



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Trimdon Library

Trimdon Library continues to provide a range of activities and events for children and young people. I was told by the 'Craft Group,' which meets every Tuesday evening, that crafts are a favourite.

Evidence of dialogue and change is provided by the craft group. I met with Eleanor, Beth, Thomas, James, Leah and Katie on Tuesday 18th March when they were making Easter cards. The group knew I was coming to visit and when I arrived launched into why they like coming to Trimdon Library.

Leah - **"I like the crafts."**

Beth - **"We make memory books."** Beth then pulled out from her bag, a beautiful memory book that she had made.

Katie told me **"the man who came to do them with us trusted me and my friend Jessica to help. He was really good and gave us so much stuff."**

Beth - **"I've done loads of crafts."**

Eleanor - **"I like doing the cookery."**

Leah said - **"Well it wasn't cooking we made chocolate bars. We melted the chocolate and mixed milk and white to marble the bars."**

Katie - **"There were bowls with crispies and raisins and stuff."**

The other event that the children were keen to tell me about was their visit to the Seven Stories in Newcastle.

Katie and Leah told me about the Shoe Baby, Eleanor enjoyed playing with the **"things made out of rocks."** James said, **"everyone had something different they liked about it, we all had fun."** The group got the bus there, they had a packed lunch, visited the shops, compared the books they wanted to buy and generally had a fantastic time.

The craft group told me about other things they have made:

- Glasses
- ID cards for detective stories
- Marbled boxes
- Story writing
- A chocolate factory
- Canvas painting (please see photographs attached)

The group also told me about all the activities and events they have had over the last year:

- Puppet shows
- Halloween/Christmas/Easter crafts
- Seven Stories session in the library
- Ceramic pots
- Beaded bugs
- Adam Bushnell – the children's favourite storyteller back at the request of the children.
- Magic Jack

- Fantasy flowers
- Mr Twister
- Tile making
- Faberge eggs
- Photo frames
- Fabric drawstring bags

The list is endless!

Katie told me activities are advertised in the library. **“We put our names on the sheet because there are limited numbers of places.”** The activities continue to be well attended and all children are asked to fill in an evaluation form where they can request or suggest what activities they would like to see in the library.

Further evidence of dialogue and change:

Regional Chatterbooks Day at the Sage Gateshead – The group were asked if they wanted to take part in this event. Jessica, William, Leah and Kieran all enjoyed their visit to the Sage. This was the children’s first introduction to Ceri Worman. From this the children have requested her books in the library and enjoyed a visit (as already highlighted).

Book Selection – Trimdon Reading Group discussed the authors they liked and which books they would like to see in the library. The children listed the names and books were bought in as requested. A general request was **“lots of books for boys.”** There is now a large book display in the junior section with a wide selection of books for boys, plenty of ‘boys rule’. The group also requested more copies of Jealousy Junkie by Ceri Worman.

Northern Children’s Book Festival – Lesley asked for funding for an author visit and was successful in her bid. Ceri Worman visited both St Williams and Trimdon Juniors Schools. Ceri Worman was requested following a glowing recommendation from the Reading Group.

Toy Library – The service provided by the Toy Library has greatly improved with the employment of a new Toy Library Assistant. Children and their parents come in to borrow toys and play before they choose. Please see photographs attached. The parents of the children also fill in questionnaires and suggest activities and events that their children might enjoy.

School Visits – The Librarians at Trimdon Library still accommodate school visits providing themed sessions, making books available for the children and young people, which are relevant to their studies and homework.

Little Tykes – a local private nursery also visit the library for storytelling sessions.

Book reading festivals and challenges take place throughout the year which include more story sessions e.g. National Bookstart Day and more entertainers e.g. World Book Day.

Once again Trimdon Library has continued to provide a range of entertainment and activities as requested by the children and sometimes as a surprise for the children. All of the work happens informally; the children are comfortable in the library and are able to talk to all of the staff team, something not always found in all libraries. Although Lesley takes a lead role in organising the activities, Margaret and Lucy both play an active role in it all.

When I revisited the library to go through my report all of the group agreed, Thomas said “They are facts, that’s all true,” Katie said “that’s great.” Liam, Cori, Charley, Cameron,

Rachel and Sarah were also at the craft session and they too told me that they do feel listened to by the staff. Rachel said, "it's always fun and it's relaxing." Sarah agreed that they "do good activities." Therefore with the agreement of all the children and young people I met with I would like to recommend that Trimdon Library retains its Investing in Children membership.

Helen Mulhearn
Investing in Children
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