

Special thanks to funders and friends

We would like to thank all of our funders and our 'Friends of Springboard'. We extend special thanks to ...

- JJ Sainsbury Trust for continuing to be the pioneer in supporting our expansion, by providing funds for our start-up in Lambeth in Autumn 2002.
- The Tudor Trust for helping to fund our plans for the future.
- The SHINE Trust for selecting Springboard for children as one of the charities that they will choose to support in replication across London.
- The new 'Friends of Springboard' who have joined us as a result of the Telegraph article.
- WS Atkins (responsible for managing Southwark Education) for interest in providing financial and strategic support for our work across Southwark.
- Millenium Reading Families Award for providing funds to create a book to celebrate the work of the children.

We hope that we continue to demonstrate the value that we can bring to the children through your generous support.



Springboard

for children

132 Friary Road, London SE15 5HR
Telephone 0207 635 6797
info@springboard.org.uk
Reg charity no. 1034446

Springboard for children

Mission

Springboard for children provides a literacy lifeline to children with learning difficulties in inner city primary schools.

Aims

- Springboard for children is about serving children in our inner cities
- It is about helping disadvantaged children to acquire basic skills in literacy so that they can reach their full potential
- It is about raising their expectations of themselves and life
- It is about strengthening their hope

How you can help us...

- Support us through prayer
- Share your expertise, skills or resources
- Support us financially through 'Friends of Springboard'

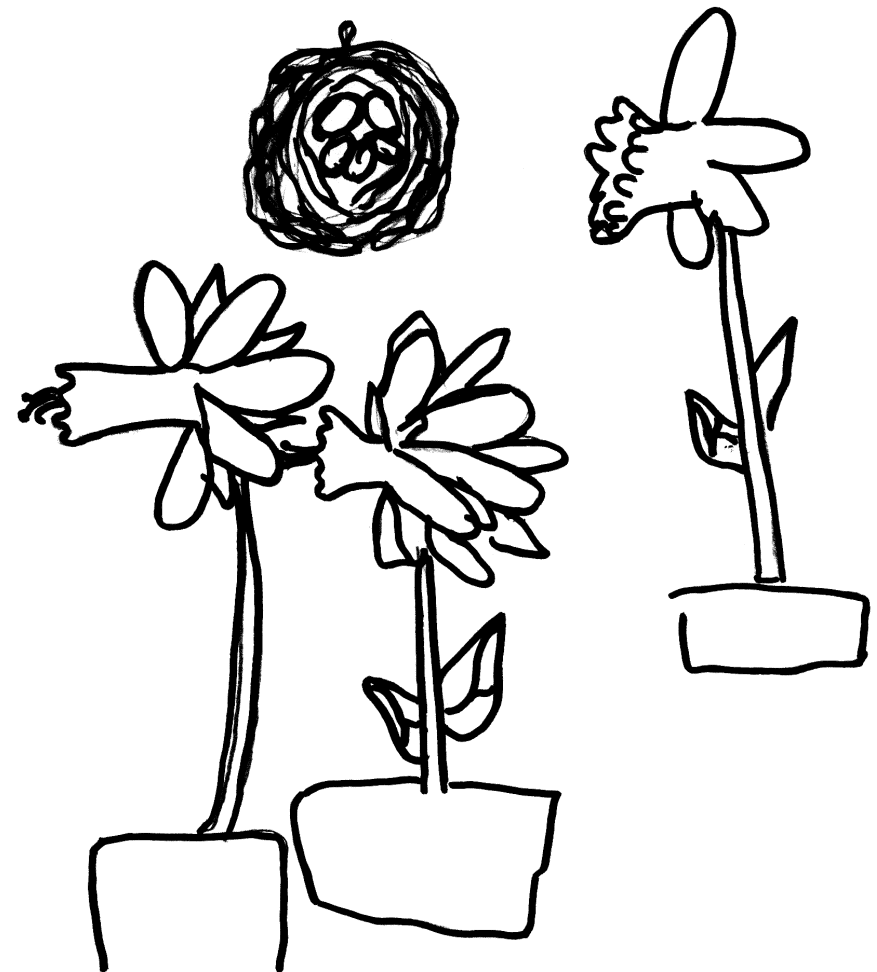
Friends of Springboard...

You can become a 'Friend of Springboard' by making a one off donation or by regularly giving to support our work.

- £5 a month buys a complete reading scheme to help acquire basic skills
- £10 a month pays for computer learning to motivate and develop the children
- £15 a month pays for a Soundworks kit to develop basic phonic skills



Springboard
for children



Ashley, age 9

Newsletter – Spring 2002

News

- We have successfully moved in to Brunswick Park Primary School in Southwark and we are now teaching 10 children.
- We have met three potential schools in Lambeth and we are planning resources for our expansion.
- We have been working with ADISA, performance poet of the year, who has inspired the children into a frenzy of writing and performing poetry.
- We celebrated the ten year anniversary of Springboard with all the Springboard staff at All Saints Church in Peckham. We spent some time quietly giving thanks for everything that has happened so far and dedicating the next ten years and our continued success to God.
- Many of you will have seen the magnificent article on 'Springboard for children' in the Telegraph magazine on 26.01.02. The results generated have been considerable:
 - more than £8,000 of personal cheques from people who reacted spontaneously to the article and who wanted to support our work with the children
 - six new 'Friends of Springboard' who will be 'giving' on a regular basis
 - four new volunteers to work for Springboard in Southwark or Lambeth
 - interest from five people in inner city areas throughout the UK who are interested in providing similar support for children in their area

- more than 120 requests for information about Springboard
 - interest from two serious funders who are interested in supporting our work
- We want to thank all those who made the article possible.

