



“Seeing obstacles that keep good things from happening and doing whatever it takes myself to remove them”

Service Story

When I had my one to one conversation, the interviewer advised me to ‘spot the gaps and fill them’. So that is what I have been trying to do!

A short time after my conversation, I had an appraisal at work (I am a playworker at a local school) and my manager asked me if there was any kind of project I would like to undertake. I suggested gardening. I approached the Headteacher and asked permission to use some overgrown patches of ground for growing vegetables and herbs. She said ‘yes you can’ so I dug over two small plots. I brought in some plants I had grown at home and invited the children to help me plant them. They really enjoyed it and each of them ‘adopted’ a plant. During playtimes I asked for volunteers to water the plants and they were always very keen to do this. It was a great success, we even managed to produce some tomatoes in time for the children to eat them before the end of the summer term! In the autumn I want to develop this area as a sensory garden so that the children can do gardening in the autumn when it is too cold for growing vegetables.

While I was doing all this, I noticed another overgrown patch of ground and I’ve been given permission to cultivate this one too! I want to use this one for growing root vegetables in the spring. I find I am always getting ideas about news ways to help.

I am happy to serve people in lots of different ways. When we first joined our parish we were asked how we would like to help. I volunteered for flower arranging. Later I was asked to become a Group Leader, so now I buy the flowers too, as well as organising and the team and liaising with them about which flowers to buy. Sometime later, the First Holy Communion leader asked me to help her because they were having problems getting parents to come to the meetings. The parents found it was too difficult to find someone to look after their younger children at home, so the FHC leader asked me if I would run a creche. I find that I can usually stay energized with a project for a long time, without needing someone else to encourage me all the time, so I did the creche for three years. It was so successful that we now have a lot more children doing FHC. Now I have been asked to help with the FHC children instead. I think people are happy to ask me to help because they know I will usually say yes.

I feel a drive within me to help whenever I can. Recently I met an ex-colleague who organises the Eastleigh Mela (Asian Welfare Festival). I immediately offered to help in any way that was needed. So I was asked to help with making kites. I had a great time! I always feel happy when I am helping, and I really enjoy being with other people who feel like this too.