

Report



Summer Holiday Programme July-August 2013

A typical Week

On the first day of the youth activities of the holiday programme we always get the children to make a list of rules about the expectations about their behaviour and attitudes that we have for them, and that they should have for each other. This is a good way of getting the children involved in thinking about how they should behave and starting off the interaction with each other. Once we have got the boring bits out of the way we played the "name" game, where we attempt to learn each other's names by going round the circle and saying something that begins with the

same letter as our names, so for example I was "Terrific Toni" and Cait was "Courageous Cait". This is a fun way of getting to know each other; it also helps everyone to try and associate people's names with things, therefore making it easier to remember, and most importantly it's a fun game and all the kids enjoy playing it.

Due to the fabulous weather on Tuesday we took the children outside to have a water fight. We took the children out the back and split them into two teams, we numbered the children one to six, and then the paired children would try to hit each other with a water balloon. This

was such good fun, and we all got soaked, although many of us (including the youth team) do not have a very good aim!! Once we had finished the water fight, we took the kids down to the bottom of the hill, where we had an inflatable water slide ready for them. Because of the weather, the children had an absolute blast playing on the waterslide, they were interacting with each other well, Cait and I barely had to get on to any of the children because they were all getting on and having such a good time.

Harry Mhudini was in on Wednesday, which was exciting as everyone loves a bit of magic! Having the magician in was really good for the children, as they were very forthcoming with participating in the tricks. M.. is a very shy child, and is very introvert, therefore getting him out his shell can be very difficult. However, he expressed a great deal of interest in the tricks, and was very eager to show his own magic tricks and when the group was finished he was very keen to talk to Harry about how and where he learned magic.

At the end of the week we went across the road to the Fun Factory, before we left the youth room we made sure that the children knew that the Fun Factory was a place where they had to remember their manners, the rules we set, and that they have to be careful of other children that will be in the Fun Factory. The children enjoyed their time at there and they all had a blast going down the chutes. We then painted the children's faces and this was a good ending to an enjoyable week.

Through the coaching programme, run each morning, the youth team are given the opportunity to meet new children and to see many familiar faces returning. It is nice to see the interaction between the children who know each other from the previous youth clubs and the children who have never been to any of the youth activities before. The coaching programme provides an invaluable service not only to parents, but also to the development of the children who attend, as they are able to be creative, expressive, and let their personalities shine in a fun, safe and supportive environment.

They have also a real opportunity to develop their skill at their chosen activity and get help from the coaches and stewards. At the end of the week they all get a certificate and their photograph taken with the coaches and stewards. From this and previous coaching programmes, the response of the parents is very positive and the return of many of the children from previous holiday week programmes suggest that the holiday coaching and youth activities is very popular.

