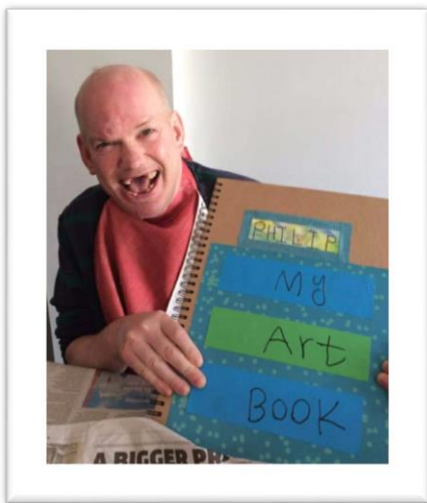


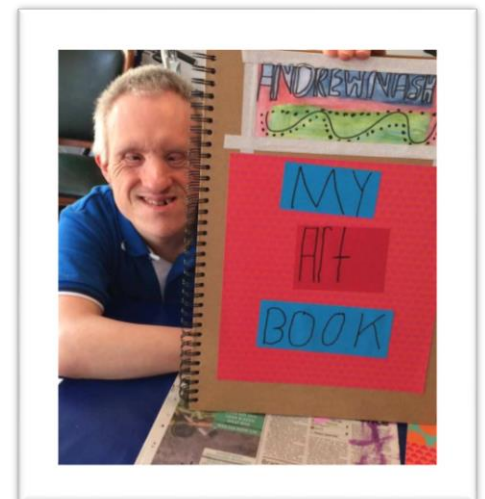
CREATIVE MINDS WORK WITH OLDER PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AT CHISWICK CARE HOME

Meet Philip and Andrew. Two men, who have become best friends and who live together in Chiswick Care Home for learning disabilities in Edmonton. Philip is a 54 year old with profound learning and physical disabilities. Although he is practically non-verbal, Philip is a total character and has a keen sense of humour, he manages perfectly well to communicate. He absolutely loves our art sessions. He has a severe shake in his hands so precise work is difficult. His favourite mediums are collage and papier-mâché. He enjoys tearing paper and gluing and then adding colour to create works of art. He absolutely adores his new skill of cutting paper with safety scissors and mark making with all different mediums. For more accurate pieces he enjoys working hand over hand with me, physical touch is extremely important to Philip, with lots of hugs given on a regular basis!



Philip certainly doesn't mind getting a little messy, (in fact it's like a badge of honour) so long as fun and laughter is in the mix! It's just incredible how much he appreciates his friends input and approval and he has to show off his work to his friend Andrew at least 4 or 5 times during a session. If Andrew is out of the room for any length of time Philip is constantly watching the door for his return. He is a pleasure to work with and according to his carers and his mum his mood and self-esteem have improved as has his confidence since he started joining in the Creative Minds art sessions.

Andrew is a 57 year old man with downs syndrome. He is a gentle, kind and thoughtful individual with a big heart. He is a very creative person and is always interested in learning something new. He will spend hours finishing a piece with great attention to detail. He gets very excited when we do something new. He is never negative about our art sessions and always enthusiastic to get stuck in and learn. It is hard to say which medium Andrew prefers as he can't really choose his favourite, he just loves it all!



Chiswick Care Home is not a large facility but they have an amazing activity room where the walls are adorned with all the artwork created during our art sessions. As our art sessions are very regular, the artwork certainly accumulates. To keep everything organised, residents have beautiful A3 scrapbooks to hold the artwork which is not on display. All the residents love adding to their scrapbook but none more than Andrew. He simple adores looking through his work and marvelling at what he has accomplished, and of course adding more pages on a regular basis is a must.

Andrew is always happy to help Philip when necessary with great kindness and patience. He always admires Philip's work and encourages him, it's just so sweet.

Sadly for some of the residents day care hours have been cut. This means there is a lot of time spent at home with nothing to do. So when I approached the manager with the offer of Creative Minds art sessions, she was delighted. The residents are excited for my arrival every week and are so happy to have a focus and an artistic outlet. Sometimes I think I get more from the art sessions, with these lovely men, than they do from me. It is such a privilege to work with them and long may it continue.

Hi Hannah

Following the chat we had yesterday, there are lots of improvement we have managed to observe from our service users since they started with Creative Minds It is really therapeutic to them.

The home and service users have decorated rooms and lounge from their artwork which they treasure and are keen to share memories of how they made the art pieces themselves.

Creative Minds has uplifted our service users awareness of what goes on throughout the year as it covers themes for birthdays, Mothers' Day, seasons, valentine, Xmas, Easter, all events around the year this has helped them to easily communicate their needs.

Regards

ivan

Assistant manager from Chiswick Care Home, Edmonton