



YOUNG INSPECTORS

Young Inspectors report on: Natural Enterprise Wild art in the woods

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Date of Inspection: 30th and 31st October

Number of Young Inspectors present: 4

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Short Breaks have introduced the 'Young Inspectors' program as part of the service commitment to provide:

'The opportunity for children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs to contribute to the decision-making and development of services for children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs on the Isle of Wight'.

The Young Inspectors reviewed the short breaks service based on the following areas deemed important to them. The inspection is part of an agreement between Short Breaks and the provider highlighted within the Short Breaks agreement. This is what the Young Inspectors found:

Report Summary

Staff	Overall (star awarding) Out of 3 stars	Did they meet the Young Inspectors needs?
Fun and Enjoyment		Yes see Point 5.1
Accessibility		Yes see Point 5.2
Safety and Surroundings		Yes see Point 5.3
Staff		Yes see point 5.4

Details about the provision being inspected

Overview of the organisation/service: The service offers Young people from ages 5-15 opportunities to learn new skills and education as well as sensory experiences outdoors and experience fun and activities through various activities

Provisions of this service When is it available: Events 10-1pm one session caters for ages 5-10 years and the other one for ages 11-15 years

How much is costs: £5

Who to contact to book: Tracy Underwood and Carol Flux

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1.0 Introduction: Why we inspected Wild art?

We decided to inspect Wild art in the woods as it was a new exciting activity to Short breaks and young inspectors were eager to try the new group that was set up. It was inspected to gain the views and opinions of young people who attended the activity.

2.0 Methodology: How we inspected Wild art?

The inspection was spread over two days as one day was for ages 5-10 and the other was for ages 11-15. The genders were mixed and the diagnosis varied from autistic spectrum disorder, Noonan syndrome, dyslexia, learning difficulties and Down syndrome.

3.0 Summary of Findings: What the Young Inspectors found

Summary of findings from young inspectors was that they had really good day and enjoyed the activity a lot. Staff was friendly and were extremely good with young people with disabilities and/or additional needs. There were lots of activities to do and it was very structured and communication between staff and young people was very good due to communication aids such as pictures and structured routines.

4.0 Recommendations: How the activity can be made better?

Possible recommendation would be to higher the age so that more young people who enjoy this can come as well.

Another recommendation would be to keep the introduction from the first day including the where to go and what to not touch and incorporate this in the second day as well.

5.0 Review analysis: - What we reviewed

5.1 Staff

Overall the young inspectors felt that staff were helpful and friendly. All young inspectors felt that they were listened too. They also said the staff were fun and the greeting upon arrival was nice. A quote from one of young inspectors was

“It is nice to come to as school don’t understand me and I feel everyone here understands me. It was great.”

“Even when I didn’t understand what to do staff showed me what to do”

“Staff were great and helped me lots”

5.2 Fun and Enjoyment

The young inspectors felt happy and really enjoyed the activity. All of the young inspectors stated that they would like to go again to the activity as they had fun. Most of the young inspectors made new friends and met new people.

One stated they didn’t but she explained because her sister was there she mainly stayed with her. But everyone was really friendly.

Most of the young inspectors enjoyed the various activities including painting with mud and berries and finding the bugs. One of the young inspectors said “I loved everything!” They also enjoyed the rainbow game and found it very exciting.

5.3 Accessibility

With accessibility the young inspectors found this difficult to judge due to the setting as it was in a forest. They had decided that you would be able to get a wheelchair up in the forest if it was a motorised one however, if it was a manual wheelchair it might struggle. They agreed it was a good time apart from one person who said they weren’t happy as they had to get up early as they travelled quite far. There were lots of clear signs on the day of what to do and what not to do. The young inspectors felt the pictorial signs used were excellent. As well as the timetable to say what was coming next was really useful. They explained the value for money was ok but could be cheaper but enjoyed being able to take items home.

5.4 Safety and Surroundings

When looking at safety everyone said they felt safe within the facility however, one young inspector did get worried that people were climbing trees. All of the young inspectors stated that the staff had helped them if they had found anything difficult. Again with the pictorial signs they found it really easy to understand what to do and what not to do. All young inspectors explained that there were obstacles, again the young inspectors were aware of the difficulties with it being a natural forest, but they did comment it was good that there were clearings to walk through. Most of the young inspectors felt the activity was age appropriate apart from two people. This was because next year they would both be sixteen and felt they would still like to come to this.

One of the young inspectors explained that someone ran away on one of the activities and maybe there could be more staff but she did say that as it's a family event, parents are there too. However, when there was challenging behaviour some young people were taken to do different activities which they enjoyed, so there were lots of options available. Everyone also liked that there was a cooling down area with a box of interesting sensory toys so if anyone wanted time out they could. Young inspectors felt this was really important for some young people.

6.0 Provider Feedback

We really appreciate the feedback from the Young Inspectors especially as this was the first time we have been involved with Short Breaks. We're thrilled that everyone really enjoyed the activities and a big Thank You to the Young Inspectors for taking the time to attend and to provide such positive and helpful feedback.

In terms of the range of activities it's encouraging to know this seemed to be the right mix for everyone to become involved with and enjoy. With accessibility, although no participants on these two events used wheelchairs, we understand that Short Breaks have use of an all-terrain wheelchair so that is something we can look into for future events if required.

In terms of age range we would welcome and encourage anyone who would like to take part and it will be absolutely no problem for young people up to the age of 18 to attend the older age group future sessions.

We did allow for a higher staff level than on general events as we realised there might be a need for more intensive supervision/guidance, in addition to the fact that we stated all children/young people must be accompanied by a parent/carer. We also spoke to the parents/carers in advance in order to ensure that wherever possible the activities would be tailored to their children's individual needs.

We are very much looking forward to the next two events in the half-term of February 2015 which will be held in Pan Mill Meadows, Newport. We really hope to see some familiar faces join us there too!