



CAMP 2005

A resounding success !

That's we have been told by our parents, careers, staff and most importantly our campers. Inside this newsletter you will find a celebration of this success and you see comments made by our supporters to endorse Attention Seekers SUMMER CAMPS for children with ADHD to continue in the future. Also you will see we have an update on the plans for the launch of **CAMP 2006** as well as other Attention Seekers projects for the future.

Lastly we have some very exciting news.... **CAMP 2005** & Attention Seekers has been asked to be the Keynote Speaker to launch the



ADDISS 2005 International Conference. This is a great honour for us and testimony to the hard work all our staff and campers put in this year.. But more about that later. Till then enjoy our feedback and we look forward to **CAMP 2006**.

Dates for CAMP 2006 are 30th July to 5th August 2006

October 2005

Special points of interest:

- ☺ **CAMP 2005 a huge success**
- ☺ **Feedback comes flooding in**
- ☺ **Parents Delighted**
- ☺ **Camper Council gives there views**
- ☺ **Attention Seekers and Camp 2005 starting ADDISS international conference**

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Directors say " A BIG Thank you" and Congratulations

Both Adrian Edgar and Steve Kelly, the two very proud Executive Directors of Attention Seekers would like to say a very big thank you to all our supporters over the past year. The support agencies who have believed in us, the parents who have entrusted their children with us, our professional dedicated staff who enabled our children to have a very

enjoyable, safe and rewarding summer and most of all our campers who have literally changed our lives.

CAMP 2005 was a amazing experience and we cant wait till CAMP 2006 !!!



What you thought of **CAMP 2005**

To ensure we provide the best possible service to our campers we ask our parents and campers to provide feedback on what we do and how we do it. This feedback is used by our key staff to plan future provision and to enable us to provide the best possible service we can. Here are a selection of comments we received from our parents and a selection of letters we received. (A copy of all our feedback is available on request from feedback@attentionseekeres.org)

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY YOUR CHILD MOST ENJOYED AT CAMP?

- Not feeling, different, not being the odd one out and people not accepting you and having loads of fun
- My daughters own words "Just hanging around with her friends". She really enjoyed Legoland
- Meeting new people and making loads of new friends. He came home with loads of telephone numbers and email addresses.
- The activities particularly Rock Climbing, BMX and Legoland
- Electronics and the food!
- Canoeing swimming



WHAT WOULD YOU SAY YOUR CHILD DIDN'T ENJOY and HOW CAN WE MAKE IT BETTER.?

- The only thing he did not enjoy was missing home!
- He felt a little homesick—not sure how you can change that. He was very tired from all the activities, he slept till 1:00pm the next day—unheard of!
- My son said camp should last longer

WHAT AREAS DID YOUR CHILD ENJOY AND WHY?

- She enjoyed the treasure hunt
- Legoland—Fun Rides, Ropes course—it was a challenge

My son (aged 12) attended Camp 2005 in July/August. Although he was apprehensive about going as he had never been away from home before he said he would give it a go and was thoroughly glad he did. He really enjoyed the whole experience there were so many activities for him to do many of which he hadn't tried and previously wouldn't even have attempted to try them, but he gave them all a go and it did wonders for his self esteem to achieve good results in them. As well as the activities I think the most productive thing our son achieved from camp was learning to open up and reveal his feelings whether they be good or bad and talk to others. He really bonded with his workers Matthew and John and said it was really nice having someone to talk to that really understood him and listened to him rather than lecturing him, which I as his mother, hate to admit but I do this and also his teachers at school.

Both XXX and myself cannot thank the organisers enough for arranging this wonderful opportunity and he is looking forward to attending Camp 2006 and any following.

The Camp is such an excellent opportunity for any child with ADHD or a co morbid condition to attend as it is presented in a structured fashion with many different internal and external activities which are what these children need.

