



Debby's story

Debby is in Year 6 in a local primary school. She has a minor learning disability. In the past she has had some issues with bullying but her school is happy that these have been resolved although she is described as somewhat lacking in confidence.

Debby attended all but one session, turning up promptly and eager to pass on any garden-related news from her week. She participated well in small groups, perhaps because the focus was on practical work and not on academic learning. Flowers and plants replaced the whiteboard as learning tools!

Debby particularly enjoyed the sessions where she planted seeds and potted up a plant to take home and care for. She progressed during the course of the sessions from expressing revulsion at the appearance of an earthworm to enthusiastically extolling their virtues.

Her mother reported that she took a greater interest in food preparation and was willing to sample vegetables. She told her mother that she knew where potatoes grow: under the ground! She also enjoyed sharing other knowledge she had gained, such as the names of different trees and flowers. Her favourite activity was making a miniature garden, and her expressed wish was to join the group again next year.

