



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

South Moor Library

It is always a pleasure to go back to South Moor Library year in year out. Apart from all the evidence presented by the staff, Trace, Hayley and Fifi (who filled the vacant 7hr post), I have my own experience as a local resident. Children and young people continue to be involved in what happens in the library and join in all of the group work, activities and in general use the warm, welcoming and safe environment to come in and hang about.

Evidence of dialogue and change continues to be provided by the younger age ranged children and some new young people who have been contacted via the local secondary school.

The Craft Group continues to meet on a Monday, I visited the group on Monday 16th June. I talked to Owen, Chloe, Iona, Harris, Taylor, Oliver, Stuart and Hannah as they created a games folder.

This is what the children had to say:

“Trace always helps you when you don’t know what to do.” - Hannah

“She is kind, it’s good.” - Taylor

“I think it’s great, we get to do lots of different activities.” - Owen

“We’ve made mobiles, Mothers Day Cards, masks, finger puppets, bonfire pictures, Christmas cards, lots of stuff.” - Hannah

“If you haven’t got anything to do you can come here, join in the crafts, read a book and use the computers. There are leaflets telling us what’s on.” – Owen
Please see attached.

“It’s cool.” - Stuart

“When we were painting I did a man climbing up a ladder with a puddle in the bottom.” - Chloe. Chloe was at the Craft Club with her Mam and as we chatted Chloe pulled out of her Mam’s bag loads of things she had made. Chloe comes down from Consett; they saw the group advertised on the internet.

The Reading Group

In my last evaluation I said, ‘At the moment there is no reading group running.’ This year, as requested by the young people, it is back up and running. There is a Teenage Reading Group and a Junior Reading Group. Iona said, **“We meet every three weeks, we read books and do book reviews.”** Iona pointed to where the book reviews were displayed on the notice board for all the children and young people to see.

Harris who attends the Junior Reading Group with Stuart said **“we do crosswords and stuff, its good.”**

Under 5's

As usual South Moor Library still facilitates sessions for younger children in partnership with Surestart. These happen every week but are facilitated by the library and Surestart on alternate weeks.

The Doodle Club.

This is by far the biggest development to the service provided by South Moor Library. The staff team was conscious they offered a lot of opportunities for children, although there have always been one or two teenagers attending the library, there has always been a gap.

Trace approached the local secondary school to see if the library service could provide something different for teenagers. Trace developed a questionnaire and spent time in the school finding out what young people wanted. (Please see copy attached.) Although there was a good response only three young people came to the Art Club, which was set up as a result. However six months down the line there are now between 10 and 15 members. The group have renamed themselves **The Doodle Club** as they sit around and doodle!

I met with The Doodle Club on the 12th of June and the young people had plenty to chat about.



(The young people from The Doodle Club hard at work!)

Iona told me “Trace went up to the school and asked what we were interested in.”

Becky said, “She asked what we were interested in doing, art, graffiti or manga?”

“When we started we had a meeting about what we wanted to draw.” - Iona

“We like Manga and that sort of stuff.” - Damian

“We have just come because, he came and then she came and so I came!” – Clare. The group agreed that it is by word of mouth that more young people have come and joined in.

“It’s funny.” - Damian

“It’s cool I get to draw.” Clare

“We are all friends.” - Kiera

“We doodle mostly and chat.” – Becky

“It’s always warm and everyone (the staff) is approachable.”

“We have library cards, so we go on the computers.”

“I like to draw people, like Pete Wentz and other hot people” – Clare

Everyone agreed that they **“like coming to the group.”**



“That’s our artwork on display.”

Other activities take place throughout the year. The children and young people negotiate with Trace and the other staff what they would like to do and be involved in. Since my last evaluation activities have included:

- The Magic Bus – Story sessions for children aged 6+
- A Summer Reading Game – the reading challenge with a bit of a difference. and as usual a joint celebration event. This year the young people enjoyed a visit from Zoolab.
- A Christmas Party for all – a party was organized for all the children and young people and they all had great fun. The children and young people all joined in the festivities together, from age 5-16.

As Owen pointed out earlier in my evaluation, “there are plenty leaflets,” the staff team ensure they advertise everything and ensure the message is ‘All are welcome.’ I think that it is very clear in my re-evaluation that they continue to succeed in meeting the needs of the local children and young people. As young people come and go and their wants change, the staff team are happy to sort it out.

I read over my report with Clare, Iona, Dippy, Kiera, Joe, Matthew, Fonie, Ewan, Becky, Maggie and they all agreed with what I have said and therefore I have no hesitation in once again recommending that South Moor Library remains an Investing in Children member.

Well done and thanks.

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

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