

CASE STUDY - RAISING THE PROFILE OF SIBLINGS

NAME OF SCHOOL

ELLEN TINKHAM SCHOOL, EXETER

HEALTH THEME

IMPROVING EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING



SUMMARY OF HEALTHY SCHOOLS PLUS ACTIONS

- Arrangements made to promote the needs of siblings of Ellen Tinkham pupils within Ellen Tinkham [staff, governors and parents], at Learning Community meetings and to local mainstream schools. Contact made with all primary schools in locality – questionnaires to staff.
- Sibling Support Group established – staffing organised and regular Saturday sessions planned each term
- Sibling Group Leader training session organised for schools across the south west
- Purchase of books and other resources to support siblings
- Partnership links with Educational Psychologist, Portage worker, Joint Agency key workers and various charities linked to Special Educational Needs [SEN]

EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

- New intervention. 16 siblings regularly attended the group [max. capacity 20] 4 more waiting to join – group developing at appropriate pace to establish routines, develop relationships and confidence in approach.

- *'The sibling group is an excellent opportunity for my daughter to meet new friends and share experiences that most children take for granted e.g. a day trip to Woodlands. She is made to feel special because she has her own group and she gets a lot of attention from the excellent and enthusiastic staff... At the sibling group she feels that she is the priority. She often does not feel this at home and this is stressful and at times heartbreaking as a parent' – Parent. One of many positive comments received from parents of siblings attending the group.*

REFLECTIONS FROM THE SCHOOL

Prior to this project there was no specific support for siblings. These young people now have a regular opportunity to get together as a group and to make friends with other young people who have disabled siblings. All those who joined the group at the beginning still come along. The project has been a resounding success and all those involved are very proud of what we have achieved. The future of the group is secure as part of the Hollow Lane Club [after school setting].

For further information regarding this intervention, please contact -

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