

## Young volunteer leads the pilot evaluation for the Mencap website project 'yap'



### My 'yap' website pilot evaluation report

My name is Alice. This is my report. I have been doing some pilot research to find out what young people think about the website yap.

I interviewed 5 young people and used 4 research methods, which were the diamond ranking system, observation, emotion pictures and recording comments.

I collected and recorded all the data I found out from people.

We looked at all the data and we organised it into 4 boxes, the boxes were:

**Very strong**

**Quite good**

**OK**

**Not so good**

- **Having fun on the website** came out **very strong**
- **special login, games and speed of getting around** were all **quite good**
- **Instructions, colours and sharing messages** were all **ok**
- **finding you way around** was **not so good**

From the comments made by the website users I have concluded that the pictures on the website are really important to them. They like the downloads and they like pictures of people and other places **but** If possible could the pictures be quicker to download.

Also it would be good if there was more help to write the messages and if there could be longer messages.

Some of the young people who used the website got lost. I think it needs to be made easier and simpler and an easier way to get back to e.g. Homepage when they get lost

### **My observations**

I made a lot of observations but some things kept coming up again with the young people using the yap website.

There was:

- Lots of laughing and smiling
- They all really enjoyed the music and games
- Their time on yap was active and happy and busy

What this tells me is that yap is a really good website that the young people enjoy very much and that there are only a few small things like the speed of the pictures and sometimes getting a bit lost which stop the website being a brilliant website.

### **My thoughts about the pilot evaluation project**

I have really enjoyed doing this pilot. The methods I used were very easy and fun. I added a new method of my own which was the emotion pictures,

The young people who went on the yap website all enjoyed doing these evaluation methods with me. It has helped me find out what they think and feel about the yap website.

I got lots of data which was easy to store and keep in my folder.

This data was easy to analyse and to get the main findings from.

It has already told me about how the young people used the website

It would be easy for other people to use these methods and when we have 20 more sets of data we will have a really good idea of how the yap website is working.

I've really enjoyed doing this, I feel like a real researcher and I feel very important.

I hope what I have found out will be helpful to the development of the yap website.

**By Alice Clancy January 2007.**

This work was supported by Mencap and Dr Mary Kellett from The Children's Research Centre, Open University.

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