



Watford South Children's Centre Group

Westfield Children's Centre, Croxley View, Watford, WD18 6AE

Thank you so much for the locality budget grant you awarded to Watford South Children's Centre earlier this year.

The money has been used to purchase some much needed resources for our large garden, which have included 2 pop up gazebo's, a new monkey climbing frame, water play resources, a sail to cover our mud kitchen, a variety of sensory toys for our quiet area including wind chimes, sensory material and visual resources.

We spent some of the grant completing some much needed maintenance which included painting our garden sheds, replanting our flowers tyres and repainting the large blackboard area.

The play team have created a lovely village area to our garden which now consists of a very noisy musical area full of pots, pans and wooden spoons, and a variety of willow buildings including a cottage, a castle and a wigwam!

Our garden area is so essential. Many of our families do not have their own garden as they live in flats, and many during a parental questionnaire said they were reluctant to use the local parks on their own.

The garden is offered to children and families every single session and all are encouraged to play outdoors. Our play team are vigilant at ensuring activities offered inside are also offered outside as we know that boys in particular often learn best through outdoor play.

The gazebo's have ensured that families with younger children have plenty of shade in a dedicated area which is so important when they also have an older child who wants to be playing outside!

Last week, we partnered with Jude at Farming for All to bring the City Farm to Westfield. We were able to not only welcome into our newly refurbished garden our own families, but also the children from Westfield Pre-school and also students and staff from Chessbrook School.

We wouldn't have been able to do this is a garden that was looking so sorry for itself before!

To give you an idea of how many families will benefit from our garden..... The centre has 94% of its 2,309 families registered and on average we see nearly 75% of those registered. Our younger families are seen more regularly and in the first year of their lives we see 97%.