

SOUTHWARK life

August/September 2001

Springboard provides children with that extra lift

SPRINGBOARD FOR CHILDREN is an innovative charity helping the most needy children in inner-city primary schools, by providing extra one-to-one literacy support for children identified as having special educational needs.

Springboard works closely with Southwark schools providing that extra boost to a child's education. Local schools have up to 40% of their children registered with special educational needs and are stretched to provide adequately for them, so the extra support is welcomed by teachers.

Springboard's staff comprise a dynamic mix of paid literacy tutors and volunteers. Each child has a tailor-made education plan. A staff member works with that child, outside class, in twice-weekly sessions. The children benefit enormously from the regular one-to-one meetings with a caring adult. Most importantly, they make great strides in learning to read and write. Last year 45% of children, on average between 2-4 years behind their peers advanced by a year or more in their reading age.

The results are a reflection of the dedication shown by Springboard staff. They carry with them a conviction that for the great majority of children who cannot read and write, it need not be like that. Patient one-to-one support is the key to helping thousands of children.

Springboard for Children is an educational trust working in Southwark schools. It receives financial support from the Laing Charitable Trust.

Literacy is a key aspect of social exclusion. It isn't just that young people are leaving school with poor literary skills. Social exclusion already appears from the moment a child starts falling behind in school and is unable to take part in school activities. Many children are now enjoying the benefits from the Springboard for Children and schools partnership in Southwark.

Springboard for Children, 132 Friary Road, Peckham. For more information telephone 020 7635 6797.