

Intergenerational Work – building relationships between under 16's
and older people
A presentation by the Older Active People Network

Vision:

- Bring older and younger people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities. Which promote greater understanding, respect and builds cohesive communities.

Aim:

- Break down the barriers that exist between younger and older people.

Outcomes:

- Reduce Social Isolation.
- Reconnection to community, stronger community & introduction to new experiences.
- Stimulation of mind and promotion of life.
- Boost self-esteem & improve school performance.
- Improvement of community cohesion.
- Engagements with positive role models, & learn new cultures and historic perspectives.

Why do we need to do this kind of work?

- Increased distance between smaller families.
- Transient population (local student residents).
- Migration of local people and lack of community.

Examples of some types of Projects:

Circle Time

- Allow participants to meet in a circle.
- Always takes place in School.
- Used as an introduction before other projects

Face Painting

- Opportunity to engage four age groups in one project.
- Students show older participants how to face paint over a five-week period.
- Older people practice on senior school students.
- At community events older people use their skills to face paint under 11's.

- Allows different age groups to meet at a community setting.

Art Projects

- Opportunity to share and learn new skills.
- Generally held out of the school environment and with a sessional worker and IDW.
- Try to exhibit the end result.
- Have a memento for all participants.

Evacuation Event

- Opportunity for older people to share their childhood experiences with local children.
- First few sessions' classroom based question and answer.
- Last session is a hands on mock up evacuation. Unlike some reminiscence projects this allows children to experience what it was really like.

Museum Visits

- Disguised as a joint day out.
- Get involved in a museum activity.
- Allows both groups to experience something new about history and learn together.

Crown Green Bowling

- Opportunity for older and younger people to participate in a sports activity.
- Run during the summer on Burley Bowling green.
- Great opportunity to get more men involved in intergenerational work.

Strawberry Picking & Jam Making

- Gives the participants the opportunity being involved in a day trip to a working farm.
- Sharing of skills when making the Jam.
- All participants are given a jar of jam as a souvenir.

Intergenerational User Participation:

- All activities involve a core group of volunteers called Team GT.
- Team GT help to develop plans that meet people's expectations.
- Team GT give people a say in the plans.
- Team GT give people control over the solutions.

- Team GT help to evaluate the projects, and give suggestions on improvements.

Points to remember:

- Older people don't always want to talk about the past.
- Current issues are important.
- Encourage interaction, no good having an all singing all dancing end product if nobody knows each other's names.
- Involve participants in the planning.
- Make participants feel valued.
- Participants should have a reminder of the product.
- Encourage partner work. An enthusiastic Head Teacher can make the difference between a successful project and a failure.

Problems:

- Health and attendance of participants.
- Contacting school staff.

Future of Generations Together

- Older participants become part of school life.
- Volunteer at fun days, invited to assemblies etc.
- Made possible by the introduction of Extended Schools coordinators.

For more information about OLDER ACTIVE PEOPLE

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