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 LARGE PRINT / Standard Print.Infuse – Youth Empowerment Project

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'The Project provides services for young people aged 11 – 18 years and above, regardless – (participation will be at the discretion of the Project Co-ordinator) of their culture, disability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, and social class, which enables them to explore the questions that they face in life and examines possible solutions to those questions, which will assist young people in developing their identities and support them during their transition from childhood to adulthood.' (Taken from the Project's 'Statement of Purpose' 2001)

The Family Survival Guide

THIS EVENT was called “The Family Survival Guide”; it was held at the Wilderness Centre on June 28 to 30. The event was run by the “Infuse” project.

At the event there were three discussions. The first was “We’re Family” with Lindsay Thorne and Fred Chen. The discussion was about teamwork, we started by talking about what was important in teamwork, my group decided that communication was the most important skill in teamwork so

The youth show that good consultation can take place anywhere.

we did some games that involved communication and teamwork. We played a game where we had to pick up and put down a cardboard cone using only an elastic band with three pieces of string tied to it. We were only allowed to hold the ends of the string, and each time we lifted and put down the cone successfully we added a handicap to make it more difficult.

The second discussion was “It’s good to talk,” with Steve Thompson and Ladan Davarpanah. It was about consultation and the four important steps of consultation. We consulted on a solution for a problem. We decided that the four most important steps of consultation are recognition of the problem, consultation, unanimously deciding on a solution and acting on that solution.

The third was called “Get Off My Case” with Margaret Appa and Barry Thorne. We discussed independence and how it changes through our lifetime. We decided that you are never fully independent because you always rely on other people for emotional support.

There were also three activities. The first was “The House of Love” with Nadim Rohani and Penny Kemp. This session focused on our part in bringing love, peace and harmony into the family. We did a role-play in which we played a family with a problem child.

The second was “Coping with Family Problems” with Ken Finn and Danielle Pee. To start, we discussed divorce and then created a role-play about it. Then discussed accepting death and created a role-play on being called to account of our actions after death.

The final activity was called “Family Expectations” with Habib and Claire Behi. We listed expectations that are put on us by our relations. We then split into pairs and chose an

expectations that are put on us by our relations. We never spoke into plans and those are expectation; we then created a short drama scene about it.

I think that this youth event was brilliant because, it seemed that everyone took something away from it. I really enjoyed the event because the atmosphere was brilliant, the staff were really nice and the sessions were well planned. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who put so much effort and time into the event.

I think all youth would enjoy and get something from this event. I advise you to go because in my opinion this is the best youth event that I have ever been to. This event was extra special for me because just after the long “Inspirational” on Saturday night I declared. I chose to declare because the event helped me to see that every family has problems and if the building block of the world can sort out it’s problems using the teachings we have been given then there is hope that one day the world will live in peace.

This youth event is being repeated at Burnlaw in Northumbria, in October.

Alyssa (Claire) Elliott aged 15

The Next Step... This youth event will be held at Burnlaw Centre, Northumbria, October 4-6, 2002. For more information please contact Lorna Silverstein at infuse@bci.org.
Website: <http://www.infuse.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk> [*now at www.infuse.org.uk – CM*]