Anniversary Plans

Children's Birthday Party

We are hosting a birthday party for all the children at Springboard to celebrate our tenth birthday, on Saturday 18th May 2002, at Oliver Goldsmith's Primary School in Peckham, the very school where we started ten years ago.

It will be a traditional birthday party, with children's entertainers and games for the children. If you think that you can help in any way or that you would like to attend and provide support on the day, we would welcome it.

Children's Book of Poetry

We invited ADISA, the performance poet of the year, to host a series of poetry workshops on behalf of Springboard for children. They have been an enormous success and the energy and inspiration for writing poetry can be seen throughout the schools.

The poetry workshops have now taken place and we have selected 30 of the best poems to be edited for the book.

We are beginning an after school club to create the artwork to illustrate the poems.

We will be looking for celebrity endorsers, a publisher and a distributor next term.

If anyone has contacts or experience that could help us, please let us know.

We are planning to launch the book at an event in mid November at a performance involving the children.

Springboard Case Study: Lisa

Liza started at Springboard a year ago. She was referred to us because of her extreme literacy and behavioural difficulties. She is now in Year 2 and the changes seen in her over the past term are quite remarkable.

The main area of change has been in her behaviour and her attitude towards Springboard lessons and her relationship with her Springboard teacher.



Liza was one of the more difficult pupils to control while at Springboard and found it very hard to concentrate. She was reluctant to co-operate and did not respect the help and the attention we were giving her. One of the biggest challenges was getting her across the playground to our teaching rooms!

Through enormous perseverance and praise we have seen major changes in Liza. She now tries very hard in her lessons, enjoys coming, and her temperament is considerably calmer. Consequently, more can be achieved in her lessons and she is able to progress quickly.

Although she still experiences great difficulties with her literacy, her confidence and self-esteem have improved to the point where learning can now take place.

The highlight of this term was to be able to take her, with a group of others, on a trip to the cinema. This would not have been possible before due to her disruptive behaviour, but she really enjoyed herself and was a pleasure to be with.

It is a joy to have Liza as one of our Springboard stars.

Poetry Workshops

As part of our tenth anniversary celebrations we are creating a book of the children's poems and artwork.

To inspire the children and to guide them through the process of making poetry, we chose the 'Performance Poet of the Year', ADISA, to work with the children in a series of poetry workshops.

First of all ADISA entranced over five hundred children in two school assemblies - at Oliver Goldsmiths Primary School and Peckham Park Primary School, with his energetic, charismatic brand of rap performance poetry.

Then between February and April ADISA has led six poetry workshops for us, inspiring the children to create some extraordinary poetry.

The children are already amazed at what they have produced - as are we. Just because the children have problems expressing themselves in written form does not mean to say that they are not bursting with creativity and good ideas. We simply worked with the children to transcribe their verbal ideas on to paper.

The result is a wonderful mix of exciting and creative poetry which will appear in a book at the end of the year.

Many thanks to ADISA and the Springboard staff who helped support the children in the workshops.

Dream

I was walking to the mall
like a shopping mall,
then I saw this man 6-6 feet tall!!
his name was ADISA.

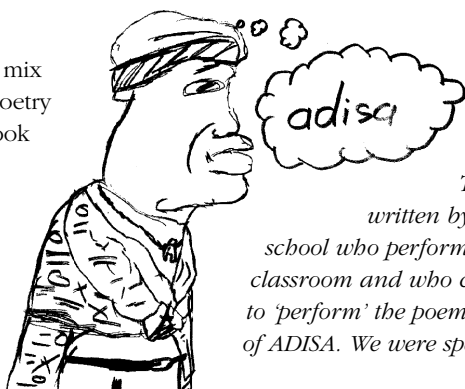
A boy asked me who is that?
his called Adisa,
that is the man
When I heard he did poetry
words come out of my mouth
I shouted I can, I can.

He did good, sad, bad & funky poetry
& the one I liked best was...
Damiola talks.
Wearing his blazer
acting chilling & of course COOL!

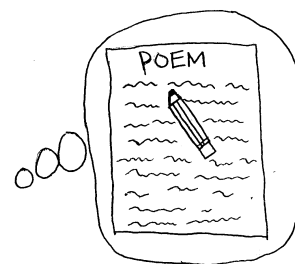
His voice like hip hop
dancing to the beat
Jumping kicking with
his ~~beats~~ bare feet.

There was my dream
It was ~~the~~ true,
I had to make sure it was.

I LOVE ADISA'S POETRY.



