

FREE PLAY



Project report

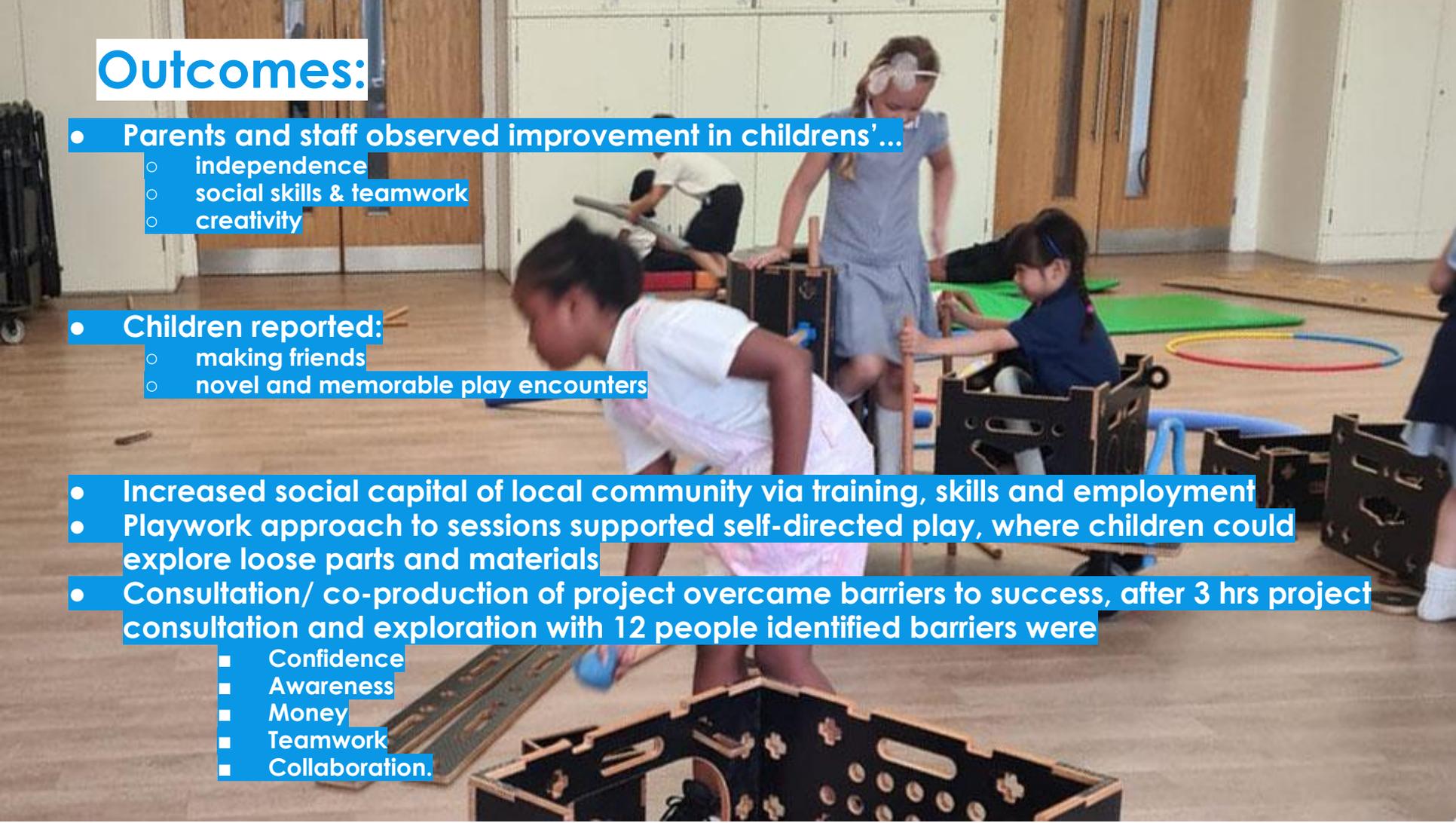


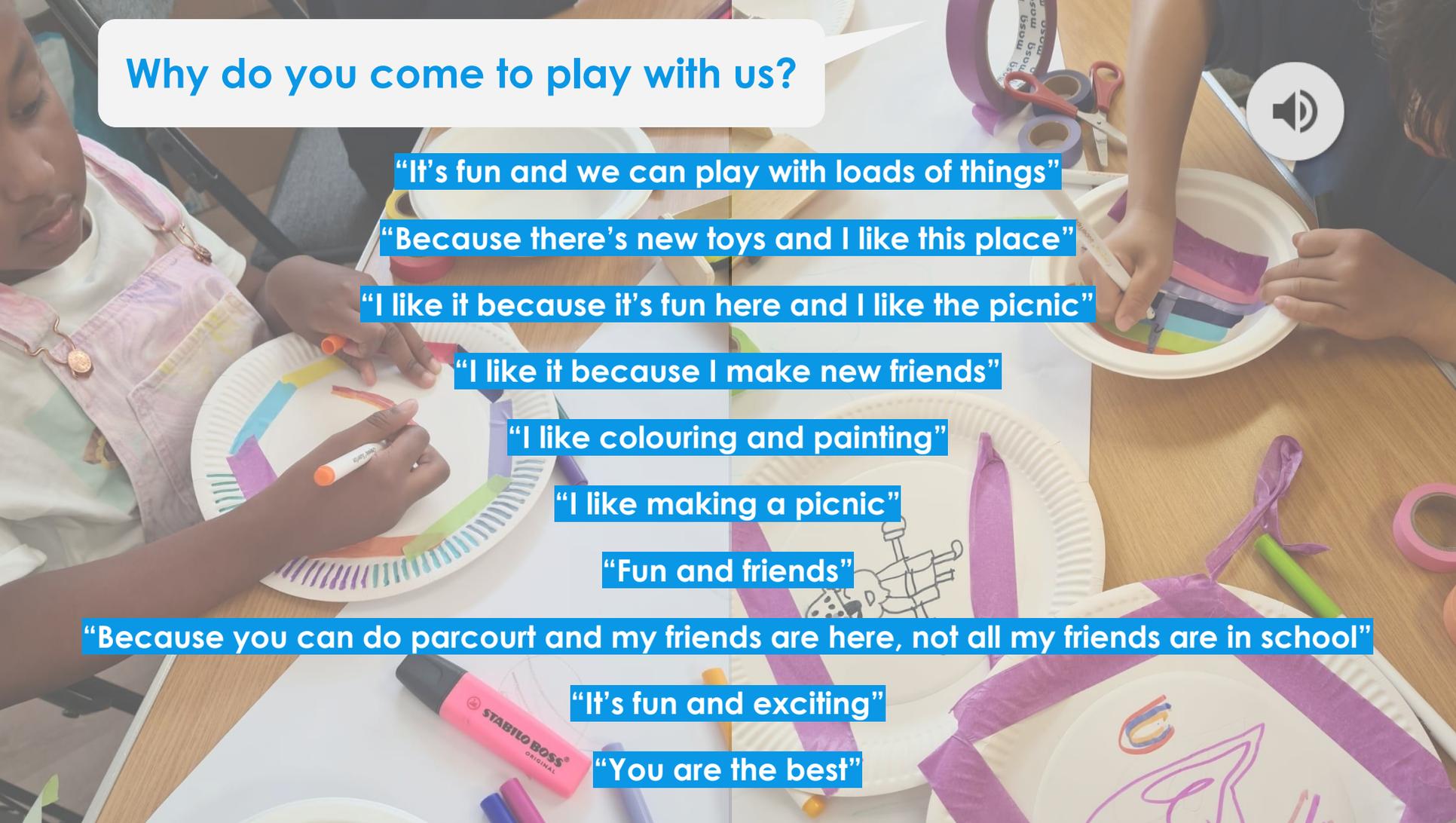
March - July 2022

Outputs:

- 14 hours of free term-time play sessions for 30+ 4-7 year olds
 - One taster session (parents stayed/ watched)
 - Six fully independent sessions (parents dropped kids off for up to 2 hours)
- Training, paid work and work experience for local community, SCT staff and stakeholders
 - 57.75 hours volunteered
 - 21 hours paid
 - 3 hrs training in playwork/ loose parts play for 8 people

Outcomes:

- Parents and staff observed improvement in childrens'...
 - independence
 - social skills & teamwork
 - creativity
 - Children reported:
 - making friends
 - novel and memorable play encounters
 - Increased social capital of local community via training, skills and employment
 - Playwork approach to sessions supported self-directed play, where children could explore loose parts and materials
 - Consultation/ co-production of project overcame barriers to success, after 3 hrs project consultation and exploration with 12 people identified barriers were
 - Confidence
 - Awareness
 - Money
 - Teamwork
 - Collaboration.
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- A photograph of a school hallway where children are engaged in play. In the foreground, a young girl in a white shirt and pink skirt is leaning over a wooden crate. To her right, another child in a dark blue shirt is sitting on a similar crate. In the background, a teacher or staff member in a grey dress and white headscarf is observing the children. The hallway has wooden floors, white walls, and several wooden doors. Various play materials like hula hoops and mats are scattered on the floor.

