



Summer of FUN..

2021


Summer of Fun


26th July - 3rd September 2021

Enrichment Activities & Trips

15 

11 Volunteers


Junior Helpers
8 

709 Healthy Lunches 

21 Play & Youth Sessions


Parent Feedback

"CATS have been a lifesaver for us and helped us all. Especially as our daughter is non verbal and autistic. Visually we can see she is happy when she goes to CATS and all the volunteers are brilliant. It would be lovely if they could increase the hours a bit more."

Children And Young People Supported
55 


Children's Voice's


"I hated being sad and if there was no playscheme I would be sad."

"I love cats it's really fun I get to meet new friends." 

Volunteer Experience's

"CATS has been great for developing my teamwork and communication skills, especially my non verbal communication. It really built my confidence in playing with children who have special needs which I wouldn't have been able to do so otherwise"

26 Families Received Supermarket Vouchers 

New Referrals
9 

A Summer play scheme filled with lots of fun, enjoyment and making happy memories at Balsall Heath CATS. Our children and young people had many opportunities to engage in different and exciting activities. Everyday our team of volunteers and playworkers would set up the play space with a variety of sports, arts, messy play, sensory dens and much more. All children that attended our playscheme were offered a free healthy lunch and snacks each day. A range of enrichment activities were on offer to meet the different needs and interests of our children and young people.

These included:

- 2 Non-verbal Drama workshops
- Sensory Music workshop
- 2 Circus Skills workshops
- Weekly Dynamo Cricket Club with coaches from Warwickshire cricket club
- Artist Angie – making sculptures and tress
- Sensory Bubbles Workshop
- Play with Clay led by Artist Claire
- Visting Chef Domi

We even managed to celebrate a few birthdays during our play scheme. Sessions were free for all children to attend. This supported all families; especially those on low incomes and struggling due to financial hardships.

This summer we were inundated with new referrals and families wanting play sessions. With the support of all our funders and donors we were able to work with lots of CYP during the summer holidays especially those who are excluded from most settings due to them not being able to meet their needs.









What our parents think.....



"I can't praise this charity enough, in a short period of time they have done so much and given so much. The improvements in my son are there to see, and more importantly he loves to go."

"Thank you for providing this service :)"

"This scheme enables our families to gain access to a stimulating confidence building and most importantly free and non limiting inclusive playscheme"

"Thank you to everyone involved with Cats for organising fun activities throughout the summer holidays to help keep the children occupied and free from boredom. It is a fantastic opportunity for both the children and their parents to feel involved and valued. Thank you."

"CATS are part of our family. Uthman has attended the playscheme since he was young . He only has his school friends who he sees at school and cousins who he sees occasionally. He cannot be independent like his peers so having CATS for him is HIS group of friends that he has had all his life. We as a family do not know what we would have done without CATS services. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts ♡"

"An invaluable resource which engaged our child and supported independence with family and friends."

"CATS have been a lifesaver for us and helped us all especially for our daughter who is non-verbal and autistic. We can see that is visually happy when she goes to CATS and all the volunteers are brilliant. It would be lovely if they could increase the hours a bit more and try include some academic /learning into their schedule. Overall very very positive . Thank you CATS"



“my kids seemed happy having lunch”

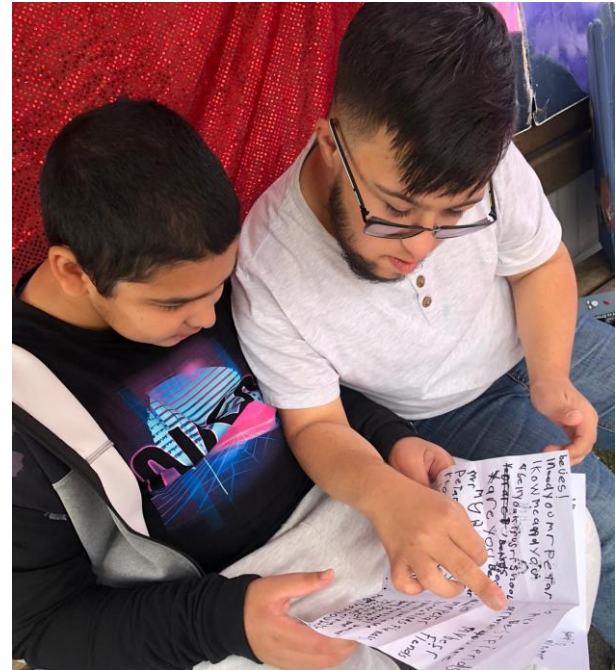
“Yusuf is so unpredictable with his eating. He actually ate well at the summer provision which was a **load off my mind**”



“It has helped me financially and it has helped my son to be more sociable.”