I think any parent of a child with ADHD or a similar condition should seriously consider sending their child as it has literally been a life changing experience both for our son in the way he now views life and challenges and for me as his mum, who sometimes (most of the time!) struggles with his behaviour but the week break gave me a chance to re-evaluate the problems I have with him and also the chance to see how much I missed my son being around.

I would like to thank so much Steve and Adrian the Directors of Attention Seekers and also the helpers that attended the camp for helping my son and me in such a hugely positive way.

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF OUR STAFF?

We thought all the staff were very approachable and happy. Also very patient with the children and with the parents! The staff boosted his self esteem.

It was so nice and it made such a welcome change knowing that on this break what ever behaviour or outbursts they could managed and help the campers re focus.

- My son feels they were very helpful, fun and kind!!! I felt everyone seemed upbeat, capable, encouraging and excellent role models, good mix of male and females.
- They saw my sons magic—he likes the staff and I felt comfortable leaving him.

96% of our parents in our feedback survey indicated that their child was returning in 2006.

The first camp 2005 for only children with ADHD problems was in our eyes a great success. [] really enjoyed himself and felt safe and your staff looked after him as if he was one of your family. We look forward to next years camp.

What our campers said about **CAMP 2005**



We believe that every child and their views count at Camp and we try to ensure all their needs and wishes are taken onboard. To do this we carefully pay attention to what they say about camp and we have a Camper Council that has elected members to give feedback to the directors when camp is on. This is a very empowering experience and this year Callum and Nick (two of our older boys) canvassed campers views. Here is a summary of what they said. *"The campers really enjoyed camp and said the most important thing was making friends. They enjoyed many of the activities and felt the staff were friendly and supportive. Most of all the younger campers said they enjoyed Legoland and wanted to do more sports. Our mid age range of course wanted to stay up later and noted they had to learn to respect each other. They also loved the ropes course climbing and tuck shop. Our older campers said they felt they were treated as young adults with respect and understood that they were role models and liked this. They suggested we put price value on tuck so they had a daily limit not a choice between items, also they asked to bring their own films to watch on movie night"*. Both Nick and Callum intend to return to **CAMP 2006** and take part in our leadership programme

Top 10 Activities at **CAMP 2005**

10. Sports
9. Canoeing
8. Grossology
7. Banquet
6. Arts & Crafts
5. Swimming
4. Climbing
3. Bikes
2. Legoland!
1. Making Friends

MY SON, AGED 9, WHO DESPITE HIS VERY BEST EFFORTS HAS A LONG HISTORY (SINCE 2 1/2 YEARS AGE) OF REPEATED FAILURE WITHIN CLUBS, EDUCATION & FRIENDSHIPS. NO ONE WANTS HIM DUE TO HIS DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO ADHD. THIS HAS BEEN DEVASTATING TO HIM & ALL THE FAMILY. HE IS DIFFERENT & DOES NOT FIT. SUDDENLY THIS CAMP ARRIVES TO HELP THESE CHILDREN; BE WITH OTHERS WITH SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES & EXPERIENCE SO MANY ACTIVITIES & SPEND TIME WITH GREAT 'ROLE-MODELLING' STAFF WITH READY SMILES - JUST AMAZING. FOR THE PARENTS; WHETHER TOGETHER OR FOR ME APART, TO GIVE THIS & ALSO HAVE ONE WEEKS RESPIRE MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE - FOR THE BETTER. THE QUALITY OF ORGANISATION & PROVISION, I BELIEVE, TAKES SOME BEATING WITH THE HIGHEST OF EXPECTATIONS YET IT IS PRICED, I FELT, NOT FOR PROFIT, BUT TO SIMPLY & GENUINELY BE ACCESSIBLE & WORK FOR AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. THERE IS NOWHERE ELSE IN THE UK, THAT I KNOW OF THAT OFFERS WHAT ATTENTION SEEKERS ARE GROUND-BREAKING ON. IT MUST, MUST CONTINUE & RECEIVE THE SUPPORT IT TRULY DESERVES; TO HELP THESE CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN 'SOCIAL OUTCASTS' AS A RESULT OF A DISABILITY NO ONE CAN 'SEE' OR UNDERSTANDS.



