

ESSEX ACTIVATE & MINISTRY OF FOOD

SUMMER 2023 CASE STUDY
#HAF2023



Department
for Education



Essex County Council



Back in December 2022, the Essex ActivAte team contacted Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food (MOF) programme and discussed the potential partnership with the holiday activity and food programme (HAF), to help support and educate families in healthy eating and feeding children a substantial, healthy meal whilst attending HAF clubs during the school holidays.



Further conversations resulted in the Ministry Of Food team training a handful of delivery partners at their head office ahead of the summer programme, to then educate them on how to prepare and deliver healthy meals, so that providers could pass this training over to the families of the children who attended the Essex and Thurrock HAF clubs in the future.



In May this year, six selected partners started their Ministry Of Food training with two online sessions, followed by an intensive three day training course in June at Braxted Park, captured by our videographers. Partners found the training extremely informative and learnt a wide range of new cooking and kitchen skills, as well as how to cook healthy recipes on a budget.



Good food is really important because some of the children don't get the nutrition at home that they need, and it makes sure that whilst they're with us, they're always getting a good, free, nutritious meal!

— HAF partner from Tendring



[Click here to watch our HAF partners take part in the Ministry Of Food training programme.](#)



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The relationship between Essex ActivAte and MOF is consistently growing, and at the beginning of the summer holidays, Cheryl who leads on food education within the Essex ActivAte team, was invited to Jamie Oliver's HQ in Holloway London to be part of a panel of three, to discuss Jamie Oliver's social impact report which was hosted by celebrity chef, Max La Manna, to an audience of fifty people from Ministry of Food.



During the summer holidays, one of our HAF delivery partners, KidzActive in Uttlesford, Essex, who also took part in the MOF training programme, had a visit from five members of the MOF team. They got involved in a cooking session with the 20 HAF children who were attending the club on the day, all of which had a great time and learnt some new skills as well as receiving signed recipe books from Jamie Oliver himself.



The relationship between Essex ActivAte and MOF has hugely developed over the last six months and has allowed us to bring food to the forefront of our HAF programme, teaching providers, parents and children how to cook on a budget and enjoy food education. We have been informed that there is a likely future visit from Jamie Oliver, which will be a great experience for children and families, as well as raising awareness of the HAF programme nationally and it's benefits for eligible children and young people across Essex and Thurrock.



[Click here to watch the day unfold at KidzActive and hear from the MOF team!](#)