“Very positive and allows the children to have a few hours of social contact and playtime away from home. But on the other hand, it also allows for the parents to have some free time to do what they need to do so that they can look after their kids better”





What our parents think.....



“Thank you all for your support and help. We really appreciate the hard work you have done with our kids.”

“The summer play scheme was excellent and a live saver for me . My children especially loved the workshops because they received a lot of sensory input and were happy for the rest of the day”

“My kids were sad when I said the playscheme going to finish.”

“Great effort by the CATS staff for making this summer special for our children”

“Keep it up.. Thanks for all the love and care”

“Haidar and Hashim are currently receiving no other provision staying at home can cause them a lot of frustration and anxiety.”

“My child was happier, enjoyed attending and looked forward to attending the next session.”

“They loved it every day they spent with CATS group.”

“The place is very nice and trustworthy”

“Thank you and I would like to thank everyone he’s really enjoyed it.”

“Happy with the overall experience”

“I’m happy with the services. My child is happier and not so bored anymore in these holidays”

“Thank you for all the support and help you have provided us during difficult times, it has made big changes in our lives”

Impact on children & families....



“It has supported our mental and physical wellbeing by watching my daughter **flourish** and **gain stimulation** based on her needs”

“They **play together** with the other children”

“They had fun kept them busy and smiling”

“We as Carers got a **break** and Farhan got facilities and activities to use which he would not have at home”

“He has become slightly **independent**”

“A lot of fun activities and day out for my daughters which they really have enjoyed.”

“It has been a lot of fun for my children and has given me some much-needed time to myself.”

“They had nothing to do at home and they we're not allowed to go out because of covid”

“Healthy minds, they feel confident, and happy 😊”

“Very **positive** impact. My son looked forward to it.. The staff was very helpful and supportive”

“They have had a lot of fun been really happy and I had a bit of time to myself”

“Brilliant...Siblings play together whereas if at home just doing iPad”

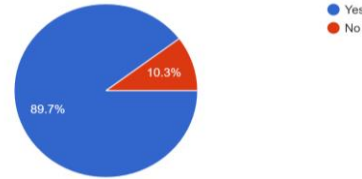
“Respite, better social skills and improved speech. Opportunities for socializing with other children. Stimulation as my son is autistic.”

“It gives us more time for ourselves as parents. Also because of covid-19 it was hard to take the kids on holiday so I'm glad that my kids had the chance to join this summer session.”



Healthy lunches & snacks for all...

2) Has having lunch at play scheme helped your child or family? (section 3a)
39 responses



“ helped my child eat healthier food when he sees other children eat”

“My child was introduced to a variety of food and enjoy same food”

“It is really good”

“Knowing that lunch will be available eases the pressure of getting Uthman ready in time and not having to stress about what he will want to take for lunch and what is in the fridge!”

“Trying new foods, he isn't familiar with”

“It has helped my child to stay healthy and make the correct food choices when it comes to deciding what to eat.”

“Improved diet and nutrition more positive interaction at mealtime”

“Less financial strain”

“We don't have to worry about him getting hungry”

“Not preparing food and helping with our budget”

“It helped our family”

“It's nice that an option of a healthy lunch is available”

“it has helped my child have fun whilst eating lunch”

“My child having lunch takes the stress from me having to provide him one on a limited budget”

“It keeps the routine, and the children are able to have a healthy meal”

Making positive differences to the lives of children & young people.....



“ social contact has meant that she’s been **happier** and not frustrated during the summer holidays”

“My son is more **relaxed** and happier.”

Confident,
happy 😊,
active

“More **cheerful**”

“They are so **happy** we've never be so happy”

“My daughter is exhausted and her cognitive development has had a positive impact”

“Confidence has increased/ she is able to have **conversations with her peers**”

“**Yes, before my child started playscheme he would sleep until the afternoon, he is now getting up, sorting himself out without any prompting just so he can take part and arrive there on time**”

“Definitely makes them happier and **lifts their mood**”

“ he was apprehensive to join in initially but became very **social and interactive** after attending couple of days”

“Definitely, they have become a lot more **outgoing** and **look forward** to every Saturday for their activities”

“Yes, they were more **comfortable with other kids**”

“Yes, they used to come and say, we enjoyed it today because they have different varieties of activities set up every single day, different lunch menu etc. They would be looking forward to go again tomorrow because of the lovely staff and environment”

Yes. He is able to have somewhere to go and be amongst friends without having his family chaperone him. He would not have this **independence** away from playscheme as he needs to be accompanied due to his understanding and developmental needs.





Why we come to CATS.....

