



Case Study – Greater Fishponds Community Champions:

Quarry House Intergenerational stay and play June 18.

How did the activity start?

Quarry House is a care home in Fishponds for people with dementia and nursing needs. Some residents have quite complex health needs.

While they have many activities and entertainers in for the residents they were keen to make links with a local nursery/group and invite children in for stay and play sessions.

The Greater Fishponds Community Champion project worker contacted the nursing home as part of the set up and introduction of the project and identified their needs. She then made contact with a number of local nurseries and the organisation Acorns and Oaks to find a link. Fledglings nursery were in walking distance and very keen to take a group of their pre-schoolers along.

After putting them in contact with each other, Quarry House and Fledglings set up the sessions and agreed responsibilities.

There has been six sessions running fortnightly with eight residents taking part. Quarry house have limited it to eight as they feel this is a manageable number to supervise.

How have the residents responded to the sessions?

It is not always the same residents that attend each session, but you can see they are really starting to form relationships with the children and look forward to the sessions. The nursery has feedback how excited the children are as well when it comes to attending the sessions.

The first session everyone was really quiet. But now there is a lot of interaction and a lot of smiles. Even when they just sit and watch the children playing you can see that the residents are getting a lot out of it, smiling and some will start reminiscing about when they had small children, or grandchildren.

There is always nursery rhymes at the end which the children sing and the residents are joining in now as well.

Edith, one of the residents who attends regularly has complex health needs. Attending these sessions she found a sounds books which she enjoyed looking at and now she shares it with the children. Her concentration has improved and the level of interaction has increased.

What do you plan to do next?

We started the sessions with having toys and craft/art activities and a snack but have started introducing other activities such as musical statues, pass the parcel, rainbow bells alongside the nursery rhymes.

There was one session when an older child attended and she drew a picture for everyone and took them round to each resident and chatted with them, which was lovely. So maybe having a mix of ages might be nice. There are also a number of residents who would enjoy seeing babies and toddlers, the Greater Fishponds Community Champions project worker is going to look at other options of getting different aged children in.

We are also considering combining some of our entertainers with the children's sessions as that might be fun for the residents seeing how the children interact and it gives something back for the children.

Do you have anything else to add?

Due to the need for consent we are unable to take photos of the activities which is a real shame as that makes it hard to show what lovely things are happening in the home. As a company they are looking at how they can address this and gain consent from residents and next of kin/power of attorney as appropriate.