



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Shildon Library

Over the last year the staff team have continued to work with children and young people. The work has been maintained by working with children in a variety of ways and providing a range of activities.

Evidence of dialogue and change is supported for this evaluation by some of the children and young people I met when I visited the library to join in the activities over the Easter holidays 2008. Jordan, Kirsty, Courtney, Carla, Austin and Daniel came into the library to use the computers and find some books. During this time they spent 10 minutes chatting to me before the activity started.

Carla told me, "I came down with school, we were looking for stuff to do with Roald Dahl. We made Roly Poly birds and looked for Willy Wonka tickets to win prizes."

As part of the World Book Day celebrations in March 2007 local schools brought children to the library, to take part in the Roald Dahl event. Introducing children to his work with fun activities. The children had worksheets to fill in, quizzes to take part in, crafts to do and websites to visit. The staff team also used this as an opportunity to find out what the children thought of the way the library was set out. **The children gave their ideas and consequently the junior library was given a makeover.**

- Junior area extended for easy reading, including two new sections -Books for Girls and Books for Boys.
- Reference section has been moved and renamed.
- New display area at the entrance to the junior library so children and young people know where it starts.

The improvements continued throughout the year in response to suggestions made by children and young people, and in August and December more changes were made to the junior library.

- Under 7's display area re-done.
- Shelving in the junior library rearranged to extend area of over-9 fiction.

Jordan said, "because the boys books are on display I have asked for football fantasy because I saw it on the shelf last time I was in but it's out now." We had a general chat about asking for books and the children all agreed that they can just come in and ask for books and the staff will get them in for you. Carla said, "Sometimes you need books for school, you just have to come in and ask." Carla also said, "I like how the people talk to you because they are always nice to you." "Yeah, they are very nice," said the others in the group. Jordan also agreed with this as he told me that he had recently had a fight with another boy in the library. He told me "the people helped me, that's why I like to come in now. I book on the computer, I only live round the corner so I come in and go on MSN, check my e:mails and play games." Austin was on the computer during my chat with the

other children and Courtney was on when I arrived. All of the group agreed that this was something that they all came into the library for.

The library staff have been very busy over the year and prepared the following write up of their activity. **Please see Attached.**

Jordan said, "I like the way that the childrens artwork is on display in the library, it makes you feel like its important."

Courtney said, "The books are wicked."

Mia and Holly Scott, Amber Boyd and Daniel Townsend joined in the craft activity. Mia and Holly enjoy coming to lots of the activities that are on in the library and that they come to the library a lot. Mia especially enjoys the card making. Holly likes reading 'Mermaid' books. These books are so much easier to find because the Mermaid books are on display in the newly designed section for girls.

Amber has never been to a library activity before and she told me that she thinks, "it's a good idea." Daniel added that, "its really nice being here. Its great."

Mia, Holly and Carla had all entered the Easter Egg design competition and were keen to show me their egg pictures displayed on the walls.

Carla said "I thought Zoolab was cool, I got to hold a really hairy spider!"

When I revisited the library to read through my report, Daniel, Amber, Mia and Holly all said they agreed with what I had written. I also had the opportunity to speak with a few more young people and they had this to say:

Rebecca – "Its really good, I like the craft sessions because its something to do over the summer, and I really like the staff."

Chloe told me, "I think its great because they have more books than other libraries. I enjoyed Mr. Olly last year, he was so good I had him at my birthday party."

Rhiannon said, "I think its really good because in the summer holidays you get to do lots of activities."

From all of the events that have been held and because the dialogue with children and young people has resulted in changes in the library at Shildon I am more than happy to recommend that Shildon Library remains an Investing in Children member. The children and young people who use the library have supported all of the evidence provided and agreed with my report.

Helen Mulhearn
Investing in Children
April 2008