

Case Study Little Miracles – Supporting Children with SEND

Little Miracles is a charity that supports families who have children with additional needs, disabilities and life-limiting conditions. It recently featured on BBC’s Strictly Come Dancing through the DIY SOS work Nick Knowles achieved with the Charity.



During the Summer Little Miracles has supported a host of families. However, one family in particular stands out. The family have joined Little Miracles and taken part in various activities, trips and visits such as Stanwick Lakes and Skegness. During the day, parents are provided with much needed rest bite care by pairing the children with Youth Workers. This has given the staff at Little Miracles the opportunity to chat to the family and offer further signposting to local

food banks, counselling services and other support agencies.



Little Miracles have offered the older ‘young’ people the opportunity to work on a music project as part of a local youth club. This has supported the families with much needed breaks and allowed the parents to take part in some parent led activities. As such, the parents have created new social networks with other service users and been given the time to pursue their own hobbies and interests in an environment that is secure and free of

judgement.

When asked about the impact Little Miracles have made through the HAF programme, the family said *‘Thank you so much without Little Miracles I don’t know where I would be, Little Miracles are a complete lifeline! And support us no end. The kids and I have made some amazing friends along the way and Little Miracles has now become our second family! We appreciate all the time and effort that goes into every single activity! So, from the bottom of our hearts THANK YOU ❤️’*



Little Miracles state *‘It cannot be overstated that our parents tell us that the HAF program is a lifeline to them, providing them with food and activities in a safe, non-judgmental environment that supports them over the holidays. According to parents, the events have changed their world and are still changing it in ways that families without children with disabilities, special needs, or life-limiting circumstances could never imagine’.*

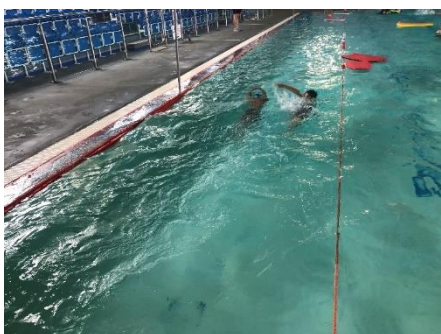
Case Study

Come and Play – Supporting and signposting families

Come and Play is a playscheme in the Fenland district of Cambridgeshire and has worked with the HAF programme for three years.

Come and Play are exceptional in building relationships with local families and supporting their needs. They have been working alongside a local family with six children this summer. The parent struggles to bring her children to the setting in the morning. To support the family who are at risk of social exclusion, Come and Play offered to collect the children to enable them to engage fully with the HAF programme. This has resulted in their attendance at the scheme throughout the summer.

The eldest child attended Come and Play's daily swim sessions and although very apprehensive at first, quickly made friends who encouraged him to join them which resulted in him enjoying it so much that he didn't want it to end!



The children thoroughly enjoyed the activities Come and Play delivered including going on trips to the swimming pool, soft play and the petting farm, enjoying an ice-cream van visit, and participating in many games.

Come and Play worked with this family to identify their needs ensuring these could be supported as part of the HAF delivery. The setting has gone above and beyond in signposting them to additional support in the form of food banks and connecting with the local Church, even collecting items such as clothing, toys and food and delivering them to the family home. Come and Play identified the embarrassment the parent felt asking for help and were quick to reassure the family. The parent commented *'I was in tears when Come and Play delivered the food bags to my door. Their support in offering food, toys and clothing has been huge'*.



Case Study

Partnership working with a Childminder and Let's Cook Project

Joanna Bucka is a Childminder in South Cambridgeshire and worked with the HAF programme for several years. As part of the HAF offer, Joanna takes the children in her care to local enriching activities.

Joanna heard about Let's Cook Project through a local school and decided to book onto the sessions with some of the children aged 5 years -10 years attending her setting. Let's Cook Project is social enterprise who believe that learning to cook is the gateway to eating well and enjoying good food. They have a team of chefs, nutritionists and home economists that provide training and support for local communities to cook fresh homemade meals and reduce food waste.



The children attended Let's Cook Project with Joanna over 3 days and during the sessions received a recipe card and the ingredients to make several dishes from pasta and curry with homemade peach chutney to healthy puddings.

Initially, Joanna noticed that the children were quite reserved and although they enjoyed chopping fresh garlic, vegetables and spinach and adding it to their meal, they were very vocal about not wanting to try any of it 'urgh I hate mushrooms'. However, when the finished dish was plated up all the children tried the food and they loved it! Some of the children were so proud of the meal they had made that they saved a portion to take home for their mum.



Joanna and the children used the skills they had developed during the Let's Cook Project back to the setting and encouraged other children to help make lunches. Joanna commented '*the recipe cards were simple to follow and the ingredients easy to obtain that we cooked the lunches a number of times and the children really enjoyed this. Taking part in the project has really encouraged the children to become actively involved in cooking at home*'.