



## **West Euston Time Bank Easter Holidays 2012**

### **Family Activities Programme Report**



**Tuesday 3rd & 10th April,  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> & 12th April,  
Friday 13th April 2012**

April 2012

**For Committee Meeting of Tuesday 22nd May 2012**  
**Tuesday 3rd & 10th April, Thursday 5th & 12th April, Friday 13th April 2012**

*Planning and organisation started well in advance with Eleanor Lanyon from the Wellcome and children and families being consulted about the activities and the committee met on 27<sup>th</sup> March to finalise details. The Wellcome Collection very kindly printed 500 colour copies of a 4 page Easter Holiday Programme that was widely distributed on local notice boards, outside schools and children's centre. Activities were targeted to suit families with children under 11 years suited for all interests and imaginations, and included creative fun, learning & drama, a special Shadow Theatre workshops, Trips to the Sobell Centre (trampolining, ice skating), Caledonian Road Baths, Soft Safari Play, outdoor sports, and a return visit of the zoo that comes to you!*

**Tuesday 3rd April (At the H Pod)**  
**Creative Time with Wendy 10am -4pm**

**ZOO PREP!**

Producing masks, fact sheets, pictures, animals and backgrounds from tissue paper and lots of sticky stuff, a fun and creative day!

Zoo Prep	
children	29
adults	11
Staff/vols	4
Total	44

**Let's prepare for the special visit!**

A fun and creative day, involving children and their parents preparing for the following week when the zoo makes a visit to the h pod with a range of related activities on the outside ground

Wendy and Tara got the excitement going by producing an animal backdrop on a large foldable notice board, the children and parents spent the day making animals and a backdrop from tissue paper and various materials, transforming a plain but large message board into an impressive farm set, there were also various facts on colourful post it notes produced and stuck around the board, It was a fun and informative day, enjoyed by all taken part.



*Community Café from 12.30 pm – 2.00 pm  
served 51 meals*

## The Sobell Centre Trips on Tuesday 3rd April and Friday 13th April 2012

**Working in conjunction with Camden sports development and the Little Fingers group: A Total of 125 children and 20 adults and 6 staff members went on one of the two trips during the holidays**

### Tuesday 3rd April - Sobell Centre Trip

(For the Holiday Programme 10.30 am – 3 pm) 9.30 am (met at the H Pod) returned 4 pm for Sobell Centre Trip (Group One). Everybody brought a packed lunch. Concessionary fee were only £2 per child. Activities include: trampolining, ice skating, bouncy castle, street dance, short tennis, basketball, pool ball & table tennis.

9.30 am – 12 noon Little Fingers Under 5s Members free trip to Safari Soft Play at the Sobell Centre for a one hour session in the soft safari house.

Holiday Programme	
children	55
adults	16
Staff/vols	5
Total	76

Soft Safari Play	
children	9
adults	4
Staff/vols	3
Total	16

This was one of our largest groups to date, with obvious and understandable nerves and anxiety as to whether complications would arise with such a high number.

Fortunately, the nerves were just that and the day was another positive and successful trip to the Sobell Centre, the scheme works very well and always excites the children with the parents feeling they are able to join in with most of the activities as well as act as volunteers supported by staff members.

Parents played badminton, short tennis, table tennis and even wobbled on the ice alongside the children, acted as referees during football games, kept a careful eye whilst the children jumped up and down on the trampolines and bouncy castle, The parents worked well together with each other, they interacted, and got to know a different side to their neighbours they see every day at home on the estate.

The second we stepped out of the h pod we became a well organised unit, taking care for everyone's safety throughout the journey to and from the centre with parents taking on various road safety volunteering roles.

On our way to the centre we were lucky to have had a nearly empty double decker bus, fitting almost the whole group and buggies on the bus, the second sports staff took the remaining kids on a separate bus behind the first one, the children were very well behaved and the adults were a huge support, We had another Time Bank staff member to help during the journey and with sorting out cash payments for the Little Fingers under 5's parent and toddler trip to the safari soft play also at the Sobell Centre. This was definitely

needed. Coming back was easier as there were reduced numbers as the Little Fingers group left earlier as well as some families who opted to go back separately.

