

CASE STUDY -

The Caldecotte Xperience



Mencap - Case Study: Empowering Young People through Outdoor Inclusivity

This case study explores the experiences of a group of young people from Mencap who frequently visit The Caldecotte Xperience, the Action4Youth outdoor education centre. The case study delves into the impact on young participants, and how The Caldecotte Xperience addresses their unique needs and challenges.

Vanessa from Mencap has been organising visits for groups for several years. She has chosen The Caldecotte Xperience as their preferred outdoor education destination.

“We’ve been coming to The Caldecotte Xperience for years, we have a brilliant relationship with the team at Caldecotte who just get what we’re about. We’re always trying to promote inclusion and want to be able to give all children equal opportunities.”

Vanessa Aquilina - Group Leader

Reasons Mencap choose to visit every year:

1. Accessible and Flexible Visits:

Vanessa's group chooses The Caldecotte Xperience for its **accessible and flexible activities and facilities**. They can select activities that suit the group's needs and preferences. The young people can try new things and having adaptable instructors is a crucial factor in their frequent visits.

2. Inclusive Experience:

The Caldecotte Xperience **offers activities that are all in one countryside setting**. With huge open green space and the beautiful Caldecotte Lake, the activities cater to young people of all abilities.

One of the highlights of the Mencap visits is seeing the achievements of young people. **Instructors facilitate growth and teamwork**, especially during activities like Bushcraft. The flexibility of The Caldecotte Xperience ensures that it accommodates everyone's needs.

"Things like bushcraft for children with disabilities is wonderful. They wouldn't be able to get those opportunities anywhere else. We want to show them as many things as possible, that they can do as many things as possible. These activities give them confidence, it's the sheer open space, being in nature, just being able to give it a go."

Vanessa Aquilina - Group Leader

3. Accessibility Solutions:

Accessibility is a significant challenge when looking for outdoor education locations for the group. The Caldecotte Xperience stands out as it offers activities that match Mencap's requirements and provides **secure spaces for everyone**. Booking with confidence and working with friendly and helpful team adds to the positive experience.

The Caldecotte Xperience addresses accessibility concerns by allowing **close coach parking, minimising the need for extensive walking**. The centre's design **minimises interactions with other groups, creating a more controlled environment**.

Additionally, the **staff's responsiveness to ad-hoc needs** contributes to a stress-free experience for the group.

"The yurts are wonderful and a lot of fun."

Vanessa Aquilina - Group Leader

4. Positive Impact:

The visits to The Caldecotte Xperience have a profound impact on the young people. **Many overcome their fears and challenges**, whether it's scaling the climbing wall, venturing onto the lake, or simply walking along the jetty. The return visits are eagerly anticipated, as young people look forward to reliving past experiences.

5. Longstanding Relationship:

Vanessa's group has been visiting The Caldecotte Xperience for many years, and the programme has become an integral part of their summer activities. The centre's consistent quality and offerings have cemented this long-term partnership.

"The staff at The Caldecotte Xperience have the right attitude. Rich and Theo, all the team, do an amazing job."

Vanessa Aquilina - Group Leader

Conclusion:

The Caldecotte Xperience has consistently provided a transformative outdoor education experience for Mencap. Its accessibility, adaptability, and diverse activities have enabled young visitors to overcome challenges and grow. The long-standing relationship between Vanessa's group and The Caldecotte Xperience is a testament to the **positive impact of outdoor education on youth development.**

For further information on how The Caldecotte Xperience can provide for your group please email caldecotte@action4youth.org

