



Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme
BRANCHING OUT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
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Summer Report

Our summer play scheme took place from Monday 21st July until Friday 8th August at Green Meadows School, Guiseley, 76 children and young people attended and were supported by 76 Leaders, volunteers, drivers and escorts, this was more than usual as we had a big recruitment drive through local schools which was very successful. We also had to recruit some new staff as several have now finished university and are working full time. Most of those recruited had previously been volunteers and were promoted to junior leaders after going through the interview process, in addition we recruited 3 leaders who had previously worked on the scheme and 2 new leaders – one works at Green Meadows school, where we are based, and the other at Leeds Weekend Care scheme, where several of our children attend, so appropriate experience with children we work with.

During the Easter scheme it was brought to our attention that the Pre-school Manager was planning to take over running the school nursery as a private business and that we wouldn't be able to use our usual base for the under 8's group, we initially worried that this might affect our Ofsted registration but on investigation moving to another room on the same site wouldn't affect it, however it did have implications for the groups as in order to have a suitable room for the under 8's the 9-12's group would also have to move so some additional preparation was necessary e.g. new risk assessments, and the supply of outdoor play equipment as the new playground didn't have any. The children found it hard to adjust to their new rooms and initially kept going back to their usual one, we were loaned play equipment by the school and some of our parents so this didn't prove too much of an issue and overall it worked well, and the 9-12's like their new room as it lead out onto a large play ground with a climbing frame so win, win.

Prior to the summer scheme we again ran a 6 week training course for our new leaders and volunteers – 37 people took part and gained an accredited certificate Level 1 - Introductory awareness of equality and inclusion in health, social care and children's and young people's settings one of the session included was the Level 1 Safeguarding course.

We also ran some additional sessions for the leaders on the Administration of medication, Intimate Care and First Aid training. Some of the new leaders also undertook a six week course – Take 5 for Play, in introduction to Playwork, all passing with flying colours.



Adapting play sessions to incorporate children with additional needs



Paediatric First Aid Training Course – artificial respiration, we also learnt how to use a defibrillator



Applying wound dressings was fun.

We had an extensive program of activities to suit all ages and abilities, Week 1 program below

Week One			
Monday 21 st July	Under 8s	Jungle Kids	Sensory Session - BCEP
	9-12s	Nick Toczec	Art Bugs
	13+		Woodwork with Play Network
	PMLD	Tropical World	Sensory Session - BCEP
Tuesday 22 nd July	Under 8s	Swimming on Site/ Play in centre	Walk to local park
	9-12s	Harewood House	
	13+	Kirkstall Abbey, Picnic & Abbey House Museum	
	PMLD	Local Walk	Swimming on Site
Wednesday 23 rd July	Under 8s	St Leonard's Farm	Margaret Wightman Cook/art
	9-12s	Eureka	
	13+	Trampolining	Swimming at Aireborough
	PMLD	Margaret Wightman Cook/art	Trampolining
Thursday 24 th July	Under 8s	Farsley Park	Swimming on Site
	9-12s	Nell Bank	
	13+		
	PMLD	Swimming on Site	Sensory Leeds
Friday 25 th July	Under 8s	Baking	Emsley's play barn
	9-12s	Swimming at Richard Dunns	
	13+	Big Swing Adventure playground	Multi Activity Team coming
	PMLD	Music Session	Aromatherapy with Patsy

Red = Booked activities Orange = still waiting for confirmation Blue = free with Max card

The weather was pretty good and most of the planned activities were able to go ahead, having the Max cards meant we went to a few new places like Bradford Industrial Museum and Thwaites Mill as well as being able to go more often to Harewood House and Eureka as the cost wasn't an issue.

Usual activities like swimming, bowling and cinema were thoroughly enjoyable, however a couple of trips to Richard Dunn's sport centre and Eccleshill Adventure Playground had to be rearrange due to major road works throughout Shipley.

We had a couple of activity days for the 9-12's and 13+ group to Lineham Farm where they were able to do the indoor climbing wall and outdoor low ropes course, biking and animal care, some of the children have been there with us on residential breaks previously so were familiar with it and enjoyed re-visiting – this however was quite expensive at £300/day.

Under Eights Group – Team Leader for the under eights was Emma Harrison in week one and Lauren Dempsey in weeks 2 & 3, Lauren works in school and hers didn't finish until the end of week one, Emma was previously the team leader before she became a full-time child minder so stepped in to help us out – taking her annual leave to cover her absence.

