



Charity registration number 1089224

A recreational facility for disabled children, their families, friends and schools



Art and craft activities at Thomley Activity Centre

Thomley's art and craft room is one of the most popular areas within the centre. Due to the fact that visiting children are accompanied by their parents and carers, Thomley brings people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds together. Art and craft activities within the centre are therefore designed to be fully inclusive and to celebrate widely varying cultures, interests and abilities.



Art and craft activities for children of all ages and abilities



Art and craft is something that all children can join in, whatever their ability. Children take great pride in their achievements thus building their confidence and self esteem. Creativity within Thomley's art room gives children the ability to express themselves in a way that they may never be able to do through words. It also encourages children to develop imagination, dexterity, coordination and sensory awareness. *"My daughter actually knows what Thomley means and requests to go there. She has started to show interest in the art and craft and I think this is because it is ready prepared and needs little or no explanation."*

Thomley strives to provide a wide variety of regularly changing art and craft activities so that there is something different every time children visit. Facilitated either by Thomley staff or external facilitators, activities are usually themed with at least 3 different activities available each day. These may include anything from junk modelling to broomstick painting, screen printing, collage, mask making, woodwork, jewellery, sensory and aromatherapy activities, clay whistle making, messy play and plenty more. Experience has demonstrated the need for staff to quickly adapt activities to the differing needs of children.

Involving parents and carers

Within the art and craft room, staff provide guidance to parents and carers in supporting their children's play. Parents and carers are encouraged to join in and each activity provided is accompanied by step by step instructions which can be photocopied and shared. Thomley also publishes "Craft of the month" on its website to support families seeking play ideas at home. Over the coming year, Thomley also aims to develop a play ideas booklet which can be distributed amongst parents.

Awareness raising about disability

Thomley believes disabled children should have choice amongst a diverse range of leisure opportunities. For this reason, Thomley aims to share its experience, understanding and approach to inclusion by welcoming visitors from the local community who, with greater understanding and acceptance of disability issues, are more able to include disabled children within their daily community activities. Thomley also shares its experiences through networking meetings, outreach play days, advising organisations within the play sector and by offering work placement experience to staff from other play setting. *"Thomley Hall has changed my life! I have a whole new view of the world! I just love coming here!" - Community user*



Cost of providing art and craft activities

The cost of providing art and craft activities is £56,276 per year, equivalent to **£10 per child per visit**. This covers the rent and serviceability of the 90m₂ space, adequate numbers of qualified staff, workshop facilitators, craft materials and project support costs. £16,000 has been pledged towards these costs already, leaving a **shortfall of £40,276**.