Thanks for Camp 2005. It was a very positive experience for my son and boosted his self esteem. He enjoyed the different activities especially the climbing and really liked the staff. He is looking forward to next year.

It has not been possible to publish all the Feedback we have received and the above reflects only a small selection. All our families will receive all comments received and any action taken as a result of the feedback in a leaflet entitled "**CAMP 2005** Family Feedback Summary – again available on request.

What else are people saying!

A number of support agencies visited **CAMP 2005** this summer, here are some extracts from their reports.

* Caroline Hensby for Adders.org

We were then invited to join the camp for lunch which was remarkable experience - each group of children came into the lunch hall and lined up picked up a tray and went round the corner to where the kitchen staff dished out dinners - there was the choice of 2 main meals of which on this day included Cornish pasty with vegetables or sweet and sour stir fry - there was also a large choice of salad - quiche - cheese - ham and a number of different yoghurts and deserts. As one group finished and sat down at a table the next group arrived and lined up and went through. All the children were very well behaved and queued very sensibly and went to sit at the table in very sensible manner and very quietly too it was truly amazing... It was obvious that the older children had taken on responsibility roles for helping to look after the younger children and they were also using video cameras filming various activities and they were interviewing other members of their group - they I really were amazing in that this was all done of their own accord!

All the staff were amazing and showed to be full of confidence and support and respect to the children in their care and this shone through not only them but the children also there was mutual respect and confidence - the staff did not just tell the children what to do they would ask them very politely to do things and this really did pay off in that the children would do what they were asked and if they wanted to ask staff for anything then they were all polite and respectful to all staff and also to us as visitors.

* Nancy Williams, AHDH Centre Surrey

I was welcomed immediately by Adrian Edgar and Steve Kelly, guys who had the necessary extra pairs of eyes in the back of their heads and the ability to hold a conversation, keep the whole environment under close observation, bend down to pat a small child's head, and keep in contact with the outside team leaders by walkie-talkie, all at the same time.

The three kids I know were all having a great time in the swimming pool and the atmosphere was relaxed and cheerful. They grumbled a bit about having to have quiet time after lunch... sounded like a good idea to me if someone was clever enough to enforce it. So thanks for the visit and the experience Steve and Adrian. You've made a lot of kids, and a lot of mothers.. very happy. Wishing you every success for the future of your summer camps.

Web photos / WEBSITE NEWS

One of the key messages that came from our parents survey was the fact that parents could see what their children were doing day by day on the website. *"I really enjoyed the site and the pictures. I was glued to the daily activities. Especially as I am so use to my son failing, it was a pleasure seeing SUCCESS—I Love it"* Therefore we have decided to keep the pictures in our web album and can be accessed at www.pixagogo.com/ **attentionseekers**. Also a CD ROM with special interactive material and videos made at camp will be available soon. Don't forget our regular website at www.attentionseekers.org where application forms and newsletters can be downloaded.

IMPORTANT NEWS FLASH

As you know one of the major events in the ADHD Calendar is the ADDISS international conference in London. This years conference theme is "QUALITY MATTERS" and Attention Seekers and **CAMP 2005** have been asked to open the conference with a keynote speech. Camp has been described as the most important thing to happen in the UK in the last 10 years—Attention Seekers and Camp are very proud to be speaking at this event and telling the some 1000 delegates how successful this project was. Obviously speaking at this conference is major and we expect to have a huge amount of interest from a wide range of people. At the conference will be distributing brochures for **CAMP 2006** as well as showing slides from Camp. So if you are at the conference please come by our stall and say hello. Also a polite reminder for those who haven't sent in their application forms— please do this now, as you know we have limited places! SEE YOU AT THE CONFERENCE in November. (more information about ADDISS and its conference can be found at www.addis.org.uk) Conference dates are 9th to 11th November and it is held at The Royal National Hotel in London.



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