



Fri 18 Sep

Soft Play/ Zoo

Well, that's another great day at FOCC over. The day started with a bit of concert prep in the morning allowing the adult helpers to top up on caffeine for the day's coming adventures.

Once everyone was ready we set off for Overboard Soft Play area where we had most of the place to ourselves which, was probably just as well given how quickly the crew took over the place.

Much fun was had climbing, jumping, diving into the ball pool and generally having a really great and noisy time. Katia was determined to get the adults into the climbing area as well even though some of the hurdles were clearly too small for the likes of the slightly bigger people such as Bill.

There was also several fairly big "ball fights" that Maksim, Dima, Lera, Stas, Liosha and Kira seemed determined to drag everyone into what quickly became a general "stramash" and at one stage Yulia completely disappeared in amongst all the balls. All in all tonnes of smiles and laughter was the order of the day.

After an extra hour (or two) at the play area, (We had Mini go-karting to do too) we then headed over to Polbeth and the fantastic Five Sisters Zoo.

Beginning with lunch in the inflatable dome, including taking part in the usual food market trading, we then started our Zoo sortie with an initial shifty at the Blue Cranes, Brown (and Ring Tailed) Lemurs, Gibbons, Monkeys, Owls (loads of different kinds) and Raccoons to name a few.

We then had a great session with the man who knows everything there is to know about the Zoo's animals – he was brill BTW - he gave us a lesson and live demonstration on key animal handling skills. All the children took part and got to know – and pet - Jaycee the Corn Snake, a funny wee hedgehog called Shrub, and finally a wee mouse called Lila. All the children learned how to carefully handle them and also heard a wee bit more about what makes each of the animals special.

After that we then went back into the tropical area where we saw a host of animals, leaf cutter ants hard at work, small Cayman's, bearded dragons, Macaws – you get the idea. A final play with the coin swirly-pool-thingy and then it was time to get back to HQ in Broxburn.

A big thanks to Steven, Gracia, Yulia and Lena for keeping us all safe, fed and watered. Sorry everyone for being late back to Broxburn (note to boss-man Kenny to

be done) and hope everyone has a great weekend!



