Louie's Story



Louie arrived at camp feeling nervous and unsure, but with a little encouragement, he found the confidence to make friends, try new activities and enjoy being part of something new. By his second day, he was walking straight in with a smile, eager to see what the day would bring.

> *"I like doing football because it's fun and basketball because I want to do it when I grow up. I've made new friends at camp. The coaches let us play games and they're funny and make me laugh. I want to come back because it's fun!"*
>
> **Louie - Age 5**

When five-year-old Louie first arrived at our Fusion Camp at Willow Primary School, Bessacarr, he was understandably nervous about being somewhere new. Having had a difficult experience at another holiday club during the summer, he found it particularly hard to separate from his mum and initially didn't want to come into camp at all.

Recognising how unsettled Louie was, our coaches took a little extra time to help him feel safe and reassured. Rather than rushing him into activities, they allowed his mum to stay for the first ten minutes while they got to know him, chatting about his hobbies and interests to find common ground and build a connection.

Even with his mum nearby, Louie remained hesitant, staying close to her and needing plenty of reassurance. But with patience, encouragement and a genuine interest in getting to know him, he gradually began to relax. Eventually, he felt comfortable enough to say goodbye to his mum and start exploring the activities on offer.

As the day went on, Louie began to come out of his shell. He started joining in with games, interacting with other children, working as part of a team and even initiating conversations. By home time, the little boy who had been so reluctant to come inside was full of excitement, telling his mum how much fun he had had and asking if he could come back the next day.

And the following morning brought an even bigger milestone. Instead of the tears and hesitation of his first arrival, Louie walked straight into camp independently, without even looking back to say goodbye! He was happy to see the coaches, keen to get involved and confident enough to start suggesting games he wanted to play.

Over the next few days, Louie continued to build friendships and develop his confidence. When asked how he had made new friends, his response was simply that he had "just asked them". Something that might seem like a small moment was a lovely reflection of how comfortable he had become approaching other children and building connections for himself.

For his mum, Danielle, seeing this change was just as special. She shared how patient and reassuring the team had been, particularly given Louie's previous experience, and how lovely it was to see him so happy and comfortable returning to camp.

Louie's experience is a wonderful example of the difference a nurturing environment and taking the time to understand each child can make. By recognising what Louie needed, building trust and allowing him to settle at his own pace, our team helped turn an initially daunting experience into something he genuinely looked forward to.

At Active Fusion, we want every young person to grow without limits. For Louie, that meant discovering that new places can become familiar, new faces can become friends and that he is capable of much more than he first thought. Sometimes, a positive footprint starts with having the confidence to take that very first step.



"The ladies were so patient with him, really reassuring and made such a huge effort to make him feel safe and comfortable. On the second day of camp he just walked straight in and then asked to go back for a third day. This is absolute testament to Daisy and the team. They're amazing!"
-Danielle, Louie's Mum