The group enjoyed a range of activities such as bouncy castle, swimming, trampolining, trips to the park, Sensory Leeds, Harewood House, Eureka, Ponderosa and several local play centres.



Swimming in the hydrotherapy pool



Visits to local parks and play centres, soft play in centre



Harewood house playground, Lineham farm on the tractor and at the EST Donkey Sanctuary



Activities in centre like rebound therapy



Relaxing, playing in the sand pit and at the park

Nicole's 9-12's Group – Nicole is the SENCO and Geography teacher in a secondary school in Bradford. The group enjoyed trips out to the local park, Yeadon Tarn where they enjoyed the caving; trip to the cinema in Leeds, swimming at Aireborough leisure centre followed by a picnic in the park, as well as in centre activities – art and crafts, trampolining and Billy Biscuit entertainer.



Art



Morley Exotic Animal Rescue visited



In centre activities – climbing frame, bouncy castle, trampolining



Circus Skills



Visit to Harewood House



Visit to Lineham Farm – climbing & biking



Louise's 13+ Group – Louise is a Learning Mentor in a main stream school.

The 13+ group also went on a trip to Lineham Farm, they went out on public transport to the cinema in Leeds, on the train to Ilkley and on the bus to Otley as well as lots of in centre activities – trampolining, drama – X Factor style; circus skills and enjoyed Morley Exotic animals.



In centre activities – go kart build & ride, bowling, aromatherapy massage



Circus skills, Morley Exotic Animals



Nell Bank Centre, Ilkley



Eccleshill Adventure Playground & Royal Armouries

Comments from parents:-

T had a good time and was very happy to go each day, this demonstrates that all the people looking after T were great with him. He particularly liked the swimming session with Chris and talked about him a lot afterwards. We had the chance to go cycling and swimming which is otherwise tricky with one adult and 2 children when one of them has extra needs like T.

Y has been explaining some places on maps to us and want us to go to the same places, he enjoyed all the activities, especially funopolis.

I think to keep the transport ongoing and continue is most important. If siblings can join may be that would be an improvement.

I feel very confident leaving L and his belongings at ASAS because it is so well structured. He is greeted when he enters the building by the person caring for him who then takes him to be where he should be and that person stays with him all the time.

Because L doesn't look as if he has a disability and because he says 'yes' and 'no' in the right places, most people don't realise how little he understands, therefore it is really good that he has someone looking out for him and he isn't just left to be one in the crowd.

As a single working parent this was a lifesaver to me as I was able to continue working, enabling me to concentrate my 2 weeks holidays spending quality time with J on holiday. It is difficult to say what he enjoyed as he can't communicate however he came home happy and tired every day!!

On the first day Jake came home with a notebook advising what he had done that day, how he had behaved, etc. This was a really good idea as it enabled me to talk to him about what he had done.

James has had a lovely time at asas he says it's the best place ever!

H enjoyed this play scheme more than any other play scheme. It is very clear how it is wonderful. You really draw the smile on my son face and we had a very good break to spend it with my other kids

A has had a fantastic time attending the playscheme as always thank you. K has loved being a volunteer for the first time. She can't wait to do it again. 2 happy children and a happy mum !

B has had fun (and slept well) at the few days he's been this week, looking forward to more fun (and sleep) next week.

Comments from Leaders & Volunteers

What have you enjoyed about working on the play scheme this year?

Facilitating children to make choices in their play and begin to build early friendships

Building relationships

Enjoyed the extra responsibility of a new role, variety of children

Mix of children, staff who enjoy work and professionals

Work with children, some of trips and activities

Atmosphere was laid back

The children, there were more outings for u8's

Everything enjoyed all scheme

What have you enjoyed the most?

Company of adults and children

Working with children with more complex needs

Helping leavers enjoy their last year

Brilliant team

The children, day trips.

Meeting new young people and all staff and vols

What have you enjoyed the least?

Saying goodbye to leavers Being understaffed

Nothing - enjoyed it all Trips cancelled or changed

New Volunteer - Amy Pickard age 17



I would just like to thank all of those who have come into my life in the last three weeks!!! I have had the most amazing time volunteering at ASAS working with wonderful children and the most amazing people!! There has been challenging moments but every one worth it!! I feel that the scheme has opened my eyes and enabled me to view the world in a more open-minded way.