## Thursday 5th April

### At the H Pod

#### 10 am – 12 noon back room – Little Fingers Under 5s Drop-In Session

We had a few under 5's passing by, they had a little play in the back room, a doodle and observed the drama group and then took themselves and their guardian to the children's playground outside and returned for lunch.

#### 10 am – 4 pm Drama Workshops with Arti Geshi from Art Machine.

A fun way to say goodbye to the shy side and hello to the imaginative and creative.

Drama Workshops	
children	16
adults	5
Staff/vols	2
Total	23

The children played various games to start with as a way to make them feel comfortable and open their imaginative and creative side.

This then lead to the children being split into 2 groups and were giving instructions to think of a story relating to communication, this was a one day workshop that produced two small sketches, which the children seemed to enjoy.

Community Café 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm served over 40 meals.

## Tuesday 10th April

### 10 am – 4 pm The Zoo that comes to you!

A fun family animal with animal viewing and handling, animal Music & Games, Animal Sports, Mask Making and Face Painting.



11.00 am Show	
children	47
adults	18
Staff/vols	5
Total	68

12.15 pm Show	
children	40
adults	19
Staff/vols	5
Total	64

2.00 pm Show	
children	45
adults	14
Staff/vols	5
Total	64

3.15 pm Show	
children	40
adults	14
Staff/vols	7
Total	61



Community Café 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm served over 130 meals.

**172 children and 51 adults attended the animal handling shows and over 100 children took part in the outdoor animal sports and other activities in tents dotted around Cumberland Market despite it being a very cold and windy day!**

### **Back by popular demand...**

Charles and Mike from Impeyan Productions made a return visit to the H Pod with 4x 1 hour shows throughout the day, seeing an average of 40 children and 15 adults per show, all impressed by the animals and the layout of the show and energy of the main host Charles, he was full of energy and passion, remaining calm yet encouraging.

The children and adults all were amazed and enjoyed it, leaving the premises full of energy and sharing their experiences with one another, the animal handling seemed to be the most popular part of the show as well as witnessing the animals doing funny things, like hiding under a chair, licking a child's ear and having an owl flying over the audience's head as well as bat who wouldn't stop screeching, the show entertained everyone, from babies to teenagers and adults.



### **Room for improvement:**

With such a range of people and it's volume, the wide mix of ethnic and cultural background, with mixed personalities and some with special needs and a huge age range, this would probably be looked upon as an impossible task to bring all together during one activity, but we did it and should be seen as an achievement and something to feel proud but not a surprise that it was a little hectic at times, during the animal shows some parents were being very



loud, not realising this but they were asked politely to lower their voice, some families were entering 15 minutes late and pushing their children underneath the blinds to enter after they were told to come to the following show, some under 5's were sometimes feeling a little overwhelmed, there were no major hiccups but certainly areas which could see improvements if repeated the following year, including:

- No entrance once the show has started
- Asking anyone who is being loud or disrupting the session to leave
- A special session for under 5's and maybe

### **What was happening outside?**



2 Large gazebos playing animal sounds and theme songs from various animal led musicals whilst offering a range of arts and crafts activities, from mask making, puppet making, colouring and drawing, word searches and puzzles, facts and more making, all with an animal theme, Wendy and Tara led these activities with the support and help from parents and older siblings throughout the day.

There were animal themed sports with a mini Olympics style event on the grass, the children loved the various fun races and receiving the support from a large crowd of spectators.

It was a real family day, a community day, seeing over 200 people throughout the day!

This could not have been achieved without the commitment, help and support from parents, children and volunteers, throughout the day...

***It is more than just picking up a bit of litter and remaining calm and polite  
It is becoming part of the community, the organisation, to understand and work together***

***To learn to listen and respect.... A big step forward and an achievement.***

We had parents and children helping to set up in the morning and assisting throughout the day, The lunch time was pretty special, with parents serving the food underneath the gazebos, other parents controlling the crowd and queue, all children and adult were asked to avoid any litter being thrown on the ground, there was not one empty cup or plate or fork or pasta on the ground.

