

Challengers

Report to The Nineveh Charitable Trust



Funding Received: May 2022
Date of Report: December 2022
Amount of Grant: £5,000

We are incredibly grateful for the generous grant of £5,000 awarded to Challengers by the trustees of The Nineveh Charitable Trust in May 2022. Your grant has been used to provide fun, leisure and socialising opportunities to disabled young people attending Guildford Youthscheme. Our young beneficiaries had lots of fun! As an added benefit, whilst their child was having a great time in a safe and welcoming environment, parent-carers could take a well-deserved, short rest.

These crucial breaks allow parents to look after their own physical and mental wellbeing, in order to continue caring for their child's often complex needs.

Since your grant was awarded, Challengers Guildford Youthscheme has provided **1,526 hours** of fully inclusive fun for **40 disabled young people**. Of the 40 young people that attended, **25 had 1:1 support and 3 had 2:1 support** from highly-trained Challengers Youthworkers. At the same time, parents, carers and families were able to access **1,526 hours of respite** from their care responsibilities.

"M loves Challengers, so much so in fact he won't attend any other club now. Nowhere offers what Challengers does, it's cheaper than most places without the trips and activities and the staff are always very friendly and easy going"

What we on:

Disabled young people enjoyed trips such as Legoland, Picnic in the Park, Cinema, Pub Lunch, Climbing at Craggy Island, Chessington World of Adventures, Shopping in Town, as well as lots of activities and themed days including Around the World Day, Halloween Party, Pizza & Film Night, Games Night, Mocktail Madness, Bake Off, Science Experiments, Drumming Workshop, S.A.F.E. Archery, Reptile Visit, Bubble Bonanza, Exploring Your Senses Day and lots more!

Outcomes:

Disabled children and young people are routinely excluded by mainstream fun and leisure providers. This is due to lack of staff training and appropriate facilities to accommodate their often complex needs. Socialising and having fun is essential to mental and physical development, building social skills and supporting personal wellbeing. Through our schemes we want to offer the same opportunities to disabled children and young people, as their non-disabled peers have. Attending the scheme helps disabled children and young people to build confidence, overcome their impairments, make friends and, best of all, have fun!



'From an evolutionary perspective, play is nature's way of ensuring that children and other young mammals will learn what they must to survive and do well.' (Free to Learn, Peter Grey)



For parent-carers, the time their child spends at Challengers is often the only respite they have from their demanding caring duties. It is a welcome break, which allows them to do the things we take for granted. Like, having a cup of tea in peace, going shopping or spending time with other family members, or friends. Additionally, non-disabled siblings are able to spend crucial one-to-one time with their parents and take part in activities they could not have if their disabled sibling was present.

"I'm a single parent. So Challengers gives me time for myself. Just to breath and have me time space for few hours is very essential to me as not much respite at all anymore."

Parent survey:

We regularly ask parents for their views and comments about our services. Their responses are crucial when we are planning future sessions. We want our services to be what our community wants and needs. In 2021 our survey returned some sad information:

- 41% of parents have felt excluded at other settings.
- 63% of parents feel they are now getting less support since the COVID-19 pandemic, due to missed appointments and reduction in respite care budgets.

In the view of these findings we are determined to continue supporting disabled children and their families in this challenging period. We are thrilled that our survey also revealed the following:

- 97% of parent consider our staff to be good or excellent and 71% excellent.
- 90% of parent consider our activities to be good or excellent and 50% excellent
- Challengers is a significant/essential support to 77% of parents.
- Over 80% of parents also agree that Challengers helps with their own mental health, building a more inclusive family and reducing family isolation.
- Challengers has an amazing net promotor score where 90% of families would give a 9 or 10 out of 10 when asked how likely they would be recommend Challengers to a friend or colleague.
- Overall parents say children are on average 9.3/10 for happiness. 65% of parents say their child is 10/10 for happiness!



"T absolutely loves coming to Challengers - it is currently the only chance for independence from our family that T has outside of school."

Thank you from everyone at

Challengers