



Impact report: Evi - Dance Leadership Journey



Summary

Evi first joined the Y.E.S Project at their school in 2021 and has since followed DanceHub's leadership pathway, progressing from Dancer to Teaching Assistant and A Next Gen Leader in Crawley.

Evi has a clear passion for dance and leadership, so when they completed their Level 2 Dance Leadership Qualification the next step was to become a paid Y.E.S. Teaching assistant. Evi lives in Broadfield and thanks to Crawley Borough Council Shared Prosperity Funding has been able to take on this role at the Broadfield Primary Academy Y.E.S project. As part of this role they undertake the following at the weekly sessions:

- Leading Warm up's and teaching long sections of their choreography to the young people.
- Supporting any young people who are struggling to pick up choreography and rehearsing this with them.
- Talking to the young people, supporting them with any issues and ensuring their voice is heard.

Evi is also a DanceHub Next Gen Leader in Crawley, a programme which supports, develops and upskills young people to take the next step into the world of Dance Leadership. As part of this Evi has volunteered at the following events:

- The Y.E.S Project Winter Showcase
- Forward Motion 2024
- International Dance Day 2024
- Local community events such as The CCA Family Fun Day

Evi is currently on the waiting list for a diagnosis of ADHD or Autism and has told us that this means they sometimes find certain environments overstimulating, especially dance environments which can sometimes lead to panic attacks or sensory overloads. Starting their leadership journey in an environment they feel comfortable in (Y.E.S Project) and the support DanceHub has provided, has helped Evi to feel confident and comfortable on their dance and leadership journey.

Thoughts from Evi:

“I really enjoy being a Y.E.S teaching assistant because interacting with the children makes me feel very happy. I like feeling like I am making an impact on the life of the children, and it makes me happy to see them happy to see me.

Being a Y.E.S teaching assistant has helped my confidence in my dance, my leadership and also in myself generally. Before becoming a Y.E.S teaching assistant, I did not really see myself becoming a dance teacher, however I am now considering this possibility as it makes me so happy to come and lead sessions and interact with the children. It improves my mental health and helps me de-stress in times such as exams.

I want to help other children like me and aim to be the role model I wanted when I was younger; someone like me.”

Thoughts from Evi’s Y.E.S Teacher:

“The improvement in Evi’s confidence and leadership has been clear over the past year. They can now lead sessions almost independently and do so with clarity, confidence and a brilliant friendly leadership styles. All of the young people feel extremely confident and comfortable while Evi is teaching and love that they are part of their Y.E.S Project experience.”

