



Connor - Learning re-use skills for life

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

This year with my project I wanted to teach the Foundation/Year 1 students, in particular what things can be reusable. So if you have a newspaper, you don't need to just throw it out, you can reuse things. That's why I made some newspaper pot plants with them, so it's hands-on and crafty.

I also sat in a Year 6/7 STEM lesson, and they were looking at the Maths behind the plastic of M&M's packets, and how it's better to buy a large M&M's bag, rather than an M&M's bag with just twelve mini packs in it.

What steps did you take?

So first I had to talk to the teachers to see if I could get time off lessons, help them with that, and then I organized times that I was going to talk to the students. So it wasn't just me who came up with the pot plant idea, I asked the students what they are interested in doing, and they picked that.

I'm also planning to do a mini project with them with shoes, old shoes that they don't want, putting soil in them because they make really good garden features.

Then that teacher recommended me to another teacher who is doing the STEM math stuff with the recycling, reusing, reducing, so that's how I managed to sit in on that lesson, that was a really good lesson to see the impact that it has because there is a lot of maths behind it that people don't really realize.

Who is working with you?

I didn't have any help from other people in my class this year as I did last year. So I organized a lot of it by myself, but I had the support of the teachers and my parents helped me.

Our Principal's aware and has asked me a few times what's been happening.

What promotion have you done?

I haven't shared it with the community a lot, because it's hard to get out there.

And I haven't been here for any assemblies so I didn't have any chance to speak, cause I wanted to speak about what I've been doing and YEC. But I shared it at the YEL Forum.

Biggest success

I think the biggest success was finally being able to do the projects with the kids, after all the planning, and seeing the result. The pot plants actually worked, and the kids got to put soil in it, put seeds in it, and take it home.

That was good, so now they get to take care of it at home, and have a reminder of what they have done. There's 30 in the F/1 class, and about the same in the Year 6/7 class.

Did you have any challenges?

I think most of the challenges were trying to balance school work and YEC and all my other commitments, so I had to be very good at time management to do that.

Next steps

I definitely want to keep doing stuff with the F/1s, even if it's not tied with the YEC. I think it's just good to do it anyway, so they can refresh their memories, so that as they get older they will be able to retain the information and tell other people about it.

What is your advice to other students?

I'd tell them to plan it well, plan it before you actually do it, and if there are any problems make sure you bring them up and solve them. If you want to do it, do a little bit of research before. So if you want to talk to them a bit more you can tell them facts about it or tell them information about it. If anyone wants to do it, with younger students, try to do things that are hands-on, I'd recommend that because they like that stuff.

What was most enjoyable?

I think I enjoyed seeing the kids' reactions and how engaged they were, because they asked me lots of questions about it and they seemed genuinely interested in learning more.

This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Connor's words and opinions.