



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Shotton Colliery Library

Following on from the last evaluation for Investing in Children membership I visited Shotton Colliery Library on a Friday evening. I met with Vi to chat about what had been happening since the last Investing in Children re-evaluation.

Bernie suggested that Vi consider how the children and young people could be more involved in making decisions. For a small library I believe that the library manage their relationship with children and young people very well, especially considering that with a staff team of two the library is only open two and a half days per week.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change is provided by the children and young people who attend the groups which run in the library on a Friday evening.

The Craft Club

The Craft Club meets on a Friday evening from 3.30pm-4.30pm (or 4-5pm). This club is well established and still attended by new young people year after year. I joined the session with Elle, Robert, Rachael and Abbie. The children made Mothers Day cards. The children were keen to tell me about the crafts they have created over the last year. Some of them are on display on the junior library walls.

The children have made:

- Kites
- Sticky things e.g. lizards that stick to the windows
- Pictures with sunflower seeds
- Bookmarks – frogs and bugs

The group also told me:

- “Sometimes there are shows in the holidays”
- “Adam has been to tell us stories, we like Adam”, (Adam Bushnell is a firm favourite of the children in County Durham and is a frequent return visitor to many of the libraries, **including Shotton as requested by the children.**)
- “There was a magician”
- Robert said “I came with my friend Tim”
- The girls were keen to tell me that “we get tea breaks with juice and biscuits”
- I asked Robert (aged 5) if he enjoyed coming to the Craft Club and he said “yup”!

During my visit Vi asked the group about changing the art display on the wall in the junior library. The group looked through an ‘art display book’ and voted on the next theme. ***It was decided that it would be Hickory Dickory Dock. The displays are ‘big art’ and all the children and young people in the groups do their bit,*** including the young people from:-

The Clippy Mat Club

Anna, Kate, Polly and Beth followed on from the Craft Club with their ‘Clippy Mat Club.’ An old fashioned craft that the girls asked to try after a visit from a local clippy mat expert.

The girls have spent a lot of time on their designs.

Polly and Beth brought some material for the girls to cut up and use for their mats. Anna told me that **“a lady came in and showed us some mats, big ones and small ones, we liked the idea and decided to have a go.”**

Polly, Anna, Kate and Beth always come on a Friday night. The girls also told me:-

- “We have done loads of displays” currently on display is a pig picture. The girls were quite keen to point out their own pig.
- “We get books that we need for school as well, I asked for one on castles and even if they don’t have it they will get one for you.”
- “This group is good.”
- “It’s exciting.”
- “It’s something to look forward to on a Friday night.”

Further evidence of change is provided by some more changes that have come about as a result of requests by children and young people who use the library: -

- The young people requested magazines a few years ago. **Recently the magazines were changed to new ones that the children wanted, Match and Dr Who.**
- File of new releases and books in the library. The library has a file with information about new books in the library. A young person requested a file for new junior books. **This has been set up.**
- The play station is still well used by the young people of Shotton Colliery.

All in all I think that children and young people who use and access the library are able to comfortably talk to Vi and Andrea about what they want to do and see in the library. Children and young people still use the library and still attend the clubs and activities.

Therefore with the evidence presented and the agreement of the children and young people I met I would like to recommend that Shotton Library remain Investing in Children members.

Helen Mulhearn
Investing in Children
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