“Have to travel too far if we wanted to go anywhere else”

“Not aware”

“I am not aware of other outside school provisions. Adam has really enjoyed the activities offered by CATS staff (Travel 30 minutes to access CATS)”

“We love cats... we are so happy we go to cats everyone's nice at cats and all the staff are nice and everyone is nice”

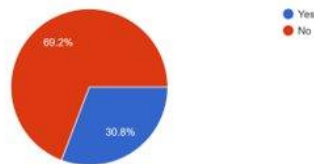
“Have not found anything suitable for my children”

“As CATS scheme is the most **appropriate** for my child's needs”

“I **don't know** what is available”

“No because there no other provision”

1) Do you access any other provision? If no please explain why?
39 responses



“Cats only place my son goes to in holidays”

“We love cats, we don't know of any other provision **locally** and as Uthman is familiar with staff and the children at CATS we feel **reassured** that he will be happy and looked after”

“There is **no other provision** for nonverbal kids in Birmingham that allows for children to be at a play scheme for a few hours”

“This is the only **accessible** one for my family”

“There is no other provision like this in our local area”

“Previously to this, we haven't been aware of such play schemes.”

“**No other playschemes available since covid**”

“Work constraints”

Supporting family life

“It has had a big impact on Hassan because he felt happy and **excited** whenever the summer activities were on.”

“Always a very **positive impact.**”

“There was no other provision available, and **we really struggle in the holidays** and this year it was great for him to access this playscheme.”

“My child enjoyed the activities and was happy to attend play scheme. The activities were planned well and there was a variety of activities. It was great as he would **return and talk** about various children/volunteers that he had met (some of them were new). He struggles to make new friends, so this was a great opportunity for him.”

“My children have enjoyed having **routine** that the club brings and have been kept occupied with the differing activities available.”

“Gives Amina **time out** of home to engage in activities, she’s not at home all day bored and getting agitated. She comes home feeling happy and makes the day easy for her and family.”

“It’s been a very positive impact. They have loved the activities, and through drama it has **improved my son’s speech.**”

“My daughter has absolutely loved attending. She has been enjoying interacting with the other children and adults and talks about them fondly. It’s helped to keep a routine during the holidays and **increased her confidence**”

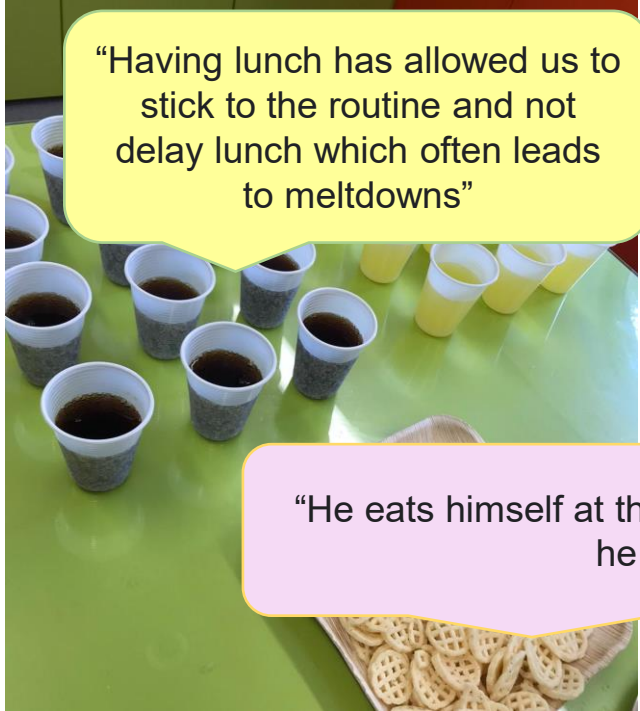
“It has given them a sense of normality after being away from school and teachers”

“Makes her happy and **helped relief stress**”

“My child is **not so bored** anymore”



“My child has a restricted diet and go to try some new things which were catered for him”

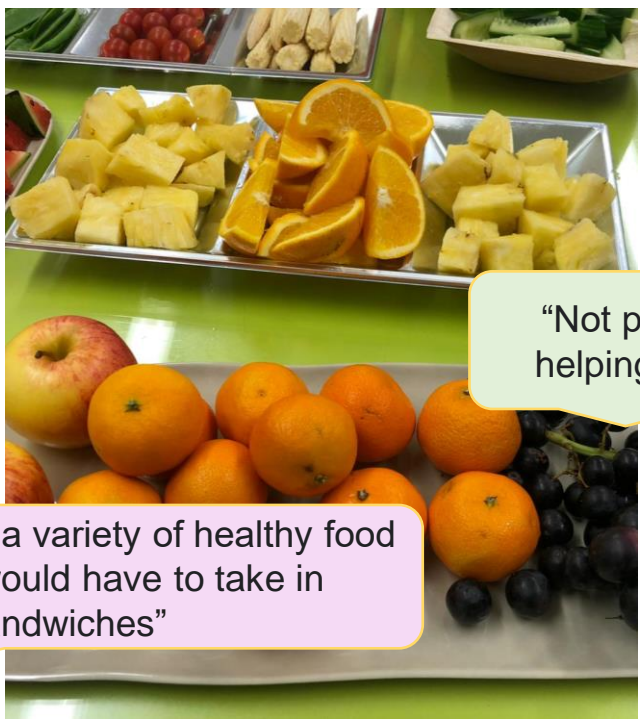


“Having lunch has allowed us to stick to the routine and not delay lunch which often leads to meltdowns”

“He eats himself at the play scheme whereas at home he would be fed.”