A top-down view of children sitting around a wooden table, engaged in a craft activity. They are using white paper plates as canvases, decorated with colorful markers and ribbons. One child on the left is wearing a pink and white striped shirt and a pink apron. Another child on the right is using a white marker to draw on a plate. The table is cluttered with various art supplies, including markers, scissors, and ribbons. A speech bubble in the top left corner contains the question "Why do you come to play with us?". Several blue text boxes with white text are overlaid on the image, containing children's responses. A speaker icon is in the top right corner.

Why do you come to play with us?

"It's fun and we can play with loads of things"

"Because there's new toys and I like this place"

"I like it because it's fun here and I like the picnic"

"I like it because I make new friends"

"I like colouring and painting"

"I like making a picnic"

"Fun and friends"

"Because you can do parcourt and my friends are here, not all my friends are in school"

"It's fun and exciting"

"You are the best"



**Did you
make this
whole
playgroup?**

**Me and Anne, Deena
- all the grownups
here helped to make
the playgroup!**



How do you
feel when you
come here?





Why do you bring your child?

“When she comes she has a bit of independence”

“Because I like her to interact with other children”

“For fun and independence, and to get her out the house”

“For interaction with other kids, to socialise and be in a different environment”

“To see friends here to play with”

“She loves coming, she feels like she’s an engineer building things with the NudelKart. She also loves creating things with the smaller stuff and drawing/ painting.”

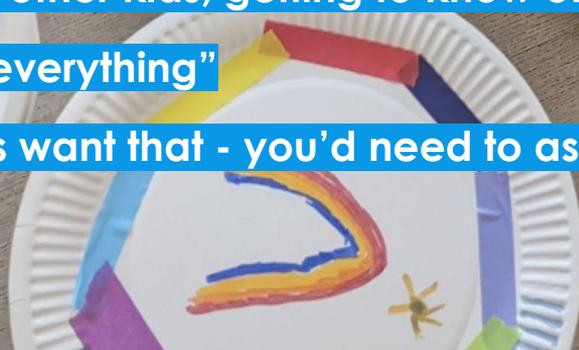
“Interaction and conversation - being around other children”

“Because she didn’t have an after school club but her sister does”

“Because he’s bored and has no other after school clubs”

“She saw other kids playing and having fun, and wanted to join in!”

What would you like to see in future sessions?

A child is lying on their stomach on a wooden floor, painting a white paper plate. They have already drawn a rainbow and a yellow star. A green ribbon is on the floor nearby.

“Just seeing her enjoy time with other kids”

“Music and dancing to get confident - my daughter goes to parties and she doesn't know how to dance!”

“More interaction”

“Box modelling”

“Drawing and art”

“Socializing with the other kids, getting to know other kids and making friends”

“She's interested in everything”

“Activities, if the kids want that - you'd need to ask them!”

Have you seen any change in your child's behaviour?

"He's buzzing, on a high!"

"She's happy after she comes - if she's happy, I'm happy"

"It's just the second week but she's excited to come so it's a good incentive and she has a better attitude."

"Not yet, she's the same, but still happy!"

"She was asking all week to come again!"

"She's getting more creative with what she makes (dens/ campervans) at home. She's also talking a lot more about what she's doing here, more than what she does at nursery."



The sun was
Smiling at the
rainbow.
The rainbow
had a crown
and smiled
back.



The
sun and
the
rainbow
are best
friends,
they
always
play
together.
They
love
each other
so they
play.



