



INVESTING IN CHILDREN

Membership Evaluation

Date January 2006
(Member since 2004)

PROJECT NAME Atkinson Road Nursery

PROJECT LOCATION Atkinson Road
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 8XT

CONTACT NAME Mrs Lynn Robinson
PHONE 0191 273 3368
E-MAIL admin@atkinsonroad-nur.newcastle.sch.uk

ASSESSOR Helen Mulhearn

SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

Sector School
Ages 0-5 years
Area West
Ward Westgate

Number of beneficiaries



investing in children

Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

Atkinson Road Nursery

Once again Atkinson Road Nursery is full of happy, smiling faces, faces of new children all enjoying, exploring and leaving in this special environment.

I visited the nursery in November to share an open play session with the children and to catch up with the staff team. All of the children were busy. Busy doing something in their areas of learning.

I chatted with Elisha, Lauren and Jolene playing in the computers. Lauren said 'I like playing on the computer all day long'. Elisha enjoys playing on everything and Jolene told me 'I like to play in the house'. All of the girls were happily spending time in the 'home' area.

Amber, Paige and Raihan were busy creating with playdoh (as well as Amber having a little taste along the way!), chatting with everyone as others ran around being whoever they wanted to be. Daniel was wearing a lion's head and roaring, Rachel was a cat, following Daniel around.

After all this busyness, I took time out and spent a little time reading with Mazeenath. We read some books and chatted about the pictures. Then I met Clarrisa, Linda and Josephine who come from various countries, the nursery has seen a vast increase in children with English as a second language from 10% to 20%. I also met Joe who was on the tail of his teacher helping wherever and whenever he could.

Caine had a dilemma, he had made a picture and had got a sticker, but the sticker had lost its sticky. He told his teacher, she asked him what he could do, would he like to put some sellotape on to stick it back on his jumper or would he like a new one. Caine said, '**I would like a new one**' problem solved.

Caine then put his picture in his drawer and so did Amber. ***Their drawers have their name on and the children are encouraged to put in pictures and things they have made, etc.***

Before lunch I spent a brief time in the music area whilst some of the children made music as they waited for everyone to wash their hands. Then it was lunchtime, some children helped themselves to their packed lunches and the others organised themselves ready for their 'dinner.'

The children of Atkinson Road Nursery were already familiar with routine, moving from session to session with confidence and enjoying the choice that the freedom of open play allows.

Ensuring that the children in the nursery can make positive choices and affect their own learning is a challenge to the staff team. Within their role they need

to create the opportunities in order for the children to be able to explore, enjoy and make choices both inside the nursery and out.

Since last year changes have been made and projects have happened and these are ongoing.

Listening Walks

The SureStart Participation Worker – Sarah Bryson worked with nursery to take some of the children on listening walks. Helping them to identify things they like and dislike about 'their community' and help adults listen to the voices of the children.

The children had their own disposable camera's, they took their pictures, came back to nursery, developed them and made a big display. The children talked about their life and what their photo's mean to them.

As a direct result the nursery team are working with the primary school and parents to get a better traffic calming system to make the area of Atkinson Road Nursery and Primary a safe place to cross for the children.

Food

The food at the nursery is constantly improving and how the nursery is part of the Healthy Schools Campaign which ensures that healthy eating and healthy cooking are high on the agenda as part of the nursery's food policy.

The children still enjoy a choice at lunchtime. Custard is brought to the children in a jug so they can choose if they want it or not.

The dining area is a new focus and the nursery team hopes to refurbish the area in the next few years, so watch this space!

Eco-School

An on-going project for the school as they increase their bronze award to the silver. All following on from their 'Tidy School Award – Gold!' and working in partnership with Ashfield.

Within this project the children will enjoy making choices on many things including:

- Their outdoor environment
- Planning for outside
- Their likes
- The environment
- Recycling
- Wildlife
- Planting, growing – herbs, flowers, veggies
- Exploring – what can be eaten, what needs shelter, how to label
- Cooking – making soups etc, from what's grown

The ongoing story

The staff team at Atkinson Road firmly believe by supporting 'the family' then the children are better supported.

- The staff continue to work closely with Social Care and Health, Family Support and Health Visitors as well as SureStart etc.
- If children need support at home, the nursery will accommodate staff taking time out to work with families at home. The worker who best knows the child provides this supporting role.
- The nursery hosts an African support group on a Friday afternoon, SureStart provide the worker.
- The Breakfast Club continues to provide children with breakfast and fun at the beginning of the day.
- As part of the bigger picture a programme of 'Well Being' the staff team have worked through how effective they feel they are. Issues were raised and issues were addressed. One of the main changes for the staff team has been the introduction of 'Maizy'. Maizy is a lunchtime supervisor not a new face. Maizy now comes into the nursery to assist in general housekeeping especially milk time and coffee time, enjoyed by staff and children alike.
- **Managing Medication** -The school have developed a new policy to manage the medication. Medication is given in a safe environment and planned into care plans. The staff team are taking a more holistic approach in working with the family to look at the child's needs.

The staff team continue to be pro-active in creating opportunities within the nursery setting. Providing new ways for the children to be included, make choices and have fun. In respect if the continued positive developments and the and the continued commitment to their learning, development and growth with a safe, relaxed and open environment I fully recommend that Atkinson Road Nursery continues to be an Investing in Children member.

Helen Mulhearn
Membership Co-ordinator
Investing in Children

January 2006