



Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

Newburn Manor Nursery School

Newburn Manor Nursery school is situated in the rural area of North West Newcastle Upon Tyne. The school is very popular catering for 78 children arranged within 3 classes.

I visited the school in January 2007, I met with the head teacher – Celia Stilbeck and the children who attend the nursery.

My first impressions of the nursery were - it was brightly decorated with children's art work displayed around the nursery, a very spacious environment, and lots of children engaging in various activities.

Celia showed me around the building explaining her staff members –

- 3 Teachers
- 3 Nursery Nurses
- 2 Classroom Assistants
- 1 Secretary

Celia explained the children's daily routine clearly stating where children can make their own decisions and have choices.

The day starts at 9a.m, as soon as the children enter the nursery they have a choice of where to put their coats, they don't have their own individual peg, Celia explained that this promotes responsibility and an opportunity to for the children to decide where to leave their coats and belongings.

The children have an opportunity to plan with their parents/carers what activities they would like to play with, the children can place a picture of their choice on their chosen activity.

Celia explained that the first hour and a half is free choice for the children, there are two sets of adults – one targeting, for example seeing if the children can write their name, and another playing with the children.

At 10.30 a.m it's "tidy up time," which is independent, both children and adults get involved and help each other.

After "tidy up time" the children have an opportunity to have a piece of fruit and a drink, Celia explained they have a large choice of fruits from around the world. The children serve themselves and have a choice of water or milk to drink.

After snack time the children separate into their classes, they have an opportunity to talk about where they have enjoyed playing within the nursery. They then sing songs

or have a story, children have a choice in which stories they hear and songs they would like to sing.

Once I had spoken to Celia I had a chance to engage with the children, a little girl called Holly was keen to show me around, she showed me everything she likes playing with while she is at nursery.

“ I like playing in nursery, I’ll show you round.”

“My favourite is painting pictures.”

I noticed straight away that the children were engaging in free play, moving from activity to activity as they pleased, nursery teachers and nursery nurses were situated in different areas of the nursery to assist children in certain activities, such as one teacher was sat at a table with some paper and pencils, if the children wanted to come to the table and write their name then they could do so.

Sophie, Lauren and Holly showed me their favourite wall display, which were photos of themselves, Holly explained that she enjoyed seeing herself on the wall.

All of the displays around the nursery are at a lower level.

I talked with some other children and asked them what they enjoyed about their nursery –

“ My favourite is painting pictures.”

“ Computers”

“ Can go on the computers anytime.”

“ Teachers are nice.”

“ Can read a book when I want.”

Celia explained that the children have access to outdoor activities when they like.

Newburn Manor Nursery has a uniform, Celia explained that the children have a choice of what they would like to wear, they can choose from –

- **3 colours of sweatshirts**
- **2 colours of polo shirts**
- **2 colours of coats**

Newburn Manor Nursery clearly enters into dialogue and promotes change to suit individual needs and preferences, Celia Stilbeck stated that she feels children are empowered!

I recommend that Newburn Manor Nursery are awarded with Investing in Children Membership.

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