

ONE PERSON'S EXPERIENCE WITH PLAYFAIR TEAMS

Note: The following was prepared by Monica (a pseudonym) in preparation for a visit to a Middle School to discuss the possibility of the school initiating a PlayFair Team. Except for minor changes to protect confidentiality, the work is just as Monica wrote it.

Hi My Name is ^{Jennifer} Monica I am 23 year old.

I want to Toronto Secondary School in grade 9.

In grade 10 I was introduced to the PlayFair Team and what it was all about. Before I got involved with PlayFair Team I felt very alone like an outsider. I used my music to get me through the days. I felt like an outsider looking in at all the kids in school. I felt like the kids looked at me like I was different and would not include me in anything or talk to me.

One day a very Special Teacher to me, Mrs. Fermi asked me if I would like to join PlayFair Team she told me it took part in the mornings and after school. I was very nervous but she convinced me to try and that it would be great for me. I would meet other kids, take part in school activities. I decided I would do it. That was the best thing I could have done for myself. It opened my eyes to how bad kids with worst disabilities has it and were treated it was horrible.

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After Joining *PlayFair Team* I found myself with friends that did not label me with a disability. They oversaw it and to know me as a normal kid.

What a feeling. I still have kept some of these friends till today.

I gave me the confidence to join some sports teams and other clubs in

School. I even went so far as raising money and took part in a

Wake A Thon. I was even Invited to Ryerson University

speak about *PlayFair Team*. Ryerson University holds a

TORONTO SUMMER INCLUSION INSTITUTE. Every year it's

Hosted by the *Marsha Forest Centre*. People come from all around the

world to be introduced to the program. It opened my eyes a lot more.

How important *PlayFair Team* is. Without *PlayFair Team* kids

would not get a chance to have a close to normal life everyone needs

Friends, and to have Relationships from teachers. On down to the other kids

without disabilities that is very important to all kids. I'm asking you to

please give *PlayFair Team* a Chance at Middleschool.

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