

Case Study – After School Club

Summary

The club is an after school club for Pupil Premium children in EYFS/KS1. The aim of the club is to build self-confidence and promote communication and language skills through everyday, fun activities.

Name of School

STEP TSA member school

Brief description of what the case study is about

Improving communication and language skills and social skills by giving children quality time with a teacher, doing things they may not get chance to do at home, for example, den building, cooking, gardening, woodwork, nature and craft activities.

Why did this work take place?

2 out of 3 of the previous year's EYFS PP children (both boys) lacked confidence and communication and language skills. Often, the only experience they could draw on was talking about playing on tablets or computer games (some of which weren't appropriate for EYFS age children). The club's aim is to broaden the experiences of the target children and offer them opportunities that they may not get in a normal school day or at home.

Description of the work undertaken

- Discussion with the children about their interests and needs.
- Applications to charities and businesses for funds to help pay for ingredients for cooking, waterproofs and wellies for children.
- The club has been up and running since Christmas and so far we have: done some crazy science experiments; made some bird houses; made our own healthy tea; designed and made an assault course; used a metal detector and dug for artefacts. We have hosted a big family dinner that the children cooked and the parents and siblings attended.

Impact of this work

Children have attended well and are enjoying the club. Feedback from parents is that children have enjoyed themselves and tell them what they have been doing. Children are talking confidently during activities and are enthusiastic about what we are doing. I have noticed a significant change in 2 of the children who seem much keener to engage during school time and always want to chat with me. Teacher parent communication has improved as we have had lots of opportunities to talk at the end of sessions and at the family dinner.

Key learning points

The club has had a positive impact on teacher/ pupil/parent relationships. The children have responded differently in this environment and communicate more freely. Some older siblings also attend the group to make it easier for parents to pick up children. It has been lovely seeing them interact and they have provided good role models for the younger children. The group was fairly big and it was sometimes difficult to get the quality interactions I would have liked.

Next Steps

Plan more activities which parents can get involved in to continue to develop good relationships with parents. Look for funding to extend range of activities we can offer. Discuss insights with child's next teacher and look at ways we can build on this as the child moves through school.

Recommendations to other schools

Ensure groups are small enough so children can have quality time with the adult running it.
Ensure activities are different to those they get at school.