



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Interactive Project

For the purpose of this re-evaluation I met with **Ashleigh, Jonny, Lewis and Jordan.**

The Interactive Project is a social inclusion project working with children and young people aged 8 years to 13 years of age, who have been referred by different organisations and projects in Newcastle. The main aim of the project is to work alongside the children and young people to support and develop their social, emotional skills using a variety of activities and project work.

The project still continues to listen to the young people who participate; they use a range of activities that the children and young people have active involvement in choosing. Planning and evaluations of activities, trips and residential's are carried out by the children, young people and staff this results in positive changes.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change.

The young people told me that they come to the Interactive Project once a week, each week they take part in a variety of activities, Jonny told me –

‘ We decide each week what we want to do, we do things like, cooking, road safety, team games, rock climbing, we decide in our groups what everyone wants to do.’

I asked the young people why they liked coming to the Interactive Project and if they felt they are getting listened to:

‘Good fun coming here, keeps us off the streets, we like the fun activities and that we can pick what we want to do, we get breaks between activities when we want, we can have juice, toast, hot chocolate or whatever we want. We cooked spag bol the other week!’

‘We get listened to, we make the rules.’

‘ I love coming here, I am happy here.’

Jordan told me:

‘When we ask them (the workers) something they will do it for us.’

Jonny told me that they had been on a residential in the October half term:

‘ We went to Kildare on a residential, we did lots of outdoor activities, we choose to go to Kildare coz everyone wanted to go there, last week we looked through the photos. ‘

Lewis told me that they received funding from the Key Fund to enable them to go on residential and trips.

‘ We filled out the application form so we could go to Kildare.’

Day Sheet

The project has an evaluation sheet, which the children can fill in at the end of each session if they wish to do so.

‘ We thought of the questions for the evaluation sheet, questions like – What could have been done better? What did you get from the session? It’s a good idea.’

Due to the Day Sheet the young people stated that it would be better if the project was on for longer as the young people felt that they didn’t have enough time to fully participate in the activities that they had chosen, staff took this on board, and the children and young people now have an extra fifteen minutes at the end of the session.

Jordan told me:

‘We wanted longer so now we start at 6.15p.m and finish at 8.15p.m, we got an extra fifteen minutes!’

‘ There wasn’t many people coming, so we told people about it, now loads of people come.’

Thursday’s Presentation.

The young people were keen to tell me that they were receiving certificates on Thursday 8th November:

‘ We are all getting certificates, because of our scuba diving and canoeing and lots of other things we have been doing, also because we have completed our Adventure Service Challenge.’

‘ Pictures of our residential are going to be shown on the big screen on Thursday night as well!!’

I asked Ashleigh, Jonny, Lewis and Jordan if they would change anything within the project:

‘ Nothing could make it better, it’s great!’ *They all answered.*

Recommendations from the young people:

‘ Would be better if we didn’t do as much football.’

The Interactive Project has continued to develop and increase the opportunities for children and young people to be actively involved and enter into debates that are important to the children and young people.

Staff have an excellent relationship with the children and young people, this results in the development of the project and makes it a great success. For these reasons I recommend the Interactive Project receives Investing in Children Membership.

The young people have agreed this report.

Michelle Fenwick
Investing in Children
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