



investing in children

Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Physiotherapy Team

For the purpose of this evaluation I had the pleasure of meeting, Shehad, Anita, Majid, Johno, Abbey and Emily.

Anita, Majid, Shehad, Emily and Johno are pupils at Hadrian school where they are given the opportunity to access the Physiotherapy Service. This is part of the Community Learning Disability Team.

The service the Physiotherapy Team offers to children and young people is based on the individual child working in partnership with physiotherapists. Most children and young people who access the physiotherapy session do not communicate verbally. Therefore, the team have developed non-verbal communication methods and strategies to communicate with the children and young people in order to enable them to contribute to decision-making.

This report will highlight opportunities children and young people have been given to enter into dialogue and it will identify any changes the team have made.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change.

Initial Assessment.

The initial assessment is based on the needs of the children and young people.

Kim Jarvis, who is the Physiotherapist for Hadrian school, explained, "In nearly all assessments we will meet with children at their home and, if possible, chat about the service we offer. This includes developing an understanding of what children are like talking to their parents and other family members". The team then create a strategy to meet the needs of those children they will be working with.

Sensory Development.

The team spend time introducing different textiles for the children to touch in order to explore different feelings, the idea being that they can gain new feelings and emotions. These are then introduced to daily activities.

Physiotherapy Sessions.

What was apparent from meeting with Kim and observing a session at the school was that the whole approach to the session was structured to allow the physiotherapist and young person to understand one another, with the young person directing the session through facial expressions and their body movement. I had the pleasure of observing how children and young people direct these sessions during my visit to Hadrian School. Johno, a young person at Hadrian school, was moving his eyes in the direction he wanted the physio to work on and was smiling to explain that he was happy with the session.



Shehad, another young person I met at the school, was lifting his arms in the air and smiling. Through the interaction between Shehad and Kim it was clear to see that Shehad was having an input into his physiotherapy session.

Choice of Equipment.

Most of the equipment comes in a choice of colours and designs allowing young people to choose what they want. Young people can choose different colours in wheelchairs, leg splints and other splints. Young people can also choose different equipment to support the session such as soft play equipment and objects like footballs and other different shapes.

Below is Shehad, enjoying his time on the trampoline.



Activities.

Young people are given the opportunity to choose different activities during their session. The positive communication between the physiotherapist and the young person allows the team to understand which activities the children like. The team use the feedback, which comes through facial expression and body movement, to plan and develop activities and also to change anything that the young person is unhappy with. Some of the most popular activities the team continue to do are:

- Batting a ball with a stick.
- Ribbon on a stick.
- Parachute.
- Bounce Therapy.



Above is a young person enjoying one of her favourite activities, Bounce Therapy.

New Equipment.

The team are willing to make developments to their service so that children and young people have meaningful life experiences. An example of this is when the team applied for funding to buy a bike for a young girl they are working with and successfully received funding from the Sunshine Appeal. Kim explained, “**Abbey’s family wanted her to be more active and independent at home so we thought it would be good to apply for funding to buy a specially adapted bike**”.

Below is a picture of Abbey on her new bike.



Hydrotherapy Session.

This was introduced during the summer holidays last year as young people were previously limited in their access to the hydrotherapy pool at this time. Due to the positive feedback which was received from the children and their families the team have continued to offer the session at Hadrian's during this coming year's school holiday.

Conclusions

For these reasons I would like to recommend that the Physiotherapy team receives Investing In Children membership and look forward to seeing any further developments made by young people and staff when coming to re-evaluate next year.

The following young people agreed with the report and recommend Physiotherapy team receive Investing In Children membership. They are: - Shehad, Anita, Majid, Johnno, Abbey and Emily.

I would like to thank the young people and the staff for their time and finish by saying well done.

**Rob Johnson
Investing in Children
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