
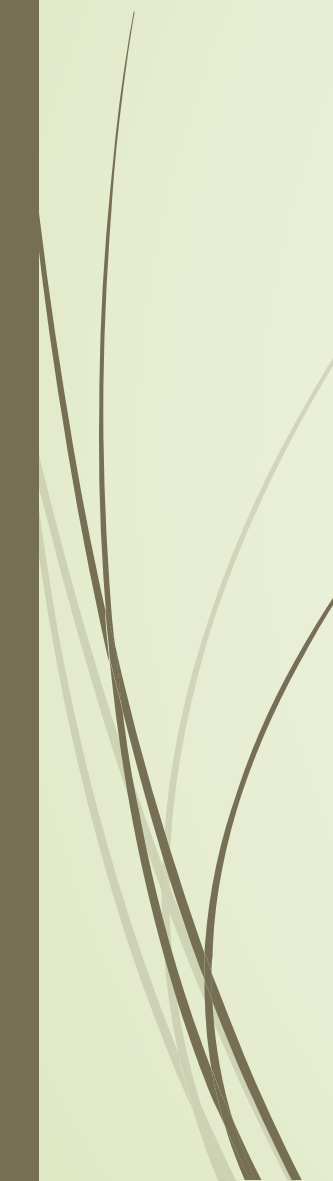


Knowepark Lunch Group

2018/19 Evaluation



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- Knowepark Lunch Group meets once a fortnight on a Tuesday in Knowepark School during the school's lunch break.
 - The aim of the group is to form friendships and buddies within the school for those who have a learning disability. We have had 12 peer mentors who come along to help.
 - The peer mentors were split into 2 groups and each came once a month while the service users came fortnightly.
 - We have 2 regular service users and 1 other service user who comes on occasions.
 - Our peer mentors described the group as 'an opportunity for children to spend time with others they can relate to, who don't make fun of them or judge them.'

Activities

- ▶ The group starts with a relaxed chat with lunch supplied by Interest Link and then goes on to complete more structured activities whilst chatting.
- ▶ The group has completed a range of different activities to encourage friendships and new skills.
- ▶ These have ranged from- craft activities such as paper flower making, button art, scrap booking, and jewellery/ memory box making to games such as giant jenga. These were all rounded off by a pizza and prize bingo party!





OBSERVATIONS

- ▶ The group have gotten on well together, with the peer mentors assisting when needed.
- ▶ The regular service users both come in and now confidently chat to the peer mentors.
- ▶ One of our service users has now joined our Monday night sessions since starting these groups at school.
- ▶ The Children, both service users and peer mentors have asked several times when we are coming back to do the group again and are keen to come to the lunch group.
- ▶ One service user didn't settle into the group. He then elected not to return to the group. However he and his parents know he is welcome to come and join us again if he changes his mind.
- ▶ The peer mentors have formed a bond with the service users, mentioning that when they pass each other at school or in the playground they chat to each other.
- ▶ [You can read a case study by clicking here](#)



Feedback from our peer Mentors

- ▶ It's chance to 'break away from ordinary lunch and chance to spend time with different people'
- ▶ I've 'made friends with new people and its nice to feel our buddies (service users) are pleased to see us around the school'.
- ▶ 'I get to take part in fun activities like arts and crafts and we get nice food!'
- ▶ ' I get to relax, have a laugh and be myself.'
- ▶ ' I like the fact I am helping others at the same time as enjoying myself!'
- ▶ Our peer mentors have also mentioned that the group helps others by 'helping them to make new friends, build confidence and makes them feel equal' whilst 'improving their social skills'.

The group were also recently visited by the bat mobile, (A car used in one of the local radio stations promotions for their charity). They were nominated for this due to their involvement with the peer mentor group at Knowepark. Radio Borders made a fabulous video all about the peer mentor group: see it at <https://vimeo.com/339350482/2adace7461>

This was a great experience for the peer mentors, and recognised all their hard work over the year.

