



The success story of Derick 'YD'



Derick 'YD' at his first Rap Therapy workshop, where he was on the song ['Where we come from'](#).

Derick was first introduced to [Rap Therapy](#) in 2020, where he was having struggles in school, integrating with the wrong crowd, and getting suspended on occasion due to bad decisions. Coming from Brixton, Rap Therapy understood the struggles that come with growing up in such an area and the possible temptations of falling into the wrong crowd.

Derick was initially invited to participate in a workshop over the half term period, of which he was reluctant to do so, however a few of his friends directed him to go and supported him by going with him. When arriving at Rap Therapy, Derick integrated well with the other young people and had the opportunity to write lyrics, express how he felt, participate in important conversations, and share his worries with the [Rap Therapy presenters](#). Derick quickly created a strong bond with the Rap Therapy presenters and decided soon after coming to the first workshop that it was his goal to become a rapper. Derick has expressed *"the Rap Therapy crew have helped me become what I am now and where I am going in the future"*. Alongside becoming a rapper, Derick wants to open a youth centre for young people in the future, where he can teach them about making the right choices and give them a safe space to talk.

Following the opportunity to record his own song collaboratively with others at Rap Therapy, Derick expressed that he would like to do more recording and make songs as an individual. Upon mentioning this, we made direct contact with his parents who agreed that using our Rap Therapy studio network would be a fantastic idea to keep Derick out of trouble. We placed Derick in a studio with one of our studio engineers D. Knights, whereby he had the opportunity to record songs free of charge.



Derick 'YD' recording his first solo song at one of Rap Therapy's studio network spaces.

Following Derick's work ethic in the studio, we considered his future goals and dreams and aimed to help him progress in the best possible way, giving him as many opportunities as possible. Rap Therapy have not only given Derick opportunities within the world of music, but we have also given him the opportunity to take the first steps in fulfilling his future dreams of working with young people through our workshops, where he takes a leadership role and now volunteers to help children during our holiday workshops to advise them based on his experiences. In addition to the above, Derick is now the head of our Youth Advisory Board, a board which is designed to advise Rap Therapy on the latest trends surrounding young people, and give advice on how we can develop as an organisation to continuously serve young people.

