



## Re-Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

### Atkinson Road Nursery

On entering Atkinson Road, it is possibly one of the most welcoming nurseries I have ever been to. I automatically felt welcomed and it was very clear that the children were at the heart of everything that was going on.

First of all I met with Lynn, the head of the Nursery who explained some of the things that have been going on at the Nursery over the past year.

#### **Evidence of Dialogue with Children and Young People**

##### **Healthy Eating Project:**

The nursery has sent up a healthy eating group of 8 children and the Co-ordinator. At the first meeting the children discussed school dinners and their dining area. The ideas they came up with were:

- + Whole pieces of fruit
- + More fruit juices
- + Not having to sit near the door
- + Re decorate the dining room because of the flaking paint
- + More pictures on the dining room walls
- + Nicer tables and chairs.

The nursery sent out a questionnaire to parents and the information that came back showed that parents wanted clearer information about the food their children was eating and they also requested a weekly menu.

As a result of what the children and parents said, a meeting was arranged with the school cook, parent governor and head teacher and they drew up an action plan of how they could go about changing these things.

Some things were changed immediately such as a rota for where the children sit and a weekly/daily menu being made available to parents. In actual fact, it is a white board at the entrance of the school so when the children are getting dropped off, the parents can see what they are going to have for their lunch.

The nursery got funding for their healthy eating in schools and they were able to buy new tables and chairs as well as re decorate the dining room.

The nursery had positive feedback from all of the children as well as their parents and the plan is to have a yearly check up on how things are going.

##### **Walking with Children**

The nursery was involved in the Surestart walking with children exercise which later fed into the What Matters to Us report.

The children were given disposable cameras to go around and take photographs of things that they felt were important to them. The photographs were used for the What Matters to Us report poster campaign that went all over Newcastle City, as well as all the things that the children highlighted, were included in the research report.

##### **Eco School**

The nursery is hoping to become an Eco Friendly School because they have been doing a lot of work over the last year around being environmentally friendly. The nursery has been working on:

- ✚ Recycling
- ✚ Growing fresh food
- ✚ They have had a visit from the refuse collector to see what happens when the bins are emptied
- ✚ Promoting walking to school.

The Nursery sent out leaflets that they got from the School Fund Trust around healthy lunch boxes for parents to make up for their children. Its one thing campaigning for healthy meals in schools but its pointless doing that if all of the children bringing in packed lunches are completely un-healthy so these leaflets educated parents about healthy packed lunches.

**Comments from children at the Nursery:**

Jodie – “I love the books and tidying up the video case”

Laura – “The computers are the best”

Paige – “I don’t like painting because I get it all over”

Megan – “I like the video”

Rachel – “I like playing with the dolls and baby Annabelle”

Kieran – “Football and the bikes is the best thing about nursery but I love it”

Victor – “Bikes”

Erica – “Drawing is fun and I like coming to nursery. There are no bad things about coming”

Lucy – “I enjoy cooking” (she was making bread while I was talking to her)

David – “Playing outside is the best thing about nursery”

Anonymous – “Sometimes I like cooking but most of the time I like story time the best”

All of the children that I spoke to in the nursery were extremely happy with the activities that they have and also the work they have been doing over the past year. It is blatantly obvious that the children of the nursery have been at the heart of what has been going on and there is no doubt that there is dialogue going on in this nursery.

I would like to congratulate Atkinson Road Nursery on another fantastic year and encourage them to keep up the good work for next year.

Ashleigh Greathead  
January 2006