



Progress

It's been another very busy and successful year for Tailor Ed in terms of delivering successful interventions for children, providing support for parents and strengthening our organisation. This year we have remained closed to new referrals. This has allowed us to focus on work with families currently referred to us without having to make concessions in terms of staff to case ratios and without compromising the efficacy of the work we are undertaking. This does however remain a priority for us to address.

Intervention services

During this year, 94 new skills have been learned by the children we provide interventions to. Work is underway on a further 102. These targets have been achieved through home based support as well as less intensive methods. The appointments based system we introduced for our consultation service is proving successful and it enables us to carry out a higher rate of interventions. Our project workers have completed work on 55 targets through consultation this year. Parents have booked into a total of 253 appointments.

We have also trialled a workgroup format where we support a group of parents to work with their children on the same area of difficulty. We've used this format to work on expanding diet, communication between parent and child and learning to ride a bike. This method proved both popular and effective with families and staff particularly enjoying and gaining from the practical group session on learning to ride a bike. Many of the children were confidently cycling by the end of the afternoon – a life-long skill that will help keep them healthy and increase their independence.

Our Early Years Pilot is almost complete. This project worked with 17 pre-school children providing 12 months of early intervention. We are in the process of gathering feedback on this and assessing its success.

Support services

Our support events such as family days, coffee mornings and play sessions continue and we have run 28 events this year. Since the introduction of a new Events and Fundraising Officer we have seen a rise in attendance. This is through a stronger and more targeted publicity model utilising social media and raising our profile. We are also attempting to link families with other supports, services, and other families with these events.



Ross and his mum enjoying an autism friendly play session

Our coffee morning with Rona from the Community Occupational Therapy Team sharing information about their services to our families



Organisational progress

There have been three significant staff changes during this funding year. Our Project Manager is currently on maternity leave. We have also recruited a new Events and Fundraising Officer, as our previous employee moved on. We are also in the process of recruiting a new project worker as one of our existing Project Workers has moved on. In addition to staff recruitment we have also had to develop mechanisms to meet the new legal requirements to provide pensions to all employees.

We continue to invest in a high level of training, supervision and support for our staff team working with families to maximise our efficacy and ensure our families get the best possible intervention. This year the team completed degree level modules from The Florida Institute of Technology and attended and presented their work at the Autism Europe Conference held in Edinburgh.

Finance

Summary of accounts from last financial year

1st August 2015 to 31st of July 2016

Income	
Training	£12845
Donations	£9969
Investment	£909
Grants	£197106
Total	£220829
Expense	£224056
Profit for the year	-£3227

The shortfall for this year was covered by unrestricted funds raised in previous project years.

Future

As we are entering the last year of our Big Lottery Fund grant our focus will be very much on future funding and using project learning to revise our delivery model. Our primary aim with this is finding a way of reopening to new referrals that is manageable with the resources we have and won't compromise the efficacy of our work. To achieve this we will undertake an external evaluation this year alongside significant beneficiary consultation – we look forward to hearing from you all!

