

# Alfie's Story

**Breaking barriers and building confidence at Sheffield Fusion Camps.**



*“Alfie has learnt social skills by coming to Fusion Camp which he transfers over into his everyday life. Coming to camps has also benefited Alfie's confidence which allows him to engage more effectively in PE at school.”*

**Alice, Alfie's Mother**

Alfie, a vibrant 6-year-old boy with autism, has become a familiar face at Fusion Camps in Sheffield during school holidays. This story chronicles Alfie's transformative experience at Fusion Camp, highlighting the challenges he initially faced, the strategies employed by the Active Fusion team, and the positive impact on his social and personal development.

Alfie's journey with Fusion Camps began when his mother, Alice, discovered the program while working at the St Catherine of Siena cafe. She noticed the camp's advertisement and decided to bring Alfie during school holidays. Despite his love for returning to Fusion Camp each half-term, Alfie initially struggled with socialisation and separation anxiety, making it challenging for the camp staff to engage him.

During Alfie's early days at Fusion Camp, staff members observed his difficulty in socialising with other children and his tendency to feel upset and cling to his mother. Recognising the need for a tailored approach, the team initiated persistent efforts, practicing patience, and engaging in open conversations with Alice to understand Alfie's needs better.

Through continuous efforts, the Active Fusion team developed effective strategies to engage Alfie.

They discovered that bringing a friend whom Alfie already knew from outside the camp helped ease his social anxieties. This familiar face provided comfort during the morning drop-off, resulting in a smoother transition.

Over time, Alfie's participation increased, and he began to interact more with both staff and fellow camp attendees. As weeks passed, the Active Fusion team witnessed a remarkable transformation in Alfie. He started to have more fun, actively communicate with staff members, and gain the confidence to suggest and participate in various camp activities. The introduction of unique sports like hoop games, dodgeball, boccia, and kick cricket became a highlight for Alfie, expanding his interests and fostering a love for trying new things.

Alfie's mother, Alice, expressed her delight at the positive changes in her son. She noted that Fusion Camps played a crucial role in improving Alfie's social and independence skills, which he seamlessly transferred to his everyday life. The camp not only became a source of enjoyment for Alfie but also contributed significantly to his overall confidence, positively influencing his engagement in physical education at school.

Alice enthusiastically recommended Fusion Camps to other parents, emphasising its positive impact on Alfie's life. Daisy, an Education and Community Sports Coach, shared her rewarding experience of watching Alfie evolve from an introverted and nervous child to a social, energetic individual, "Alfie has been coming to the Fusion Camps for roughly around a year and a half now and it's been rewarding watching him grow from someone who was quite introverted, nervous, and unengaged to a bubbly, social, energetic child."

Alfie's Fusion Camp journey exemplifies the power of persistence, patience, and tailored strategies in breaking down barriers for children with unique needs. The camp not only provided a fun and engaging environment but also became a catalyst for Alfie's personal growth, fostering social skills, independence, and confidence that extended beyond the camp's boundaries.

Find out more about Fusion Camps [here](#) or read more stories just like Alfie's [here](#).



**Alfie is autistic and struggles socially but coming to Fusion Camp has brought him out of his shell. He loves the staff and activities they do.**