



Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

Wingate Library

Wingate Library is a small branch that is only open for part of the week, I met with Elaine Coulson one of the librarians.

I noticed the library was very spacious, craft work was displayed around the library, and I received a very warm welcome from the staff that were present.

Elaine explained that she visits Hutton Henry Primary school on a regular basis to read stories to the children, she takes approximately 40 books with her for them to use within their own library. They also provide 20 books every two weeks for parents and carers.

Elaine stated that family reading is their priority within the library.

Most of the children who attend the library are mainly unaccompanied, Elaine stated that this isn't a problem at all.

“ We welcome all children and young people into our Library!”

Every Saturday the staff bring cookies to the library, for the children and young people to enjoy.

Children and young people have the opportunity to stamp their own books on their departure.

Children can receive a lollypop for taking a book out if they wish.

Elaine explained the successful Carnival event that the Library attended, Wingate library had their own stall. –

“ The children and young people were involved in the whole process – making pasta bracelets, masks, arranging the balloons, working on the stalls with the staff, everything really!”

Staff within the library encourage the children and young people to be involved in the running of the library, for example the children and young people help look for relevant books for other libraries within County Durham.

As a result of the young people requesting the teen section be re-arranged, the young people have worked with the staff to re-arrange that particular area.

Elaine explained that children and young people often request a large variety of books, staff respond quickly and effectively.

World Book Day:

On World Book Day the Library had a variety of competitions, crafts and a prize for everyone who participated, not just the winners!

Adam Bushnall:

Adam Bushnall is a professional story teller, he is very popular with the children and young people, they often request a visit from him, and at the moment the library has managed to get him for the next 6 weeks.

Craft Table:

Wingate library used to have a craft table, lately this facility wasn't being used, it was decided by the young people and staff that this be removed, this doesn't mean that children and young people can not have access to any crafts, all the recourses are still available , they aren't on display all of the time.

Elaine stated –

“ Young people ask for craft facilities and they get them straight away!”

Bright Stars:

This is a scheme run in partnership with Sure Start for under fives on a Thursday morning. The children attend with their parents and are entertained with stories, singsongs rhymes and instruments for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour, they finish with a craft activity.

The library is next door to the Community Centre and families tend to come in from there, highlighting the view of the library as a community resource.

Tuck Shop:

This is no longer running, no one is allowed to bring money into the library, Elaine stated that, “ Children and young people don't have much money around here.”

Children and young people can have a drink whenever they like, sometimes even a biscuit!

Zoo Lab:

This consists of zoo animals being brought into the library (spiders, snakes etc..) the children and young people really enjoy these sessions, Elaine mentioned –

“ This is what the children wanted, these sessions are really busy, we get good responses from the children and young people, they like to hold the animals.”

NLDC

Wingate library received some money from Neighbourhood Learning for Deprived Communities, with the money, they set up adult art events, and they decided to have glass painting sessions.

Elaine stated –

“ Some children and young people joined in which was nice, we do listen to what everyone would like to see happen within the library.”

Elaine talked about the library being a safe place for children and young people to attend, they will always get a warm welcome, parents are happy for their children to attend unaccompanied.

Staff appear to have a close friendly relationship with the children.

I talked with Amy, Holly and Thomas some of the young people who access the library, I asked them about why they like attending the library –

“ It’s a great place for us, we can read and play on the computers with our friend’s.”

“ Always have crafts and story telling, which I really like.”

“ The best thing is Elaine and Niall are really nice and helpful.”

Sophie and Amy explained an event they took part in –

“ The library had a drawing event, everyone had to draw things that they would like to see within the library. That’s why we have a play station and bean bags, that’s what we all wanted.”

“ Elaine will always order books in when we want.”

“ We get to do lots of things, like play on the play station – that’s my favourite!”

Sophie explained her craft ideas –

“ When we did crafts, I made this person out of pipe cleaners, Elaine thought it was a really good idea so she used this idea with other young people, I was proud!”

“ We can have drinks and biscuits.”

“ They listen to what events we want to have.”

The young people I talked to thought the staff take time to listen to what they have to say and act upon it effectively, therefore I recommend Wingate Library receive Investing in Children Membership.

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