

Dear trustees of The Nineveh Charitable Trust

With immense gratitude for your support, I am reporting on the occupational therapy equipment you funded. You generously gave us £3482.00 towards the cost of occupational therapy equipment to provide occupational therapy for children who were experiencing functional difficulties with everyday tasks due to physical and neurological disabilities. As seen in the photos, the new equipment is continuously being used for the benefit of children requiring occupational therapy. It is a delight to have the new acrobat swing, resistance tunnels, Air mats, harnesses, cushion pillows and barrel kits so that children can improve their motor skills, balance and coordination. Both the children and therapists alike have expressed their appreciation and enjoyment with the new and necessary equipment

With the new equipment we can now continuously provide individual occupational therapy to an additional 25 children presenting with a range of difficulties.

At the start of therapy, the children who received occupational therapy were suffering from hypersensitivity, gross motor skills difficulties, sensory and processing problems and posture and coordination problems. This negatively impacted their academic performance and social life as they struggled with joining class activities such as cutting and sticking or playground activities which disabled them from learning and functioning at school. Parents reported that their children had difficulties with social interactions and lacked the ability to follow instructions.

Based on standard evaluation and parental and school interviews our occupational therapist created a personalized treatment plan to address the difficulties found in each client. With proprioceptive exercises and sensory-motor tasks specifically chosen to help children eliminate their difficulties, the children demonstrated significant progress in the development of specific tasks.

By improving the children's gross motor skills they are now able to carry out basic classroom tasks such as cutting paper, coloring pictures and holding their pencils with appropriate grip and postural control. With specific exercises in our sensory gym with new equipment, children with sensory sensitivity, improved their ability to respond positively to new sensational experiences. This has directly impacted their ability to concentrate in class and allowed them to listen and understand what's being taught without getting distracted. Since children are now able to sit still for longer periods of time, leading to a better intake of the learning which has drastically improved their academic attainment. Parents have reported that children have improved their organizational skills and are more tolerant to sensory stimuli.

At the end of therapy, our occupational therapists evaluated each child according to the targets they set for them. They tested their abilities using assessments according to the child's targets. The children were assessed with the Motor and Postural Skills Assessment. Each child showed normal performance for their age. (COMPS>1) All children were tested at the start and end of the sessions with the Beery VMI and the end test showed them achieving age-appropriate scores.

Additionally, smiley questionnaires which the children and young people completed at the start and end of project gave us a clear picture of their feelings and progresses. 23 of children told us they are able to concentrate better in class and feel stronger. 20 said they are able to write neater and cut straighter. 21 shared that they are more organised and have neater desks and one child even managed to bake cookies himself.

We randomly asked 20 parents in person, when they came to collect their children from therapy, to share their thoughts on their child's therapy process by completing a short survey. Based on survey results all 20 parents agreed that the occupational therapy has aided their children with daily activities like cutting with a scissors and writing with a pencil. 19 of the parents said it has boosted their child's self-esteem and sense of accomplishment. 16 shared that it has improved their children's independence and 15 said that the occupational therapy has physically strengthened their children. Parents also shared that their children really looked forward to their 'fun' therapy sessions and one child even said to us "I wait all week for my 4:30 Tuesday sessions."

It is with the simple words of one of our users that we can accurately sum up our achievements: "It's amazing that I am doing so much better at school now and can concentrate for much longer now. I don't even know why because the sessions are so much fun, but I think that I can follow teachers' instructions much better now".

I hope this gives you a glimpse of the power and ramifications of the grant you funded.

Children Ahead continues to make a difference to the lives of disadvantaged young people through the range of interventions we provide. We are extremely grateful for your support which has helped us enable this.

With the very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M Padwa".

Miriam Padwa

Development Officer





