

Story of Child X at Club4 Summer Camp

Child X, aged 7 years old attended the Club4 camp this summer. The first day that Child X came he was very anxious and wanted his mum to stay with him. After speaking with him and his mum it became apparent that his anxiety stemmed from meeting new people and especially 'making friends' which first occurred when he started school. He wanted to attend the camp as he loved doing sports and crafts so myself and the other leaders encouraged him to join in the mini games that we organised at the start of the day.

We ensured that throughout the day he was introduced to new children and after an hour he gave his mum the go ahead to leave! We were lucky enough to have the enrichment activity of dance and Child X got stuck in and was dancing, chatting and having fun with another boy his age. The next activity was bench football, we wanted to help encourage the new friendship and so we kept the two boys together and checked in regularly to ensure they were okay. When Child X's mum came to pick him up at the end of the day his first words were "I made a new friend, mum!" as he went out excitedly.

The mum was overjoyed to see how happy Child X was, which was very different to how he was that morning. The next day when Child X arrived, he turned to his mum and said "you can go now if you want". This was a big step for Child X as for a couple of days he wanted her to stay with him for at least the first hour. The team and I were so pleased to see how relaxed and confident Child X had become. Child X continued to make new friends and by the end of the week had met lots of new people of which he could call his friends. Overall, Child X had a fantastic experience at the Club4 camp.