



## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Sedgefield Library

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October I met with Alex, Harriet Christina, Maddie, Francesca, Harry, Edward, Joseph, Caitlan, Emily and Natalie, the children of the Junior Reading Group at Sedgefield Library. I chatted with the children as they enjoyed an art session creating 'roman helmets and daggers!'

**Evidence of dialogue and change** has been provided by the views and comments of the children from the reading group this year, alongside some evidence highlighted in feedback forms.

**Junior Reading Group** – continues to meet every Monday and play an active role in choosing what happens next. As part of the evaluation that the librarians complete with the group, the children are given the opportunity to say what they like and choose what else they would like to do.

Please see some of the evaluations which were filled in by the children this July.

Maddie wrote - *“I would like to do some work on the horribles.”* Maddie meant the Horrible History stories. That is how on the evening of my visit the group were creating their own roman outfit, following the theme of The Rotten Romans. Other activities on this theme have included visits to the group from an archeologist and a real re-enactment.

Alex's suggestion was **‘to make a recommendation - books made by the kids.’**

Please see attached the 'Book Buy' sheets where the children have made recommendations for books that they want to see mad available in the library.

Other suggestions included: -

- More drama – More from the childrens favourites - Eileen Glenton and Adam Bushnall. With a special performance - The Emperor and The Nightingale.

Other activities -

- Jack and the Beanstalk - including planting magic beans
- The Cat & the Hat - including Pin the bow on the hat.
- Making music - with musicians from the Sage.
- Christmas Crafts
- Easter Crafts
- Building bird boxes
- Decoration for the library - papier mache butterflies, mermaids, fairies, toadstools.
- Visits to The Medieval Fayre and The Seven Stories.

During my visit the children chatted happily and these were just some of the things they had to say -

*“I enjoyed Charlie and the chocolate factory, we got to make our own golden tickets.’  
“It was good” said Alex.  
Francesca said “it’s fun.”*

*“I think it’s fun, I like the arts and crafts” said Natalie.  
Tom, chose a book called ‘journey to the river sea,’ and told me that he thought it was good. “It’s good”*

*“It’s really good and I really like the activities’ said Joseph.*

*Emily said “I enjoy the activities, at home I always read books, I love reading, here there are lots of books.”*

*Kaitlan told me the group “It’s fun, the art stuff is the best, it’s creative”.*

*Christina told that “it’s good” and she enjoys the High School Musical books.*

*Maddie said “I think it’s very fun coming, it’s nice to do the activities, it’s nice to have surprises sometimes and that we do different subjects. Adam has been back because we asked for more storytelling.”*

*This year Adam launched ‘The Big Wild Read’ - the libraries summer book challenge for children. The children also enjoyed a big wild party at the end of the summer to celebrate their reading achievements.*

**Rhyme Time** – continues to run on a Wednesday supported by the library staff. This year the little ones enjoyed listening to stories about Postman Pat, writing and sending letters. Please see the attached photograph.

**Holiday Activities** – As I wrote in my last evaluation ‘holiday activities’, continue to happen regularly every holiday. Staff provide a combination of activities, some sessions run by themselves and others bought in entertainment.’ This is still an important part of the service offered at Sedgefield Library as highlighted above with the list of activities, with the children of the Reading Group asking for the things that they enjoy. Children who visit the library for any activity are also given the same opportunity to have their say by filling in the ‘Tell us your views.....’, copies attached.

On my first visit the library was also full of young people using the computers, a steady flow of young people coming in all evening. Young people who chatted with the staff team and were quite at ease to ask for help and support if they needed it.

Sedgefield Library definitely maintained it’s continuous dialogue with effective change with the children that they work with. The children enjoy coming to the library and enjoy asking for the things they like doing. There has been plenty of activity over the last year including, drama workshops, drama performances, storytelling, art and big art.

When you walk into Sedgefield Library it is easy to see the involvement of children and young people, their work is part and parcel of the set up and the decoration. The children I met with were more than happy to say ‘yes’ Sedgefield Library should

continue to be an Investing in Children member. Therefore on behalf of Alex, Harriet Christina, Maddie, Francesca, Harry, Edward, Joseph, Caitlan, Emily and Natalie, I would like to recommend that Sedgefield Library do maintain their Investing in Children membership.

**Helen Mulhearn**  
**Investing in Children**  
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