Parents were helping to pack up and cleared away and just missed the heavy showers.

**Thursday 12th April 2012**

10 am – 4 pm Shadow Screen Theatre with acclaimed artist Jennie Pedley. Designing and making images that tell a story and watch them come to life on the screen.

Shadow Screen Theatre	
children	18
adults	6
Staff/vols	4
Total	28

A wonderful day for self expression and being creative!



The back room was set up with a special screen with an overhead projector behind the screen. The children were given the task to think of a story with a link to communication, they then had to put the information into scenes, creating imagery to go with the story, as well as writing captions

The children were split into two groups and took it in turns to create the images with the overhead projector, whilst some were being the audience and found watching the images on screen fascinating

Overall it was exciting and of interest to most, with some little ones having enough after they pulled funny face behind the screen.



Due to this session being part of The Power of Words project in conjunction with the Wellcome Collection, we had a photographer from the Collection taking stills of the various images and scenes

which will then form part of a special film, planned to be shown at the Midsummer Picnic on Saturday June 23rd 2012

Community Café 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm served over 50 meals

### **Friday 13th April 2012**

**Sobell Centre Trip (in partnership with Camden's sports development) 9.30am -4 pm for Sobell Centre Trip (Group Two) (for more details please see Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April trip.**

Holiday Programme	
children	55
adults	11
Staff/vols	7
Total	73

Soft Safari Play	
children	6
adults	6
Staff/vols	2
Total	14

Friday 13th April. The second week had 61 children and 17 adults and 5 staff in total, Shaun and Martin from Camden sports development team went directly to the centre, Koyar (sports development) assisted with the Time Bank group from the h pod, this seemed to be a more simple journey and we managed to fit the whole group onto one bus, Shanara the Time Bank broker also assisted and took control of the safari soft play group and their payment arrangements.

The day worked out well, with parents and staff taking on specific volunteering roles, there was frequent communication and the whole group worked efficiently together.

The children never seem to lose their excitement for this place, the scheme offers a wide range of activities available for the whole day, it really was a great day out.

### **At the H Pod Drama & Script Writing Workshops with Wendy 10am – 4pm**

Taking drama to the next level by starting to produce 3 mini plays to be performed at the Midsummer Picnic on Saturday 23rd June 2012.

Drama & Script Writing	
children	3
adults	1
Staff/vols	2
Total	6



A very quiet day, from all of children been taken ill, some on the trip to the Sobell Centre, with almost 20 children attending a birthday party, this brought the session to a small one but productive,

Arta Geshi originally planned to run this session was also taken ill, With Wendy Benjamin scheduled to help at the session she ended up running it.

Wendy Benjamin is the Wednesdays Home Work club teacher, working with the Time Bank for 4 years, full of enthusiasm and a real understanding of the children, how they work and obtain information, Wendy's energy is at the same level as she is with 20 children, the 3 girls felt very lucky to have so much time and attention given to them, made to feel that they will become the leaders for the follow up session during future term time home work sessions.

The girls and Wendy started working on various ideas and story lines with a plan for the next 5 weeks. We rarely see a small number attending our session but were informed and feel that this was a rare occasion and content that the 3 girls left the day with a smile on their face.

Community Café 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm with over 30 meals served.

The girls felt very special as they had lunch with the staff and the local police office

### **Family swimming sessions (women only with children under 8 years) 5-7pm**

Swimming	
children	7
adults	7
Staff/vols	1
Total	15

The venue Caledonian Road Baths was chosen due to a desire by parents and committee members to attend a women's only pool session. Although the children and adults had a good time, the majority and the feedback received stated they would prefer to go somewhere closer and without a specific time for adults and children. We found at the Caledonian Road Swimming Pool that there were separate times for children and adults which the families were not too keen on as they wanted to be in the pool together at the same time. There is a huge interest for regular swimming sessions.

