for evaluation purposes.** The team also continue to provide exciting opportunities for young people's involvement in local and national events and celebrations.

Activities include: -

October 2005 – National Bookstart Day
– A storytime celebration
– Halloween activities

Comments and suggestions from evaluations that have informed future activities are: -

- **Story telling**
- **Puppet theatre**
- **Magic shows**
- **Lots of crafts**

The Reading Group theme this term (Oct/Nov) was: -creating space ships, reading about spaceships and decorating the library with spaceships.

February/March 06 – ***the theme was puppet making and performance as previously suggested.***

Half Term – May/June 2006 – Crafts and Teddy Bear making
(Please see photographs attached).

Summer Activities 2006 – Please see attached activities list and photographs.

Including: -

- ***Magic Shows***
- ***Lots of crafts***
- ***Storytelling***
- ***The Reading Challenge***

Local Democracy Week – October 2006.

A discussion facilitated by the library staff with local children and local councillors and the M.P. for Sedgefield. Please see feedback from local church newsletter.

The library team continues to provide resources for young children and sessions for children in schools: -

Toy Library – Please see attached information.

Little Tykes – Margaret works with volunteers and parents to facilitate the Little Tykes. Margaret takes time to prepare arts & crafts for the little ones and they all really enjoy their sessions.

School Class Visits – The team continue to facilitate visits from all of the schools in Trimdon Village.

- Trimdon Juniors
- St. Williams RCVA Primary School
- Trimdon Infants.

Daily dialogue and change continues as Lesley, Margaret and Lucy talk to the children and young people who use the computers each day and who come in and read books each day. The Children and young people were all very positive about the whole team approach to young service users. Although the staff team have faced some challenging issues over recent months being used a childcare facility. The staff team are aware that children are being dropped off at the library as a safe place whilst parents go out.

Although there is clear evidence of dialogue and change in what activities are provided, it is not exactly clear how children and young people can influence other aspects of the service provided, i.e. books bought for children and young people, how the library shelves are arranged. If indeed those discussions take place over the next year, I would expect that this could be clearly evidenced.

The children also wanted to say:

Rowan - 'It's really fun'

Leah 'brilliant – I come all the time'

'Lesley asks us what we want to do, when we finish the planned activities.'
Ciaran told me.

James- 'I think its very enjoyable for kids'

Lorna- 'Its brilliant'

William- 'It's brilliant'

Ciaran added 'Sometimes we chose what we do and sometimes we get a surprise,' Jess agreed and also said 'it's great, I have been coming since I was 7, I really enjoyed Roald Dahl and when we made chocolates'.

In respect of the continued commitment to working with children and young people in the library, providing activities, events and services they enjoy and like, I would like to recommend that Trimdon Library remain Investing in Children remains an Investing in Children member.

**Helen Mulhearn
Membership Co-ordinator
Investing in Children**

February 2007.