

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE THIRTY NINE
JULY 17TH 2020

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: LEARNING WITH THE HEARING SUPPORT TEAM DURING LOCKDOWN

During the recent weeks we have all had to be resourceful and for many services they have had to think of ways of supporting schools, families and young people in Swindon. The advisory teachers from the Hearing Support Team (HST) tried to use the time as creatively as possible so, in addition to training, support for schools and audiology services and online lessons, here are some of the ideas they have come up with.

The following are comments from HST teachers, parents and children and young people:

“No two days in our role are ever the same – that is why I enjoy my job! During ‘lockdown’ we have adapted our support for the families we work with through using video calling apps, filming short video clips and socially distanced garden visits. Our role centres on communication and during Covid-19 this has been more important than ever to ensure that the students we support are able to access the work being set, family conversations, new information, transition advice and making connections with peers to avoid feeling isolated” (Advisory Teacher)

“We have seen parks in Swindon we didn’t know existed and seen the potential for continuing this type of visit where there are some great opportunities for language development with some of our younger pupils when finding sticks –there were big sticks and little sticks, throwing, kicking and catching balls and the ducks were quite hungry. The weather has certainly been a challenge-too hot, too wet or just unpredictable. What a great language opportunity when one of our pupils said we should “go under the dense trees” as it started to pour with rain during one visit-fortunately no lightning that day!” (Advisory Teacher)

“Some of our younger pupils have enjoyed singing and we have shared links to sign videos and given activities to do that are linked to the songs. I am sure families were delighted with us when we suggested water play and singing I’m a little teapot, making an obstacle course to go over, under, around, in and on to follow up on Hey Diddle Diddle, making some honey sandwiches for Here is the Beehive and looking for spiders and webs when singing One Elephant” (Advisory Teacher)

“As soon as he heard the news of the visit in the park, he was so excited and happy. It was a good opportunity to go in the park as he can meet his friends and teachers. It was his first time we went out and it was really good that I met other families, as we were so bored during the lockdown. Regarding the video call he used to get up on his own, do his morning routine and 5 mins before sitting with the mobile waiting for the call and about the homework he was so busy finishing that work” (Parent)

“Many thanks for the emails you have sent with the clips on. They are really useful!” (Parent)

“Thank you, much appreciated”! (Parent)

And the final word from one of the young deaf pupils the HST have supported:

“I have enjoyed meeting, chatting and learning with friends and teachers. It has been Fun-filled learning sessions. Such as Space, History, Football etc. I was feeling Bored and dull. Blues from the lockdown. After we have met I feel happy and cheerful. Lots of stories/things for sharing with my parents ...picked up from the meeting”

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2020 SURVEY. TO SEE MORE INFORMATION AND THE
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