### **Things to think about for next time we visit the Sobell Centre**

#### **Booking time and priority list**

I think we were all surprised by its popularity and how quickly we managed to fill spaces, due to this we did over book and included more than originally planned, starting with 35 children in the first week and 40 in the second week, we ended up having 64 children in the first week and 61 children in the second including the little finger/ safari soft play group

We saw a lot of parents who hadn't taken part in the activities for some while, Time Bank staff felt that the trip would be an incentive for them to come back, which we have already seen, families

who attended the Sobell trip continued to come to the other activities over the holidays and have also returned to the Wednesdays homework club

We should however prioritise those who are frequent and regular users of the Time Bank as well as those parents who are being active volunteers.

### **The number of children**

Keeping the numbers to 40/ 45 in total could be worth doing for next time, although we didn't experience anything negative from the large size, we could have just been lucky and probably best to have a more manageable number especially in terms of travel in future.

### **Wrist bands**

We saw some children under 6 year olds wearing the wrist bands allocated for the holiday scheme, this was probably due to a miscommunication with staff and parents, it should be made clear that the wrist bands are only given to those who are over 6 years and taking part in the holidays scheme which includes ice skating, trampoline and various sports, the safari soft play is paid separately, the soft play allows children under 10 but we as the Time Bank should only pay for the Little Fingers children and regular members (on a discretionary basis)

### **Soft safari on a separate day**

Due to the issue covered previously a consideration to move the trip to safari soft play onto another day could be worth considering, if so- the venue could also be worth considering, The soft play area at the Talacre sports centre in Kentish town offers something similar but has more facilities and is easier to get to, We will always have parents who will have under 5's as well as children attending the holiday scheme, a way to avoid the above from happening we should have 1 dedicated person to deal with both activities and inform both groups that there will be a bit of waiting around whilst the booking entrance gets sorted .

### **More help with the ice skating**

Due to the large number of children and Ice Skating being one of the most popular activities on the day, staff members were spending a lot of time assisting the children with putting their boots on and tying their show laces, it is very important that they are on correctly and does probably need an adult to do this but it could be worth encouraging more parents to take charge of this, in order to release staff and key volunteers to assist and oversee other activities as well.

### **Times**

There was a misunderstanding with the sports team (advertising a meet up time at 10am) instead of 9 30am, for the future both organisations must reach understanding and agreement of the meeting time, with 9 30am being preferred by parents.

### **Clothes criteria (No jeans on trampolines)**

Children are not allowed to wear jeans or anything with pockets and studs whilst on the trampoline, it would probably be worth stating this in the flyer/ promotion for next time

### **Things to think about and take in consideration for the future programmes:**

#### **Gazebos & Tents.**

10th April was a very windy day and a sudden powerful gust of wind overturned and destroyed one of the gazebos. Luckily nobody was hurt and with the help of Shaun and Koyar from Camden Sports Development and some very large metal staple pegs everything was made secure. We must use these extra strong pegs again and purchase a heavy mallet.

#### **Acknowledgements**

Eleanor Lanyon, Youth & Community Engagement Officer, Wellcome Collection, Shaun Taylor, Martin Hayes, Koyar Abdul, Camden Sports Development Team. Lots of Time Bank volunteers especially Tara, Foeyza, Rathna, Tahmina

### **The Power of Words in conjunction with the Wellcome collection**

Many of the sessions had been sponsored by the Wellcome Collection and this not only help us financially but gave us the opportunity to carry out activities and sessions which we would not have been able to do otherwise. The Power of Words project came in to being to meet the particular need for self expression and to learning the basic skills and techniques of effective communication especially for those with English as their second language. The Power of Words is just that, to acknowledge and understand the power of words, its effects, interpretations and often mixed messages, to learn and understand how to communicate better and help reduce misunderstanding and conflict.

The Wellcome collection has given us this opportunity to explore this subject with a range of activities suitable for all.

