

On the whole the Stranger Danger Project with Engross Theatre was a very positive experience for the children and young people who were part of it.

The group of children consisted of six primary aged pupils from Langlee Support Centre and two secondary aged pupils from the Enhanced Provision at Galashiels Academy. Nine further Langlee Support Centre pupils

Bobby and Yvonne worked really hard to make sure that the project was as relevant as possible for our children and young people (all of whom have severe and complex learning needs). They were flexible in their response to our pupils and changed things to accommodate their emergent knowledge of the group. For example they included the sign (signalong) for 'No', as this was more meaningful and understood by our pupils.

There were many positive aspects to the project.

These included

- The chance for all the pupils to experience performance at a level that was appropriate to their understanding
- The planned, repetitive nature of the workshops meant that the children could link with what was happening and learn from it
- It was lovely to watch the children respond to the fairly formal workshop situation, wait their turn and contribute appropriately. This is something we practise in class and it was great to see them generalise skills learnt into this different situation and really engage with the workshops.
- The two young actors were lovely. They were very open and appropriate with our pupils and adapted well to the level of need. They quickly learnt the names of the children, which is very important
- All the children who took part in the workshops took on the message about stranger danger to some degree. Obviously because of the nature of their learning difficulties the children will continue to need a lot of over-learning around this vital teaching and learning. Our pupils will remain vulnerable all through their lives and we will continue to reinforce the messages learnt throughout the coming months and years
- As part of the work Bobby and Yvonne will revisit sometime over the next few months (hopefully with the two actors also) and share video of the performance and workshops with the children involved. We are really looking forward to this, as it will be yet another chance to revisit the Stranger Danger message, but will also link with our 'Retelling the Story' (memory) work.

The only part of the experience we may need to think through more for another occasion is how many times to repeat the role play exercise. Over the four weeks the children got to know the actors and no longer thought of them as strangers. Therefore it was confusing for the children when the actors were posing as strangers. This was no way the fault of the actors, but more a reflection on our pupils being able to imagine those actors as someone different because of their learning difficulties.

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