*This is a poem
written by a boy in the
school who performed it in every
classroom and who came to find us
to 'perform' the poem in the style
of ADISA. We were spellbound...*



*We were writing
poems by using our
imagination*

I am the City

I am the city
That tastes of coca cola,
Fizzy and sticky and bubbly.

I am the city
That smells of burnt rubber in the air,
coming from the factory.
I feel like rusty metal, bumpy and
bits fall off.

I am the city
That sounds like loud police sirens,
Zig zagging along the road.

I look like a wheel,
Spinning and spinning,
And never stopping.

Albie and Antonio

My Box

These are the things that I will put
in my box to make the world a
better place...

I will put in my box...
Tiring, boring, shopping in Safeway,
Arguing that hurts your ears,
School maths homework - it is too hard.

I will put in my box...
Volcanoes, they erupt and destroy houses,
Steps pop group, they have become too
boring,
Getting excluded, being left out of school
means you cannot learn.

I will put in my box...
Bombing Afghanistan, they're hurting
the wrong people,
Princess Diana's death, it was upsetting,
Homelessness, people that sleep on the
streets get ill and sometimes they die.

My box is made out of worms
I will put my box
In the drawer my mum never goes into.

Nathan

Millenium Reading Families Awards

The Reading Families Awards Scheme has a mission to 'create an appetite for learning that will sustain people for life.' The particular emphasis for the Reading Families Awards is to promote reading among families and communities.

In February 2002, three volunteers from Springboard were presented with a Millenium Award for over six thousand

pounds in response to our project bid to produce a book of poems written by children with literacy difficulties.

Springboard would like to take this opportunity to thank the Reading Families Awards Scheme for selecting our application and for its generous award which will enable us to create a memorable book of the childrens' poetry.

Teaching at Springboard for Children

Background

Most of us learn to read and write effortlessly. By the age of 7 or 8, we are happily enjoying books independently. However, for some children learning to read and spell is sheer torture. School is a daily struggle where you are forced to do more and more of the very thing you are finding so impossible. It is these children that Springboard is trying to reach.

A classroom is a busy, often bewildering place for a child with learning difficulties. There are social distractions as well as competition for the teacher's attention.

A child who has not grasped the alphabetic code at the required time begins to flounder more and more in a sea of words and symbols that make no sense. At this point he may lose interest in learning, feel a failure and feel different to his peers. It is no wonder that this frustration, fear and unhappiness often translates into behavioural difficulties.

Springboard: Early Intervention

Springboard's intervention at this critical time is often the boost that is needed. After an initial assessment and placement test, the child is assigned a tutor who will work with him for two sessions per week. The child is taken back to the point where he began struggling. Using a prescriptive, structured phonic-based teaching programme, the tutor begins to

build up the child's skills and confidence. Each small step is met with praise, encouragement and success.

The relationship between the sounds and symbols of our alphabet is explicitly taught in a fun, exciting way which enables the child to 'crack the code'. It is very satisfying to see the child finally grasp the skill of applying sounds to read or spell a word.

At the end of a lesson, the child might have time to use the computer to practice a spelling pattern or enjoy a talking story. The use of a library corner where the child shares a book with his tutor means that the lesson ends on a good note.

Structure and Reinforcement

A child who has no problems in the area of language, phonological awareness, visual perception or memory becomes literate, almost without thinking about it. However, those with difficulties need more structure and help in applying their knowledge.

Meeting Individual Children's Needs

Each child needs a place where it is quiet, where their individual difficulties can be addressed at their pace and mistakes can be made without fear of ridicule by classmates.

Springboard provides such a place which is the reason why the children are so enthusiastic about coming.

Feedback from a teacher

*Here the girls from Springboard come
Helping to do what needs to be done
Helping with letters and how they sound
A fountain of knowledge within them to be found
They seem to appear from out of thin air
But they work hard, you know they care
So if you child has trouble reading
Use Springboard they'll plant the seed in 'em
In their brain they'll set the seed
And within a few months they'll help them to read.*

*A poem by Imelda, Classroom Assistant
at St James' Primary School.*

Volunteer Story

I am a full time volunteer on a gap year placement at Springboard. Before coming to Peckham I did a degree in Occupational Therapy at St John's College York. I found out about Springboard through an advert in my church so I came down to take a look.

What attracted me to come and work for Springboard was its attitude towards the children it serves. From the first moment you walk into a Springboard room you can almost feel the atmosphere of love and concern that there is for the children. Secondly, there was the attraction of being part of a highly supportive, friendly team, many of whom I met during the team meeting on my first visit.

I feel that I will take away a number of things from my year at Springboard.

I have learnt a great deal about working with children – their warmth and honesty; the way they run up to you in the playground and take your hand after five minutes of knowing you. Also, I have learnt about how literacy problems can affect self-esteem. I feel privileged to be part of a team that is endeavouring to challenge low self-esteem before it becomes an even bigger problem.

All in all, this year has been challenging but hugely enjoyable. Thinking to the future, I will be sad to leave such a brilliant team of people and I'm already dreading saying goodbye to the children, but I think for me, that says a lot about Springboard.

*Rebecca Magowan,
Gap year volunteer*