



investing in children

Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership The Getting Along Primary Initiative

As always I met back up with the Getting Along Primary Initiative Team to catch up with the years events before going back out to meet with children who benefit from the sessions.

The team have reached a point where the initiative is set. Throughout it's development over the last few years the programme has been changed and shaped with children's involvement. Children are still involved in dialogue on a session-to-session basis and can change the way the sessions are delivered to them and produce outcomes that evolve out of their ideas.

Evidence of dialogue and change for the purpose of my evaluation some of the evidence provided is by the team. Examples include:

West Cornforth Primary School -

Suggestions - Really enjoyed session - can they play again

- Would like to make book/story. Decided on content 'bullying issues'
- Make a display for the class - discussed ideas

Action

- *Will play game after session - next session*
- *Will take ideas & make book - one for each child plus HT*
- *Will take paper/resources needed to create a huge display*

Pittington Primary School -

Suggestions - Enjoyed wordsearches - would like it a bit harder, discussed how to do it

Action - *Created a wordsearch with one word thirty times (see attached)*

As we can see from the evidence attached from Pittington Primary weekly sessions are recorded by the workers. Children's thoughts, feelings and suggestions are recorded and the workers record the feedback given to the children and evidence of the action is demonstrated by the creation of what the children want, be that a book, a wordsearch, spot the difference etc.

Please see attached more evidence supplied by the Getting Along team from their sessions over the last year -

St. Joseph's RC Primary - Ushaw Moor

Bishop Middleham Primary

St. Frances RC Juniors

Pittington Primary School

Easington Village Primary

I visited four schools as part of this evaluation, Bloemfontein Primary, Consett Juniors, Acre Rigg Infants and Acre Rigg Juniors. At these sessions I had the opportunity to speak with the children who are taking part in the Getting Along Primary Initiative at the moment.

Bloemfontein Primary - KS1

I joined in the session with Jake, Bradley, Claire, David, Elicia and Georgia, supported by Mrs. Walker from Getting Along and Mrs. Snailham from the school. As we worked through the session I talked to the children about what they like -

Elicia told me that *“we sometimes read a book together.”*

David said *“it’s good work.”*

Georgia thinks *“it’s really good.”*

Claire *“likes working.”*

Jake *“likes Mrs. Walker because she is so nice.”*

Bradley said *“I like coming - cos I do!”*

Mrs. Walker always brings lots of goodies, bits and bobs that are used during the sessions and the children are encouraged to make choices about which bits they do use.

For the game they played Bradley asked *“Please can we use the teddies for the counters.”*

During the game the children read out cards with ‘nice actions’ and some with ‘not nice actions’, some of the cards were blank and the children had to decide what action they wanted to say. Mrs. Walker asked the children what they wanted to do for the last two sessions, they still had some work to do but there was also time and space for the children to decide.

Elicia - **Would like to read a book.**

Georgia - have fun

Jake - **make a picture to remind us of you**

Claire - **play games**

Bradley - **play something Mrs. Walker would like to play.**

This group of children also created a book to share with their classmates. Please see attached, as well as creating certificates that they could also share with them.

Consett Juniors - KS2

Ellie, James, Daniel, Samantha, Aaron, Danny all made me feel very welcome at their session. Alongside Mrs. Walker we were joined by Mrs. Shield from the school.

Comments from the children whilst we were working and chatting were -

“I am happy when I come here,”

“It’s my best thing.”

As we worked through the session the children changed the direction of what they were doing a couple of times.

1. The group asked to fill in their own individual mission aim for their folders.

The change being that Mrs. Walker usually just fills in one.

2. Mission 6 - how Edga feels, the children would usually choose a word from a list.

The change is a blank box for the children chose their own.

After the session I had a little chat with the group without Mrs. Walker. All of the group agreed that Mrs. Walker does a brilliant job. They think that sessions are **“excellent.”** One or two said that they “can’t wait for Fridays we come very early because we like the sessions so much. Aaron said **“it’s fandabidozee!”** The children confirmed that they get listened to and that they can change the way the session happens. **“Mrs Walker let’s us play games and we have asked to play some board games at the end.”**

Acre Rigg Infants – KS1

I enjoyed a morning visit to Acre Rigg Infants with a small group of KS1 children. Liam, Joe, Sam, Samantha, Eden, and Hannah. Mrs. Walker tried a new story with this eager group of five and six year olds. At the end of the story time Mrs. Walker discussed with the children whether they liked the book, because if they didn’t then she would not use it anywhere else. All of the group enjoyed so this will be a new addition to the pack.

Last week the children asked to make friendship tokens this week. As Mrs. Walker was a little unsure what friendship tokens she made a door hanger and a book mark for the children to colour in and make for their friends. The children thought these were great. Liam thought the door hangers were **“cool.”** After the session I asked the children what they thought, as usual they all ‘love’ it and ‘love’ Mrs. Walker.

Hannah told me **“Mrs. Walker is gorgeous.”**

Joe said **“Mrs. Walker is kind because she reads nice stories.”**

Eden said **“When we come I like making stuff and listening to stories.”**

Samantha likes to come **“because it is nice and fun.”**

Sam said **“I like the dice.”**

Liam **“I like her hair!”**

Although this group were very young children we chatted about what they do in their sessions and the children agreed that they do get listened to because **“Mrs. Walker brings the things we ask for.”**

Acre Rigg Juniors – KS2

Following on from the session at Acre Rigg Infants I went straight into Acre Rigg Juniors to join Bethany, Aidan, Matthew, Rebecca, Kelly and Adam in their session. Supported by Mrs. Duff and Mrs. Walker.

The session started with the mission, but once that was over the children got to do what they had asked for last week.

- Compliment books – the children passed these around so that they could all say something nice about each other. Kelly said **“it makes you feel all happy at the end.”**
- Dominoes – These were given out to the group to take home. Bethany said **“I asked if we could have some dominoes because I wanted to play with them at home.”**
- Display – the children want to do a display of their work. Mrs. Walker brought stuff to leave with Mrs. Knowles the worker from the school.

At the end of the session I asked if I could chat to the group on my own and they agreed that this was okay, they were also more than happy to tell me what they thought especially about Mrs. Walker.

Aidan - **“Mrs. Walker is polite and nice and I wish she was my teacher.”**

- **“I like coming here, we get to do nice things.”**

- *“Whatever we want to do she makes it fun.”*

Matthew – *“She always asks us what we want to do.”*

Rebecca – *“She listens to you when you are talking.”*

Bethany – *“When I was in the yard last week I was getting picked on, when I came in here Mrs. Walker helped me to forget about it. You know she never forgets stuff we ask for.”*

Mrs. Duff who has been an observer at the session also commented on Mrs. Walker being very kind and inspirational in the way she works with the children, sharing resources and giving ideas. “Excellent”

The Getting Along Primary Initiative was produced by the team, and is delivered by the team. My evaluation includes many comments which are very complimentary about Mrs. Walker. Although the children do understand that they have a say in the involvement of the sessions I do believe that it so well received due to the quality of the delivery. All of the children I spoke to were able to say that Mrs. Walker listens to them and **yes** ‘Getting Along’ does deserve its continued Investing in Children membership. I would just like to repeat what Bethany said *“she never forgets what we ask for.”* The systems the team have set in place ensure that nothing is missed, that feedback is given to the children immediately. Consequently the children feel very valued and part of the process. With this in mind and with all the children having read the parts that were important to them I have no hesitation in recommending that The Getting Along Primary Initiative receives its Investing in Children Membership for another year.

Thanks to all of the team, with a big thank you to Sue!

Helen Mulhearn
Investing in Children
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