

◆ EDINBURGH ◆

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Redhall School



30.10.12

To whom it may concern

Engross Theatre Group performed 3 plays at Redhall School. "Gongo visits Planet Earth", "Gongo says Be Nice" and "Happy Birthday Gongo".

Redhall School caters for primary school aged children with a moderate/severe learning disability and a complexity of additional support needs such as autism, ADHD, Down's, epilepsy.

The children follow a broad curriculum based on outcomes from the national curriculum "Curriculum for Excellence" and have individualised educational targets in the core areas literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

The presentations from Engross covered aspects from health and wellbeing which are often difficult to teach particularly to children with autism. These children often find it difficult to understand social skills involving body language or eye contact.

Engross used these ideas to create simple stories using lots of visual elements and slapstick humour. The script was very carefully written using clear language- many children with autism do not understand everyday idioms we take for granted. A lot of thought had obviously been taken by the creators.

The feedback from staff and pupils was exemplary. The comments received included

- The performances and story were very appropriate to the needs of the children.
- The stories centred on emotional and social wellbeing which is a key area of the curriculum at Redhall.
- The visual elements of the performance suited the children's style of learning.
- The children really enjoyed the performances and some children extended their concentration.

I cannot rate Engross Theatre highly enough.

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