

Stepping out of School and into our Community

Context Providing social skills interventions in mainstream schools can have it's challenges:

Demands on school resources -not always able to run social skills interventions / lunch clubs.

Academic progress & exams considered priority so no scope in the timetable for social skills.

Not enough CYPs with similar needs in one school to form a well matched group.

Lack of opportunities and motivation to practise social skills during the school day.

Purpose To work creatively to meet the social communication needs of children and young people in Islington, enabling them to:

Have socially rich experiences outside of the school setting

Meet others with similar strengths, needs, and interests

Develop social interaction, communication skills and friendships.

Steps taken

- 
- Look at what already exists locally & reach out to them.
 - New multiagency flyer for local autism friendly opportunities.
 - Seek guidance from services who have done similar collaborations e.g. Camden SLT with the British Museum.
 - Pilot it making use of joint planning.
 - Review & identify further development.

Kelly-Ann Hopkins & Sally-Anne Fraser (SLTs) Oct 2019

Case study

Community based collaborations with Little Angel Theatre.



1. Puppet & Film Making Summer Course for 13-18s with autism & other SLCN.

- 4 days led by Little Angel Theatre and facilitated by SLTs.
- SLTs offered specialist advice to ensure access to learning and social opportunities, & sensory/emotional regulation (if needed)
- CYPs were supported to set social communication goals & work towards them.
- Parent/carers were invited on the final afternoon to celebrate the success.
- CYPs took home their puppets, a summary report and certificate.



2. After School Club in Schools

- 9 weeks (9x1hr sessions)
- Puppet-making and performing principles combined with opportunities to develop attention and listening, conversation, social awareness, and self-advocacy skills.
- Run jointly by Theatre, School, and SLT

Outcomes

1. Summer Course: Examples of goals (self-rated pre & post rated on scale 1-10)

- *I will start a conversation with someone new*
- *I will ask someone about their puppet*
- *I will ask an adult for help*

The pre and post difference indicated the following outcomes: -

No change	0
Slight improvement	1
Moderate improvement	3
Significant improvement	3
Total	7

Point Change Key

1-3 Slight Improvement
3-5 Moderate improvement
5+ Significant improvement

Comments:

"The targets are very useful and I enjoyed achieving these goals. I felt proud of myself and really happy" CYP

"He has made friends which is a great improvement" Parent

100% of CYP & parents asked said they would recommend it

2. After School: CYP made improvements in

Helping others (57%)

Saying nice/positive things about others (42.8%)

Sharing their ideas with the group (85.7%)

Asking questions (28.6%)

Asking for help (71.4%)

100% of parents surveyed felt the collaboration was a good thing for their child, made a difference, and they'd like to see more of these opportunities