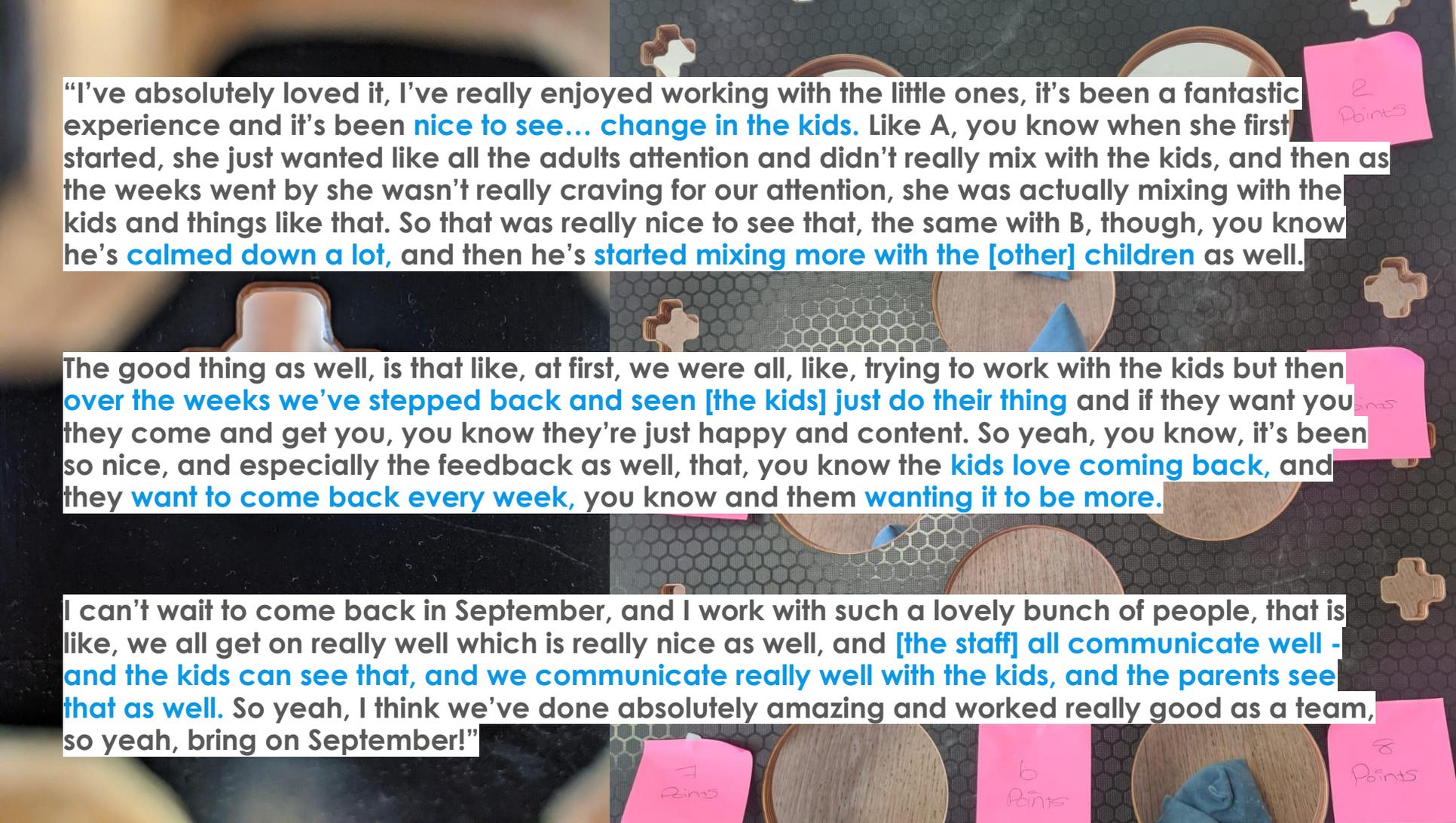


What's your experience been as a volunteer for Free Play?

I found the experience positive. It was **good for my mental well-being** for a number of reasons. It gave me a **routine and more social contact** with other adults. I enjoyed the experience of **working with children again** as I use to work in primary school education. It has also **prepared me to going back to work part-time** as I've had the opportunity to be around children because the job I am applying for is **working in a nursery.**



What's your experience been as a staff member for Free Play?



"I've absolutely loved it, I've really enjoyed working with the little ones, it's been a fantastic experience and it's been **nice to see... change in the kids**. Like A, you know when she first started, she just wanted like all the adults attention and didn't really mix with the kids, and then as the weeks went by she wasn't really craving for our attention, she was actually mixing with the kids and things like that. So that was really nice to see that, the same with B, though, you know he's **calmed down a lot**, and then he's **started mixing more with the [other] children** as well.

The good thing as well, is that like, at first, we were all, like, trying to work with the kids but then **over the weeks we've stepped back and seen [the kids] just do their thing** and if they want you they come and get you, you know they're just happy and content. So yeah, you know, it's been so nice, and especially the feedback as well, that, you know the **kids love coming back**, and they **want to come back every week**, you know and them **wanting it to be more**.

I can't wait to come back in September, and I work with such a lovely bunch of people, that is like, we all get on really well which is really nice as well, and **[the staff] all communicate well - and the kids can see that, and we communicate really well with the kids, and the parents see that as well**. So yeah, I think we've done absolutely amazing and worked really good as a team, so yeah, bring on September!"