



INVESTING IN CHILDREN

Membership Evaluation

Date June 2006

PROJECT NAME	Ashfield Nursery
PROJECT LOCATION	99-101 Elswick Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6JR
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SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

Sector	School
Ages	0-5 years
Area	West
Ward	Benwell & Scotswood

Number of beneficiaries 104



Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

Ashfield Nursery

investing in children

Ashfield Nursery was opened in 1932 and is a well established part of the community. 104 children currently attend the nursery aged between 2.5 years and 4 years old. To help me write this evaluation, I had the pleasure of meeting with Zane, Sumayyah, Jade, Amy, Sophie, Conmnor, Chloe, Laiba, Connor, Amina, Georgia, Fardeen, Maddalena, Stephen.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change

Downstairs Dining Room

There was lots of discussions and decision making when the children decided they would like to make the downstairs dining room a more cheerful place. The children were very vocal and interested in their surroundings. Zane said '**we wanted nice pictures on the walls.**' So there are now several framed pictures in the dining room. The staff thought it would be a good idea to put blinds up at the windows, but after talking to the children about what they wanted, it was decided to put curtains up instead. Georgia and Chloe both said, '**I wanted curtains up.**' The children felt that this would make the dining room look less like a classroom. The children also decided on a bright colour for the walls and they all chose a mosaic floor.

The Garden

There are major changes being planned for the nursery's garden. Children have asked for a sand pit to play in. As a result of this request the staff are asking lots of firms how much this will cost to build.

Another recent development at the nursery has been new toys in the garden. The children were asked what toys they would like to play with. All the boys and girls I spoke to play with the bikes and the fire engines. The children were shown the toy catalogues and they chose the bikes they wanted. The most popular bikes are those that can take two. It seems the children love to carry their friends!! Jade said '**I am dead good at pedalling**' and confirmed '**I love to play in the garden.**'

The boys and girls also told me that they wanted prams for the garden and a massive show of hands confirmed that they all like to play with them.

Coat Hooks

The children were not very happy with the old metal coat hooks. Again the children were shown a catalogue and they chose their favourite hooks. The children liked the ones with pictures on, but after working out the cost, these were found to be too expensive. The staff again went to the children and explained the problem so the children decided to go for the brighter coloured hooks instead.

Classrooms

There have been lots of new changes and equipment in all the classrooms. In the younger children's classrooms there are new tables. These tables are perfect, as they are just the right height for the smaller children and the centre, where all the building blocks are kept is within easy reach. The teacher told me ***'the children show you things that they want. They kept taking everything off the old tables, which were higher and putting everything on the floor.'***

Fardeen told me about the changes in her classroom. The children have recently decided on the colour for their new carpet, and blue was the popular choice. Fardeen informed me that ***'we got a new sofa as well.'***

The classrooms are quite small so the children have asked if they can be outside more. The staff went to the children and asked for their ideas. One of the classrooms has a terrace outside. Everyone thought it would be a good idea to build a fence around the terrace and to cover the area. This way, when the doors are opened, the classroom is extended.

On all my visits I was made to feel very welcome. There is a mutual respect between staff and children which is nurtured and encouraged. Ashfield is a busy nursery, but everyone takes the time to listen to each other and value all opinions. The children are involved in the development of the nursery and staff work very hard at finding new and innovative ways of including all the children. The children I spoke to enthusiastically agreed that they are listened to and I would like to thank them all for their help in writing this report. I have no hesitation in recommending that Ashfield Nursery receives Investing in Children membership. Very well done.

Glenys Newby
Project Worker
Investing in Children

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