

Spring 2023

The Hummingbird Project visits Tameside schools



Last term we visited four primary schools in Tameside to deliver our Hummingbird Project, a six-week course based on Positive Psychology that aims to increase happiness and resilience in young people. The project was generously supported by Jigsaw Homes Tameside through a grant of £9,950 from the Jigsaw Foundation. The course covers topics including Happiness, Kindness and Slowing Down, What Makes You Strong, Bouncing Back, and Feeling Good About Your Future. On the next page you can read some of the feedback on the course

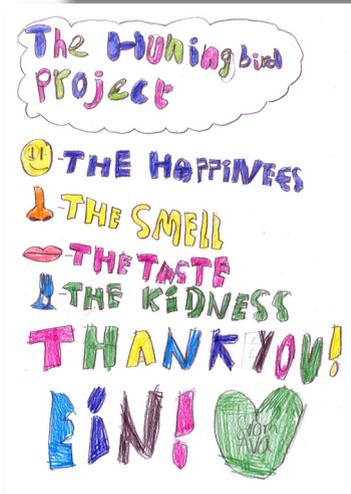
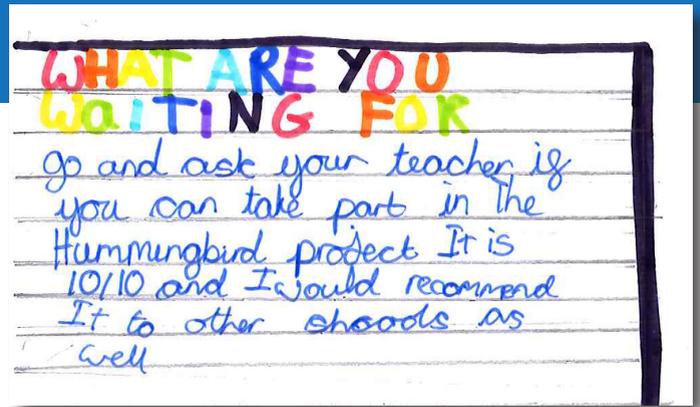
Jigsaw Foundation Manager, Sarah Keenan, says: "I was so pleased to read how positively the children reacted to the sessions. The past few years have been hard and very disruptive for children. The impact of Covid and now the cost of living crisis in our neighbourhoods has understandably led to concerns about the impact to children's mental health. This project has therefore proven invaluable."



We did it!

Hummingbird Project improves resilience

As seen on the front page, our Project Lead, Ian Platt, visited four Tameside schools to deliver the Hummingbird Project. Teachers at St Peter's CE Primary School in Ashton-under-Lyne told us pupils have shown improvements in regulating their emotions and are using strategies to calm themselves. At Broadbent Fold Primary School in Dukinfield, children learned how they can overcome sad or negative feelings by using their strengths. Teachers at Hollingworth Primary School in Hyde reported that the strategies learned have led to an increase in calmness, and pupils at Hurst Knoll St James CE Primary School in Ashton-under-Lyne have adopted suggestions on how to be more resilient.



Better sleep on the wards at Royal Preston

Noise in hospitals, whether from loud voices, televisions or banging doors, can be an issue for both patients and staff, especially at night. Better sleep reduces stress levels and leads to faster recovery from illness. We provided the children's ward at Royal Preston Hospital with two SoundEar Noise Warning Signs, wall-mounted signs that light up when noise levels become too high and remind everyone to keep the noise down.

Wythenshawe heated mattresses

Newborn babies are safe and warm thanks to the CosyTherm Mattresses we gave to Wythenshawe's neonatal intensive care unit, which cares for babies that are very premature or unwell. The heated mattresses are used when babies are born weighing over 1.5kg and need extra warmth, but don't require an incubator. Their design makes it easier for mums and dads to look after their babies while maintaining their little one's temperature.



We need your help!

A soothing sensory space at Royal Oldham

Many young visitors to the children's unit at Royal Oldham Hospital are battling with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. Sensory equipment, which includes lighting and colour effects, sound systems and bubble tubes, helps create a relaxing, calming and inviting environment and is invaluable for the wellbeing of children who are anxious and upset. The current sensory room is very popular but it hasn't been updated for twelve years and needs new padding, lighting, tactile equipment and a seating area.

Safer cots for hospice patients

Zoe's Place Baby Hospice in Liverpool cares for around 40 babies and infants with conditions such as epilepsy, cerebral palsy and spinal muscular atrophy. Regular cots are not always appropriate for children who thrash around and are prone to seizures, as they can injure themselves on the sides of the cot. Safespace cots, however, are durable and reliable high-sided cots for children with special needs. The hospice has one Safespace cot, which needs replacing. A new cot would mean babies can sleep comfortably in a safer, quieter and more appropriate environment.

Acheeva promotes inclusion for disabled pupils

Firwood High School in Bolton caters for students with severe or profound learning difficulties. Some also have physical disabilities which severely restrict their mobility. An Acheeva Bed allows these pupils to lie straight and work in a supported, balanced posture, enhancing their ability to participate in the class. The school needs an additional bed to support two pupils with severe and complex needs. This postural equipment will improve their range of movement and help to prevent potential deformities of the spine and hips.



Leaving a gift to a charity in your Will is one of the most wonderful and significant ways you can continue to transform the lives of others beyond your lifetime. For more information call 0161 798 1600

If you can help us fund any of these projects, visit

www.medequip4kids.org.uk

Fundraising News

Shimmer Ball raises funds for children's health

In December we celebrated our 14th Shimmer Ball at the five-star Lowry Hotel, bringing together 150 guests for a glamorous evening of fabulous food, dancing and casino games. Thanks to the generosity of our guests and sponsors, an amazing £36,254 was raised. Amongst our guests were the Ceremonial Mayor and Mayoress of Salford, and Rachel Connolly, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator at St Peter's CE Primary School, who shared some lovely feedback about our Hummingbird Project.



New charity partnerships for 2023

We're delighted to announce a new charity of the year partnership with BetterGov, a business consultancy working alongside the public sector. Bonnie Noott, Compliance and Engagement Administrator, says: "Providing our support to MedEquip4Kids was an easy decision, being a cause close to the heart of one of our team members here at BetterGov. Supporting children in hospitals with vital equipment and by providing programmes for mental health for young children is so important, it's not only helping people in need- it's lifesaving."



We're thrilled that Core Talent, a specialist global recruitment consultancy, has also chosen us as their charity partner. The team are planning some great fundraising initiatives and taking part in challenge events across the country. Hayden Cowap, Corporate Fundraiser at MedEquip4Kids says: "I've had the pleasure of meeting the team at Core Talent recently, and to see their energy and drive towards supporting our charity is so uplifting."



Dates for your diary

7 April -
Quays Duck Race



16 April -
Manchester Marathon

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