



investing in children

Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Easington Library

Easington Library received Investing in Children membership in October 2006. Due to sickness and changes in post there has been a delay in re-evaluating the project.

I visited the library on two separate occasions. On arrival I was welcomed by Allison and Pam. There were young people already in the library during my visit so this gave me a chance to sit and observe – which is always helpful.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

Firstly I met with:

Cherise (9) she told me she comes every now and then.

'I like the books, you have a look along the aisles to see what books there are, and if you can't find one you can ask and they have a look on the computer to see if they have any, and if they have, and if they are free, you can reserve them.'

'If you bring books back late you get charged, which is a good thing'

Shannon (11) ***'I come three to four times a week after school'***

'I asked for the "Simpsons Horror Henry" I asked for them as I like them. I like scary and funny things'

'We have a colouring club, you get to choose a picture to colour in. They have competitions'

Declan told me ***'I won a kite'*** and Dylan said ***'I won a mask'***

'Last week was a fancy dress halloween party'

'Something happens nearly every Thursday'

I then met with a group of older young people aged between 11 to 13 years. They told me how they come to the library nearly everyday of the week.

'We like to come to go on the internet and the computers. If you ask the workers stuff they will do it for you as they are usually very helpful. I asked for football books and they got them'

Ryan and James then went on to tell me ***'I've been coming since we first moved here about three years ago, then we stopped coming but have started again'***

'The fact you can use the computers whenever you want is a good thing'

'I ordered a book "War Hammer 40k space wolf" and I got it'

'It's fun and you get out of the house and it stops you from causing trouble. The library is like a youth centre to us but you don't have to pay. That's what it's like to me'

'Sometimes we are listened to, the only time we don't is when there are too many people in'

Finally I spoke with Dylan, Aaron, Thomas and Carl.

'We like going to the library to use the computers and it keeps us warm'

'If you ask for something they probably will try and get it for us!'

On my second visit to the library I met with Chloe (8) she told me:

'I've been coming here for a few weeks now. I like it because they have fun things on. I have been on the computers and come to the bookworm club all the time. We get to make valentines-day cards and mothers day cards and are making a box to put sweets in at the minute. I like it because lots of people come and you can make friends, the best bit for me is making the cards.'

'I asked for High School Musical books and they got them for the library and I asked to do painting and we did!!'

I then asked Chloe to describe the library in one word and she said ***'Excellent!!'***

Changes

I had a discussion with all the young people I met with during my visit, to ask if there would be any changes they would make to the library if it was possible.

All of them made comments about more computers;

'We think there should be more computers'

'We should have computers that don't crash all the time'

'We should have more computers so everyone could get a go on them.'

'There should be more computers because when it comes to the winter and more children come to use the library, you don't get as much time on them'

'When I first came you got two hours on the computer, then that went down to one hour, and now it's only a half hour you are allowed'

Another comment that was made was ***'There needs to be more places to sit'***

I finally met with Callum (11), Katy (13) and Gemma (12) who told me:

'There should be more for over 13's because there is a lot that age that comes in the library and there isn't that much for them to do, like the colouring club should have pictures like zombies and butterflies. It would also be nice to make things like bracelets etc.'

'They should get more books for our age like 'Tracey Beaker and Horrid Henry'

It would also be interesting if people came from different cultures to tell us about them'

Conclusion

Over the last year or so, Easington Library has seen many changes, however it has continued to involve children and young people in decision making.

There was a variety of activities on offer and all of the young people I spoke to seemed at home and happy with the library and how they are involved.

I have no hesitation but to recommend that Easington Library continues to be an Investing in Children member and have its membership renewed.

This report has been endorsed by the young people accessing the library and I would like to say a special thanks for their involvement.

**Eleanor Seed
Investing in Children
April 2008**