



## TASTER SESSIONS AUTUMN 2015

Taster Sessions is our regular Wednesday evening Youth Club in August and September every year. The idea is that it offers introductory sessions for those who have never attended any Factory Skatepark Youth Clubs before and gives a chance for those who have turned 5 and are now able to attend to integrate into the group.

The programme aims to run a different activity every week based around the sort of things the youth club offers throughout the year. One example of this are arts and crafts based activities, such as origami, painting, making group collages, colouring pictures, etc.

This featured heavily this year as we tend to run a lot of arts and crafts and make a lot of things, especially with those of a younger age. In this situation the older members of the group are able to take on more responsibility and help lead the younger ones in the activity being run. As the weather was still good at the time we ran this club we were able to take them to the local park on several occasions. Often the plan for this would be for them to go for a walk as a group and then play some games such as tig, dodgeball, football, at the local playing fields. It was great to see everyone running about and enjoying themselves outdoors.

As part of this club we ran a small introduction to the skatepark arena with the assistance of our coaches and stewards. The young people went onto the skatepark in small supervised groups and were taught the basics of how to ride a scooter, skates or skateboard, and also the basics of skatepark etiquette. While this is taught on a weekly basis in our beginners sessions sometimes it is not possible for young people in our youth clubs to attend those sessions, so we offered this one week to ensure if they do enter the skatepark arena in a normal session they are safe.

Finally, we had a movie night with sweets and juice for the young people, and a games night where the young people took turns to play in groups on video games such as Fifa, Mario Kart, and board games such as Scrabble and Monopoly. This was a nice change of pace to the other activities we ran and was very enjoyable for all involved.

As mentioned at the start we run this club every year at the same time and we plan to do so next year. It continues to be one of our best attended clubs as young people join in at the start of a new school year when they are looking for extra-curricular activities and youth clubs to be involved. It is great meeting so many new young people and seeing how the whole group interacts, both those coming for the first time and our

regular attendees.

