

Support, Share, Experience: The Chairs Report

Intro

So last year's report started on the spin cycle and we definitely have spun in to our tenth year. 2018/9 is the year of the biopic's. We have air guitared to Bohemian Rhapsody and strutted to Rocket Man. Now we can march with support share and experience to the Little Hiccups biopic "Turpin – stand and deliver" and that's we certainly have done in the last ten years.

As a not so silent observer, I have watched the children & families who attend hiccups grow in their own strengths and achieve their own goals. It takes me back to the African proverb it takes a village to raise a child. This means a child develops from its community interacting with them they develop and grow in a safe space. The village is not responsible for them but they contribute and I feel that's what happens with the little hiccups community. We stand together in strength and our tag line encapsulates all of this; support, share, experience.

Purpose/Objectives

We continue with our core business which is providing support to families & children with additional needs through the various arms we now have; stay n play, family days, counselling, outreach, buggy hire and hydrotherapy for the second year. In doing this we continue to grow and double in members.

One of our biggest goals has been achieved this year in securing a weeks holiday away. Behind the scenes we continue to seek support with our business development which contributes to our long term goals.

Achievements of 2017/18

What a year.....

- We have kept up with the extreme we have bush tuckered, clip n climbed and we are off skiing at the end of the year.
- We are also getting consistent with the less hectic activities we have sailed on canal boats and had a private party at Lush.
- Sikh santa was a hit all round showing the diversity in our city and within Little Hiccups for the second year running.
- Stay and play continues to run weekly with consistency and a secure base and storage at the Vinery.
- Counselling being available to all
- Increase in activity within the private facebook group
- Mobile changing station available at events.
- Consistent use of our outreach programme
- A professional reputation amongst health and social care providers.

- Business support from ACS
- We continue to be chosen charity for many local businesses.

In addition to this we ran a full calendar of events;

2018

June – Kid Zone Soft play

July – 9th Birthday Party

August – Tea Party at Iveridge Hall

September – Bowling at Barnsley Bowl

October – Canal Boating with the Safe Anchor Trust

November – Cinema

December – Sundown & Christmas Party

2019

January – clip n climb

February – Kidzone soft play

March – relaxed photo shoot

April – Private party at Lush

May – Cannon Hall Farm

June – Forrest School

July – Circus Themed 10th Birthday Party

Volunteers

We continue with our committed volunteers; Heather, Tracy and Liz. Thank you very much from everyone on the committee. We now need to turn and pat ourselves on the backs as each member of the committee volunteers their time to Little Hiccups.

2019/20: Objectives, Goals and beyond

- Using charity statues as a platform to apply for more funding.

- Marketing of our brand and the use of e-commerce via the website
- Make our family days more accessible with provision of a mobile changing space
- To continue to provide a diverse range of family day activities to meet all the needs of our children and arrange reasonable adjustments to suit.
- Continue to raise our profile and reach more families; through social media and the support of a patron for Little Hiccups.

The big goal rolls forward that we want to continue to strive towards the dream of owning our own building base. This would be a hub of activity and support for children and families.

Conclusion

So on reflection as the great historian Sir Frances drake stated “greatness comes from small beginnings”. This is certainly true but I think we also started great. Maybe more fitting is “from little acorns do mighty oaks grow” and mighty we are and strong we stand.

Sarah Stewart

Chair Person

Little Hiccups

May 2019