I am really glad that I signed up to volunteer and now I have, I think I may be a regular Thank you so much for all making me feel welcome and a valued member of the team. I'm really going to miss you all xx

Team Leader comments

I found the child protection training useful as its good to know whether there are updates I hadn't heard about. Training in Makaton signs would have been useful for our group. Is there anyway a parent of a child that uses Makaton could take a training session to teach us more next year?

Highs...

Children became more settled as week one went on and were given opportunities to choose freely in base. Two children had a great time in the sand, taking their shoes off and getting right into the shell pit every day. The team did a great job at being flexible to the children's needs including one junior leader in particular enabling a blind little boy to make a confident start to scheme.

Highs cont...All leaders and volunteers made week one a pleasure to be part of. Constructive comments were accepted and acted upon and we managed to create a calm atmosphere for the children throughout each day. EH

It has been a fantastic year!!! There has been a great atmosphere, really good cohesion and collaboration between the groups which fosters a really flexible, tailored approach for the children and helps ensure that every child gets to do activities that are appropriate and enjoyable to them. The staffing this year has been particularly good, despite losing some really valued members of staff, and this has also contributed to the success of the scheme. There has been a really good balance between long-standing, experienced members of staff and enthusiastic, hard-working new faces contributing to the collective expertise of the team. Being a little overstaffed allows for the team to be organised in such a way that takes it from being good to really, really, really good. Examples of how:

- Opportunity to double staff with challenging and tiring children
- Opportunity for volunteers to gain the work experience they want
- Volunteering opportunities for young people/adults with their own additional needs
- When two separate activities are taking place both groups benefit from having a child-free group leader
- We were able to offer additional places to the children of families who particularly struggle with the six week holiday.

It is difficult to pick individual 'highs' because I think a successful day is one where all the children (and staff!) go home happy, tired and looking forward to their next day... and I think that was at least most days this year!

These two factors - the collaborative approach (which has grown over the last 3 years) and the excellent staffing - have been specifically mentioned because I think they're new factors (or not true of every year) but they are not the only factors contributing to making the scheme what it is. Having (seemingly!) sufficient funding, our own minibuses, high staff/child ratios, lots of social opportunities, an excellent site including hydro, a supportive atmosphere and, of course, our 'can do' attitude when it comes to what our children are capable of accessing. ND

Seeing the children happy and relaxed, enjoying the activities - particularly the new children who had never been before (DR, BH, OB) also receiving great feedback from parents/ carers and working with a great team of people, not just in the under 8s but the whole of ASAS. LD

One particularly memorable moment was of LM on the tractor ride at Hesketh farm, he absolutely loved it and laughed from start to finish! WT has been very relaxed and happy and even came on transport without mum.



Lows... uncooperative bus drivers

Comments on the training, was it useful, could it be better...

The training programme has become a real strength of the scheme, and as it is accredited, something that has value beyond the three week scheme itself. The training is primarily aimed at new members of staff and I think it would be good if each year's training could be built upon and developed into a recognised, accredited qualification over a number of years. ND

I am really enjoying the accredited team leader course and finding it very useful, particularly with communication skills and has given me more confidence. LD

Did you feel supported and listened to, what additional support might have been useful. As always the support from Jo has been fantastic, as well as from Nicole and Louise the other team leaders. For example I was short staffed one day on scheme and Louise shuffled her staff around so that we could have Richard in the under 8s as she didn't want us to struggle. LD

Feedback on volunteers with additional needs

L - a genuinely great addition to the team. He needs supervision in order to ensure he isn't getting upset/in a fluster and also support him to make good decisions. He does NOT need support to ensure he cares for and entertains his child - he is very good at this. He has grown in confidence (partly due to being on the training course and getting to know the other volunteers) and joins in with the banter on a morning. He has asked about becoming a junior leader and I think this is something to consider in the future; we aren't quite there yet!

B - has definitely improved and grown in confidence and I'm really proud to have been part of helping her on the way and we should definitely continue to do so. She needs some support to assure her she is doing the right thing and ensure she is actually talking to her child and suggesting/facilitating activities.



Some of our fantastic volunteers

Again it was a good scheme, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the parents/carers were able to have a break, spend quality time with siblings, or just go to work knowing their child was well cared for and having a fun time. I feel very proud to be part of this wonderful scheme.

**Report compiled by Jo Galasso, Project Coordinator
Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme**