

Family Background

Our family consists of my partner, who is disabled, and our two children, both of whom have additional needs (ASD/ADHD). Over the years, Z-arts has become a significant part of our lives, offering opportunities that have profoundly impacted us.

Our Journey with Z-arts

We first started visiting Z-arts when my eldest child, now 17, began attending drama classes and a week-long drama workshop. These initial experiences laid the foundation for our ongoing engagement with Z-arts.

Activities and Engagement

Our involvement with Z-arts has been diverse and enriching. Both of our children have participated in Drama Stars and Art Stars programs. Additionally, we've attended and enjoyed various theatre performances and community events such as "Hulme Is Where The Art Is."

Our younger child, who is 10, particularly enjoys the drama and art workshops. She also loves spending time in the library and café. These experiences have been pivotal in developing her interests and skills. For my eldest, Z-arts sparked a lasting passion for drama, leading to his participation in numerous school productions and his current role as a "maker" for this year's Young Company at the Royal Exchange.

Observing Growth and Development

The benefits of Z-arts on my children are evident. My younger child has gained confidence and developed new skills, while my eldest's involvement in drama has significantly boosted his self-assurance and creativity.



What our families say!

Family and Community Impact

Z-arts has not only enriched my children's lives but has also provided our family with a sense of community. Despite our low income, we've had access to activities that make our children feel special and included. This sense of belonging has been invaluable, with my daughter forming new friendships and enjoying quality time with peers.

Memorable Moments

One particularly meaningful experience was the week-long drama workshop for my eldest child. This intensive program greatly enhanced his skills and confidence. However, every visit to Z-arts has been enjoyable and impactful for our family.

Role of Z-arts in the Community

Z-arts is a cornerstone of our community, offering a vibrant and inclusive environment where children can engage in a variety of activities regardless of their family's income. The staff are friendly and welcoming, contributing to the center's modern and dynamic atmosphere. Special events, like meeting authors during the Manchester Book Festival, highlight Z-arts' commitment to cultural enrichment for families.

Conclusion

In summary, Z-arts has played a crucial role in our family's development and well-being. We are grateful for the opportunities it has provided and the positive impact it continues to have on our lives and the broader community.

(Feedback shared with permission for use in funding applications and other communications.)



Family Background

We are Paul and Anna, and we have two children: Eleanor, age 7, and Joseph, age 10. Both of us work and are not entitled to any benefits. Our children are thriving in school; Joseph loves reading and writing, has a wonderful imagination, and is skilled at engaging other children in play. Eleanor shares a love for reading and enjoys music and dance.

Our Journey with Z-arts

We signed up for the Bright Sparks program in January this year to explore the various classes Z-arts offers and see which ones our children might want to pursue regularly. The convenience of having all classes in one location on a Saturday morning is a huge plus for us.

While the children attend classes, we can relax in the café area. Initially hesitant about trying new classes, both children have grown comfortable with the Z-arts environment, increasing the likelihood they'll participate in more activities in the future. We often spend time in the library or café while waiting between classes.

Activities and Engagement

Eleanor has participated in Streetdance, Dance, and Drama, while Joseph has tried Drama and is considering the Musical Theatre class. Both have settled on Drama as their favorite and are currently rehearsing for the Bright Sparks Showcase performance. We've also enjoyed several Z-arts events, including the Les Enfants Terrible Show, the Escape Room, World Inside a Book, Fairy Tales, 100-Storey Hotel, and Haphazard.

Enjoyment and Skill Development

The drama sessions with Tabitha have been a highlight for both children. They are excited about being part of the Bright Sparks Showcase performance, and the experience of rehearsing and performing in a real theatre has been new and thrilling for them. We've seen significant growth in their confidence, willingness to try new things, and ability to navigate the Z-arts space independently. Drama has become a cherished hobby for both, and we hope it continues to be part of their lives.



What our families say!