“Ikra gets to eat a variety of healthy food otherwise would have to take in sandwiches”



“Not preparing food and helping with our budget”







“she is well behaved in front of other people, so the playscheme supports her to be nice to her siblings and play alongside them. It is helping them make better relationships”



Children & Young Peoples Voice.....



“I like seeing my friends and have fun at cats club”

“1) Absar is my bodyguard.
2) I went on a trip with CATS, and I went on the big rollercoaster! (Uthman is very reluctant to go on fast rides or rides which are anywhere in the air, so we were very surprised to hear that he went on a rollercoaster whilst on a trip to an amusement park. 3) Mohammed is my friend. I help him because he can't walk very well. (It was so nice to hear Uthman say this. It showed his sensitive side).”

“It has been fun”

“I love coming to playscheme, today is the best day ever”

“Overall, this has been a very positive experience for my child, it's the first time in a long time I've seen him motivated for anything, he has not moaned about being bored either.”

“Can we have CATs everyday....its so much fun”

“We should ask people that know how to do loads of magic to come and we can all have fun doing magic and even we could do some more tricks and more stuff before going back to school”

“I love cats it's fun I get it to meet new friends we miss the trips. they're really fun, we want to go on more trips can we go on more trips please”

“Can we got to the cinema and on trips ”

Making positive differences to the lives of children & young people.....



“More happy and **more social** “x4

Hassan feels **more happier**, and he looks forward to activities

“Yes. It helps them with their communication and engaging with other kids.”

“Yes, he’s speech has improved. His confidence has improved, and more importantly has been more social.”

He was a lot happier in the holidays”

“Happy and joyful”

“My boys seem to have **grown in confidence.**”

“Yes, improved speech and **improved social interaction with family.**”

“Yes, she is **more relaxed and thinks more about others** and how her behavior affects them, she also tries to understand other children’s feelings as well.”

“ he was happy to attend the scheme and always had so much to talk about when he returned. He was always keen to attend. Overall, I feel that the service that is provided has had a positive impact on his behaviour and general **wellbeing**. He is developing more confidence and this service is helping with his social anxiety as he is meeting people with various needs. **CATS really get to know the children and cater for their needs.**”

“Yes, he’s been very happy at home and has been looking forward for the days he goes out.”

“She happily will go to play scheme which is good for Ikra as she refuses to go out majority of the time.”





A good variety of activities were planned. He enjoyed his ice cream on the last day. It is all the little touches that the organiser /volunteers put in place that makes it extra special. When I drop off my son, I don't feel anxious as I see him happily walking in and I know that he will have fun. I know he is in good hands.



Impact on children & families....



“Helped my son to enjoy going out and socialising with other people, and not just being stuck at home”

“Positive impact as it has allowed my child to go out and have some kind of **social contact** and also allowed us as parents to have a break”

“It gets my son out of the house and gives him something to do and **focus on.**”

“My daughter feels happy, and I am also more relaxed”

“Aleena really enjoyed it because she's bored at home”

“A massive impact, a lot **happier** and helps with **social skills**”

“Helped my child stay in some kind of routine and get to play with other children and do different activities.”

“Thank you for wishing Hashim happy birthday, really made his day!”

“Very positive impact. My son looked forward to it.. The staff was very helpful and supportive”

“It's helped my child have fun and helped her socially and mentally as she is able to meet and get to know others”

“My children really enjoyed going because it used to get them out the house, enjoys the activities, meet different needs of children and have fun.”

“It has had a Positive impact as he is able to enjoy himself amongst friends and as he's not very active it's reassuring to know that he's had some form of physical exercise. His lack of physical activity can cause tension amongst the parents ie debating who needs to do what to help Uthman keep active so playscheme has been a peacekeeper for us!”

“Cats doing great effort to make our children happy 😊.”

“Normally he says he is bored at home, but he enjoys himself at play scheme and has fun”

“Appreciate everything you guys do your amazing”

“They look forward to the sessions”

“Ameena has also way come home learning and laughing”

“It’s a fantastic scheme and helps a lot as a family”

Thank you from myself, Zakariya & Aliana.

“Aasiyah loves attending Cats Playscheme and was very sad when it was over”





“This support my kids in engaging with other”