## APPENDIX

## Easter Holidays Programme April 2012 Feedback Analysis

A total of 37 responses received

25 feedback forms completed

Activities at the Hpod:

Sobell Trip 19 Soft Safari play 7 Creative Time with Wendy 2

Drama Workshops with Arta 5

The Zoo Comes to you (Animal handling) : 21 Outdoor activities & Animal sports 6

Little Fingers 2 Shadow Screen Theatre Workshop with Jennie 5

Drama & Script with Wendy 2 Swimming 4

1. What One Activity did you Particularly Like?

Sobell Trip 18 Zoo Comes to You 10 Soft Safari Play 2 Swimming 1

2. What Activity did you feel wasn't done so well?

Zoo 3 (I didn't get to touch (all) the animals) (I found it too long & busy for my baby)  
Shadow Screen Theatre 3 (it was boring) Drama Workshops with Arta 2 All Good 4  
Outdoor Activities 1 Sobell (ice skating) 1 (found it difficult)

3. Which one new activity would you like to see in the next school holiday programme?

Maths Workshop 1 Sobell Trip 2 Theme Park 1 Legoland 5 Disneyland 2  
It was all good 1 Go to the Zoo 1 Meet famous people 1 Going on a trip 1  
Zoo suitable for Under 5s 1 Cinema £1.50 1 O2 Centre 1 Chessington 4 Clacton/Southend 1  
Adventure Island 2 Bowling 2 Cooking 1 Swimming 1 Swimming Classes for children 1  
A science one 1

4. Your feedback is very important to us, please tell us more...

It was good 2 I liked everything 1 It was fun kinda 1

Quotes from parents

"I and my children really liked the Sobell Trip, the Zoo Comes to You and Creative Time with Wendy"

*"Thanks for Everything"*

*"Sobell Centre was great fun the kids had an amazing day, Thank You so much"*

*"Similar animal handling activity for very little ones but shorter time slot with the bigger animals please"*

*"Kids had so much fun at the Sobell especially the ice skating and the soft safari play.  
Will definitely go back again and again!"*

*"Freddie looked forward to stroking a tortoise and was delighted to do so.  
He liked having his face painted. Alec thought the animals were terrific"*

### **There were in additional another 12 Children's Written & Illustrated Responses**

*"On Tuesday I loved the animals because you can't really enjoy the nice facts of insects that live in the wild and you can't see about in the wild because we live in England. My favourite part was holding a frog which was a lovely experience and it helped me not get scared of animals. My most scary part was touching a crocodile I enjoyed it because it was fun and you can meet new people I will rate it 5 stars"*

*"The Tuesday's activity was fun. The children were very excited. Apart from fun and excitement it was as well very informative. My kids enjoyed a lot especially when they were given the chance to gently stroke the animals"*

*"On Tuesday I loved it. Because it had face painting, animals and sports.*

*I thought it was wicked and cool" Elina*

*"I thought it was ok. But I didn't like the grasshopper because it felt like a little fine bit on my arm.  
But except that it was amazing" Adey*

*"I liked about Tuesday when all the animals came and I held the owl. The Activities were really fun when you had to work as a team". Fatama*

*"I really enjoyed ice skating because I could skate with my friends. I also liked going on the bouncy castle and having our own session and running around like mad. I also tried to play badminton but failed miserably. The trampoline made me jump very high. I had so much fun!!!" Zana*

*"My favourite activity was ice skating because me and Gresa (my best friend) got onto the ice and started dancing on the ice. It was so funny. We also played badminton. me and Gresa were in a team and Desire and Flaka were on the other team. Obviously me and Gresa won, there was not a chance they would have won. I also enjoyed the animals when they came it was really fun". Besarta*

*"In the Easter Holidays I came and saw the animals and it was fun" Ellina*

*"I liked best when the Meer cat put its nose in my ear. What I didn't like was that I didn't get to hold the frog. I would like to see next time a black capped squirrel monkey!!!!" Hana*

*"My favourite activity was zoo comes to you, cause I held a baby alligator! It was so much FUN!!!! Also went to the Sobell Centre and I enjoyed trampolining! I wish we went to the aquarium". Flaka*

*"At Easter we did a story and showed it to all of the parents and children". Era*