



Wac Arts
Interactive

“Everything that makes you an individual is celebrated”:

Assessing the impact of the Wac Arts Interactive project for young disabled people

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What is **Wac Arts Interactive** (WAI)?

Over two years, researchers at CRAE found out more about people's experiences of WAI ...

WAI is all about **fun** and **friendship**.

The staff at WAI help young disabled people to make and keep **friends**, follow their interests and be part of their **community** - all through the use of **technology**.

About our research

We **spoke** to young people, their parents and people who worked at or with WAI.



We wanted to **understand** the effect that WAI had on young people's lives.

We asked them **questions** like, "What is the best thing about being at WAI?" "What did you learn from being there?"



What people had to say ...

“ they have the same disability as me. And that is really nice

young person

At Wac everyone is different but it doesn't really matter.

Every quirk or everything that makes you an individual is celebrated

young person



I've learnt to be confident in myself and to be happy and to be who I am...

young person



the staff are passionate about what they do and they get it right. They work relentlessly

parent

they give him the belief that anything is possible

parent

To learn is a bit of a part of it; learning to get along is the most part of it

young person



What we learned from our research

The people we spoke to said that WAI was **important** to them. The workshops were **fun**, the young people met others like them, and it made them feel **confident** to be themselves.

We think that WAI should **expand** so that more young disabled people can **benefit**. We also think that they should offer lots of other (arty) **activities** for young people to do.

This report was commissioned by BBC Children in Need to assess the impact of the Wac Arts Interactive (WAI) project and the research was carried out by the Centre for Research in Autism and Education, UCL Institute of Education, London from 2015-17.



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