

# Mad Discover Lab

Report – Parry Family  
Charitable Trust

2024-2025

Blooming Blossoms Trust



We are delighted to present you a short report on the fantastic impact of your kind grant towards our Mad Discovery Lab! We will share a brief overview of the project and feedback from our users. We hope you will enjoy reading about the impact of your kind support.

### Project Overview

Mad Discovery Lab is a fun engineering Stem Club that makes learning happen even after the dismissal bell rings. We helped 32 core children with autism uncover the excitement and adventure in the world of science, technology, engineering, and math. Additional 60 siblings, drop-ins, and event participants benefitted from the program. We also served soup, salad and sandwiches for a light supper at the afterschool sessions as we know so many of participating children on reliant on soup kitchen meals and living in poverty. Feedback for the extra benefit of meals melted our hearts and we hope it will move you too.

Children engaged really well in the Mad Discovery Lab sessions. Attendance was at 98% consistently. 80% of children have asked to be connected to further STEM courses at our mid-project survey. 2 17-year-olds have even landed a STEM related holiday job. Over 300 meals were served through this grant to children whose families were pushed into destitution by the cost of living crises.

We offered various programs that develop children's creativity and boost their STEM skills, all the while having a blast—sometimes literally!

STEM subject knowledge supports and builds on classroom learning; moreover, it promotes enjoyment of the STEM subjects through hands-on activities. These can help demonstrate the real-life contexts of classroom learning while also improving engagement by less academic children. It also helps to develop different, long-lasting skills to those learned in the classroom, for instance team-working and project management which are naturally more challenging for children with complex communication needs and autism.

Taking an active part in a STEM club can motivate young people to consider STEM subjects for further study and a potential career path.

Continued study of STEM subjects will increase awareness of relevant careers, so opening up a whole range of opportunities and helping to narrow the skills gap.





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## Case Studies and Feedback

Mariana repeatedly failed her mock math Sats, however performed superbly at our advanced live math challenges. This indicated that she needs to learn differently. We liaised with her school and trained an LSA teacher to teach differently. She really has strong math skills when she is taught differently and is now the top sixth in her class.

At our Innovation Park, our children showcased:

Sara L. designed a way for a student to stop having squishy fruit in a lunchbox while Tim worked out a pulley system to remove blankets, thereby making sure the student woke up on time.

My daughter never wants to join extracurricular activities. If she is not in school, you will find her stuck with an encyclopaedia. Since joining the Mad Lab club, she has begun expanding her interests and even received 2 social calls from her peers. This has never happened before. (Dorothy, Mom of Sally, 9 years)

Clare first joined the Mad Discovery Club for the food offer. She shared, 'our family has always been struggling, but the increasing costs have really limited us. We love fresh fruits but the costs are exorbitant and would take away from our rent capacity. I am a weight-conscious teen and avoid carbs, but never feel my hunger satiated. The supper option was a real relief for me, but as weeks pass by, I discovered that I love the lab sessions as much and really gain from it.

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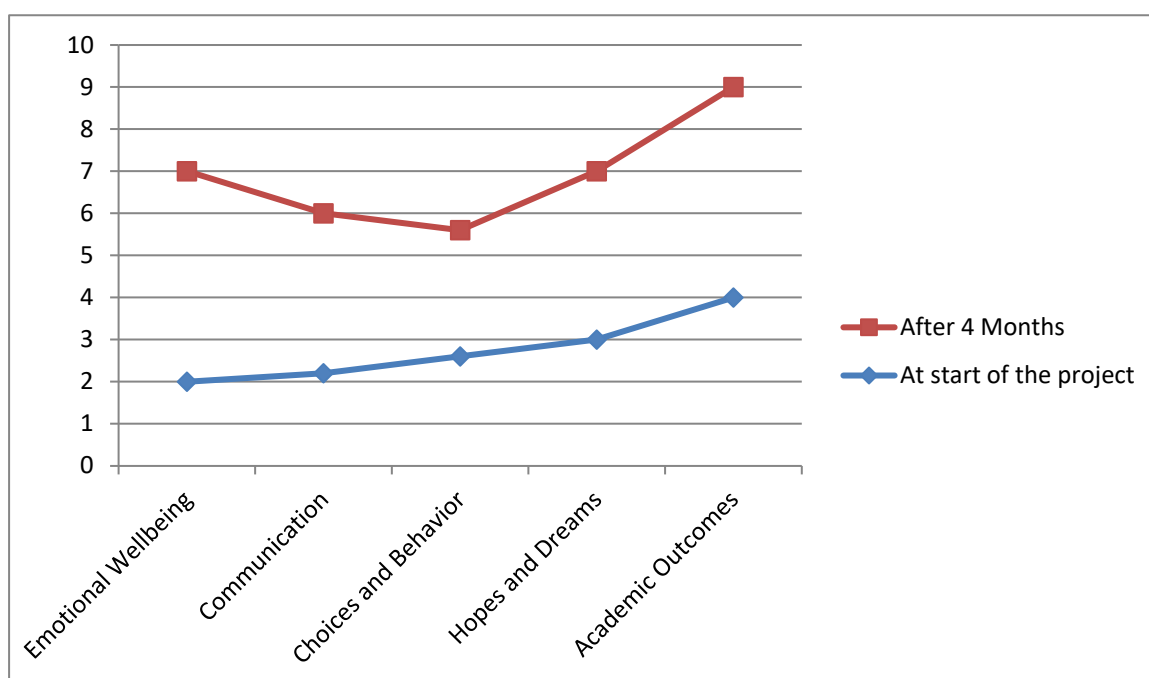
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### Outcome Star Results

Outcomes Stars are evidence-based tools designed to support positive change and greater wellbeing, with scales presented in a star shape and measured on a clearly defined 'Journey of Change'. The Outcomes Star is completed as part of conversations between users and our staff/volunteers.

The chart below shows the data captured by interviewing 23 participants, at the start of the project and after four months. The result talk for themselves.



**Thank you Parry Family Charitable Trust for your generous support and for your role in this success story!**

**With Compliments**

***Blooming Blossoms Trust***