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Partnership**

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22nd January 2018

Dear Mr. Lewis and Trustees of the Nineveh Trust

Boat trips on the Thames Estuary

I am writing with the final report of the Poplar HARCA Summer scheme boat trip on the Thames Estuary with the Thames Estuary Partnership. Thank you for your support for this.

The boat trip took place on 14<sup>th</sup> August on board the Erasmus from Canary Wharf Pier to Woolwich and back again. It was a very sunny and hot day, and the Poplar HARCA summer scheme children arrived early ready to get on board. Your Trustee, Michael James came along, and he thoroughly enjoyed himself.

*It was a very interesting day and I believe the children will have enjoyed themselves. I think it will stay with them. Amy and Sasha handled the children well and kept their attention, not an easy thing to do. And we all learned lots about what was in the river, and (gratefully) what was not. I thought afterwards that it was a good move to divide the groups into games and colouring; though I think the colouring group took the better option on a lovely day. It was also interesting to see how they recognised the Tower and Tower Bridge, and the Gherkin as landmarks, although probably not having been there before. Why do we all wave from boats?!*

Seventy children attended, along with their youth workers. In addition, TEP provided several members of staff (4) and volunteers (2). We started the boat trip with Amy Pryor, our Programme Manager, talking to the children about their views of the Thames. Passing the microphone around allowed the children to shout what their idea of the Thames was, such as dirty. The children said that was their favourite part of the boat trip!

The children then went upstairs and completed 'I spy' sheets about what was in the water and on the shore. Some children found everything, including porpoises, while others found nothing. We challenged the porpoises and helped those who found nothing on the sheet to identify cranes (building) and the Woolwich ferry.

We then had lunch, always a high light of any trip for children. After lunch we split the children into groups of their choosing: on the upper deck for colouring and on the middle deck for playing games. On the upper deck the children doing colouring did not want to colour in the sea creatures, but were eager to colour in the ships, boats, fish and seals. They didn't recognise the sea creatures so wouldn't colour them in.

On the middle deck the children enjoyed the Thames whispers and spelling out words with their bodies.

A couple of children decided not to take part in any of the afternoon activities and it was interesting to notice that these were the children that couldn't find anything on the 'I spy' sheet.

After the trip, the staff and volunteers sat down to make a list of those things that could be improved and those that worked. The list is below:

- Take a whistle
- Get better sticky labels
- Bring our own felt tips
- Make sure that the youth workers take charge of the children - assign themselves to a group of children and stay with them during the day. They are there to work and help.
- Ask the youth workers to ensure that the children's bags are kept at their seats and not carried around everywhere – keep in one place.
- Take the children to the viewing deck immediately – get the excitement out of their system and ensure that their attention is kept.
- Create questionnaires/fill in the gap sheets to be used during Amy's talk – keep them engaged and make sure they're listening.
- Put litter/plastic on the Eye Spy sheet.
- Activities that were most successful: Spelling out words with their bodies, Thames (Chinese) whispers, colouring.

The youth workers also gave us feedback on the trip:

*I just want to say a big thank you for organising the boat trip. The children and staff really enjoyed themselves.*

*At the end of the scheme the children left feedback saying it was one of their favourite trips and they would like to do it again.*

*The boat was amazing! 3 floors with lots of kids gave us room to manoeuvre. We loved that it was private and no other people were on the boat with us so we wouldn't need to worry about safe guarding issues.*

*The 1st game getting the children involved by interacting in the microphone was good. The activity of finding the pictures was fun. I think we should have had prizes and made it into a competition ( wish I bought lolli pops).*

*The song made the staff and children giggle!*

*We liked that there was tables to eat around and to relax and do colouring.*

*All staff on the boat made us feel welcomed and was very attentive.*

*I didn't hear anything negative about the trip. Keep up the great work!*

I do hope this report gives you an idea of how the project went. We are eager to continue providing these boat trips and would welcome your advice on applying for further funding with Nineveh to continue and improve the project.

Kind regards,



Pat Fitzsimons

Director

Thames Estuary Partnersrhip