

## YMCA BATH GROUP EVS PROJECT

Our EVS project programme is based upon the following principles.

- To bring together a group of volunteers each from different cultures to live together and volunteer on our programme
- To create an opportunity for learning by focusing the project upon our children's work and giving the volunteers an extensive and varied experience across our nurseries and out of school clubs
- To provide an interesting and varied timetable which is regularly reviewed and updated to keep the experience fresh and motivating
- To offer a rich intercultural learning experience for the volunteers and also for the staff, children and families with whom they will be working
- To encourage creativity and entrepreneurial spirit

We will offer the volunteers a chance to work within a range of childcare settings. We have six nurseries, three after school clubs and two holiday clubs. The settings vary in location and size, working with a hugely varied mix of children and families, from different social and economic backgrounds, culture, religion, language and sometimes with some special educational needs. As well as taking part in daily routines and activities the volunteers will be encouraged to research, plan and implement activities with the children based upon their own language in culture, as well as joining in with celebrations of different festivals and events celebrated in the UK.

The project involves volunteers from different countries. The volunteers will all be from different cultures and have different home languages so that coming together and living in the shared flat, working in our varied departments, both the volunteers and the staff, children and families with whom they work will enjoy a positive intercultural learning experience.

The work in the departments will involve the following:

Children's work:

- A greater understanding of the early years framework in the UK, Ofsted requirements and playwork practices.
- Development of skills in research, planning and implementing activities for children.
- Increased digital competence through this research and planning, and also through keeping in touch with friends and family while away from home using all the different media options available, keeping photo journals or other records of the experience, searching for jobs for after the project ends or other next opportunities and other means.
- Gaining an understanding of the iPad system Tapestry used for the creation and ongoing updating of learning journeys for the children, and for use in communication with families.
- Experience of working with different age groups of children, helping to decide on what path to take in future careers.
- Confidence in working with children and how to capture and retain the attention and imagination of children in activities and freeplay.
- A greater understanding of how to pick up on the interests of the children and use this knowledge to mould further activities, taking the thread of the children's interest and using it as an opportunity to develop their learning.

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YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

#### Health & Wellbeing:

- Developing a greater understanding of the role a community health and wellbeing centre can play, offering social interaction, fitness support, an inclusive environment, support and training for general health or in preparation for events such as a marathon, confidence building and the GP referrals scheme.
- Increased digital competence through operation of the electronic till system, bookings for classes, understanding of the fitness machines, helping with the new iPad fitness programme system (interlinking with the machines).
- Increased confidence through dealing with customers using another language, taking phone calls and answering queries, working in part of a motivated and supportive staff team.

#### Main Hostel Reception:

- Increased digital competence through use of online Hostelworld booking system and Microsoft office.
- Developing customer service skills in a hostel praised regularly in reviews for excellent customer service.
- Increased confidence through dealing with customers face to face and on the phone.

#### Social Enterprise Café in Bristol:

- Developing a greater understanding of the social enterprise concept of the café, providing young people who have had few opportunities with training and experience, encouraging local volunteers to get involved, providing good, healthy food for the public.
- Increased confidence from dealing with customers and working within a supportive and inclusive team.
- Developing barrista skills including latte art, either learning from the existing staff team or attending training provided by the company who supplies our coffee.
- Increased digital competence, using the electronic till system, processing orders and taking payments.

