



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Spennymoor Library

This report will identify the ways in which Spennymoor Library continues to work in partnership with children and young people. This report highlights opportunities that exist for children and young people to engage in dialogue within Spennymoor Library in order to make changes to the service.

Spennymoor Library continues to work with children and young people from King Street Primary School. Mrs Turner continues to support the young people on the library committee. For the purpose of this re-evaluation I met with Brogan, Danni, Kieran and Thomas.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change

Questionnaires and Surveys

The Children were asked to make changes to the library to make it more appealing to other children. The group produced a questionnaire which they took into their primary school. They asked them **“what do you think would make the library a better place to be?”**

The following suggestions were made:

“Would like more computers”

“Magicians and puppet shows”

“I think that the books are too high”

“Would like a drawing or story competition with prizes”

“Would like more arts and crafts”

“Make better library cards”

“More Dr Who books”

The children informed me of the changes they have made to the library as a result of the questionnaire.

“We have put in a funding bid for some computers”

“We had a meeting with the library manager and asked them to buy more books, this has been done.”

“We have booked a magician for during the school holidays”

“We have changed how the books are displayed; they are now easier to reach”

“We have planned sessions for arts and crafts during all school holidays.”

“We have made multi coloured cards for people’s library membership card, you get to choose the colour you want when you join the library.”

The group all agreed that as a result of dialogue between children and staff, a big achievement of this year is making the library look like a better place. **“We have made the library more comfy and colourful.”**

The children feel that it is very important to keep the library looking bright, colourful and fun. The committee decided that they would change the displays every two weeks. To date they have had displays of pirates, ghosts, wizards, cartoons and lots more. The group change the posters, run drawing competitions and make crosswords to fit in with each theme. **“Children said that they wanted the library more fun. So we design competitions and give good prizes like chocolate.”**

Arts and Crafts

The library staff secured had funding to spend on craft materials. The committee were in charge of the money and decided what should be bought and what kind of craft sessions they thought children would attend.

“We spoke to other children in the library and we decided to do; card making, fabric painting, mosaics, beads, puppets, decorating figures. We went out with Gillian to buy the things that we needed.”

Planning

During discussions for the planning of the school holiday activities the library committee decided that the library should offer more for their young brothers and sisters. **“We asked the library staff to provide something for the little ones so we could still come along to the library when we were looking after them.”** The younger children wanted to colour, so being a pro-active group the library committee made pictures to coincide with the theme and made a colouring section for their brothers and sisters.

It was decided that activities throughout school holidays should be fun for everyone. **“We hired a Zoo – Safari Man and a magician. They were great fun, even the adults enjoyed it.”**

I asked the library committee if they felt that their ideas were listened to by library staff. **“Well if they didn’t listen to us, we would not have done what we have. Its good to have a say, the adults don’t always know best.”**

Brogan informed me that: **I think the library committee is really important because I never used the library and now I do. It’s good and you learn loads. Its not just about books. We have now got games and computers. It is the library group have helped to change that.**

I certainly agree with you Brogan. The library committee is determined to make the library better for other children.

The children and young people who I spoke to were happy with the service the library provides. However they would like to work on a few changes which they recommend they work on with Christine and Gillian.

“It would be really good to get a water cooler – so when you are thirsty you can have a drink.”

“Work on funding to get better tables and chairs for older children, we could then split the library kids section into half for little ones and half for older children.”

“I think that photocopying should be cheaper for children.”

“Snacks in the library for everyone to use – some fruit would be good.”

“I spend a lot of time in the library and I think that the library should have a public toilet.”

Spennymoor Library is creating the opportunity for children and young people to be involved in real decision making, with a real budget, giving them a real chance to make changes within the service. By continuing the link with King Street Primary School, the library provides the opportunity for children, young people and the wider community to mix together who would otherwise not have the opportunity to do so.

Spennymoor Library has excellent dialogue with the children and young people that use their service. The children and young people involved in this report have agreed the content and recommendations. It is with great pleasure that I on behalf of the children and young people recommend Spennymoor Library remains an Investing in Children Membership

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Investing in Children
January 2008