Observing Growth and Development

Joseph's participation in the drama class is a significant achievement. Historically, he has been reluctant to join new clubs, often dropping out quickly. However, the welcoming environment created by Tabitha has changed this pattern. Each week, Joseph looks forward to the drama sessions and is now even considering joining the Musical Theatre class, which would have been unthinkable before. Drama at Z-arts has broken his default behavior of quitting activities, and he genuinely enjoys the games and interactions.

Family and Community Impact

Z-arts provides our family with a wonderful opportunity to spend Saturday mornings together, away from screens and engaged with peers and staff in a positive setting. The accessibility of the classes, the welcoming staff, the lack of uniform requirements, and the absence of pressure make Z-arts a unique and treasured space. The creative and beautiful environment allows our children to explore their interests freely. As parents, we love watching them enjoy themselves while we relax with a coffee. The beautiful library is an added bonus.

Money is tight, and the arts are becoming less accessible for families, but Z-arts remains a gem. It allows our children to discover and engage with drama and theatre in ways that would otherwise be out of reach. Without Z-arts, theatre tickets for a family of four would be beyond our budget, and managing clubs in different locations on Saturday mornings would require significant sacrifices.

Special Moments

One memorable moment was when Joseph came out of his first drama lesson and immediately asked to book the next session. The World Inside a Book was our first experience at Z-arts, and the magical moving bookcase captivated Joseph. He also had a fantastic 10th birthday party in the Escape Room, and we all enjoyed the Les Enfants Terribles show and the 100-Storey Hotel. Joseph's excitement after a drama rehearsal in the theatre, especially his joy at going backstage, was particularly meaningful.

Community Benefit

Z-arts feels almost too good to be true. It makes the arts accessible to everyone, regardless of cost, special needs, or academic abilities, opening up new worlds for children. It provides a safe place for young people to grow and learn new skills. The beautiful library, where families can read or attend intimate Q&A sessions with award-winning authors, adds immense value. These enriching experiences, typically out of reach for families like ours, are made possible by Z-arts, and we are grateful for its existence every time we attend.

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Family Background

I am a parent of four children, ages 9, 11, 15, and 17. Our journey with Z-arts began 16 years ago when I started attending group sessions with my first daughter, Mia.

Our Journey with Z-arts

Our family's relationship with Z-arts started when Mia was a baby. Over the years, Z-arts has become an integral part of our lives. We've participated in almost every activity offered, from dance and music classes to cinema afternoons, art in the park, and much more. The variety and accessibility of programs have kept us engaged and connected to the Z-arts community.

While the children attend classes, we can relax in the café area. Initially hesitant about trying new classes, both children have grown comfortable with the Z-arts environment, increasing the likelihood they'll participate in more activities in the future. We often spend time in the library or café while waiting between classes.

Activities and Engagement

Our involvement with Z-arts has been extensive. We've taken part in dance, music, shows, café activities, cinema afternoons, and art in the park. The wide range of activities available at Z-arts has provided my children with numerous opportunities to explore and develop their interests and skills.

Enjoyment and Skill Development

The most enjoyable aspect of Z-arts for us has been "the feeling" it creates—a sense of community and family. My children have learned many new skills, including art and dance. However, the most significant gains have been in their confidence and personal development. Z-arts has fostered an environment where they feel safe and happy, allowing them to grow as individuals.



What our families say!

Observing Growth and Development

Over the years, I've observed significant changes in my children. Their confidence has blossomed, especially during their early years, which I attribute largely to the nurturing and creative environment at Z-arts. The sense of safety and happiness they experience at Z-arts has been instrumental in their development.

Family and Community Impact

Z-arts is our happy place. My 17-year-old daughter spent many of her childhood years at Z-arts and is now fortunate enough to work in the café. She still comes away smiling, indicating that Z-arts continues to have a positive impact on her. We have countless happy memories and always spread the word about what an amazing place Z-arts is.

Special Moments

One particularly memorable moment was contributing to the family tree project. My now 9-year-old was a tiny baby at the time, but we all still love to look at our handprints and feel a part of something special. This project, among many others, has left a lasting impression on our family.

Community Benefit

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