



Hertfordshire HAF Summer 2023 Case Study

Demonstrating the power of HAF in Hertfordshire

Theme: Assisting parents

Topkidz

“We had a family with a seriously ill parent. They had never used a holiday provision and were quite apprehensive. The parent that dropped and collected said the provision enabled them to look after the younger children and also spend quality time in the hospital with the ill parent. We were told, for children to just turn up with a water bottle and all other things are taken care of is godsend!”

What is the opportunity or issue?

Our HAF camp enabled local parents to work during the week we delivered. Both the children and their parents/carers were appreciative of the provision we offered, with many saying they were pleased that we took up this opportunity for the first time.

How have you capitalised on the opportunity and/or overcome the issue?

We actively encouraged the parents that needed additional spaces throughout the week to keep checking the Playwaze booking platform as we always had parents cancel at the last minute. When spaces became available through cancellations, we made calls and sent group messages right up to 8pm to make the parents aware.

What has been the impact?

The funding ensured that we could provide amazing food for the children and professional coaching sessions in tennis, football, and multi-sports, whilst their parents / carers were at work. We also had trips to the resident farm where we listened to talks about the animals and helped with feeding time. Additionally, we had a professional sports person visit us and speak about staying in school and listening to the adults that care for them.

One of our participants was new to our holiday and wraparound care provision, and seemed nervous to begin with. Staff spent time gradually encouraging them in to our setting... by the second day, the child was skipping and smiling though the door and could not wait to get started!

How do you plan to build on this?

This has created more awareness of Topkidz in the Borehamwood community. People that had not tried our after school provision have been making enquiries and a few have signed up for our term time offer which is great. The programme also had a positive impact on our volunteers and permanent staff. General feedback was “the children are so appreciative, happy and evidently having fun. This makes us feel so good”. The school we were based at have also shared that they would be happy for us to return to their venue in future.