



Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

Lowhills Nursery

On the day I visited Lowhills Nursery, it was a miserable, dull and wet day however entering the nursery was like walking into a ray of sunshine. I was greeted with bright colours of the seaside as well as nautical music and that was just the entrance!

On walking into the nursery, it feels like a warm and comfortable place, and most of all, a happy place. The walls are all bright colours and each of the rooms have different themes; such as the sensory room and the house room.

On the day I visited there were 6 children in the nursery, with a number of staff present.

Evidence of dialogue with children and young people:

- The nursery has taken on board that children are individuals and they understand that not all children are working within the development expected for their chronological age therefore there has been improvements in the nursery planning system, combining birth to three. Activities offered to children are planned to ensure all children within the setting can access them fully.
- Individual education and development plans are continuing to be used to recognise achievements and set aims for the children on an individual basis. This way of working encourages other agencies to work with the nursery to improve choices and experiences for individual children.
- Since the last membership report, there has been a continuation of free flow access for children to areas around the nursery. The children identified that when the doors to the garden were open, the children inside were cold so there has been a system put in place where only one door is open in the dining room. This means that the children still have the choice to play outside whenever they feel like it, however the children who don't choose to do that, can stay warm inside.
- The layout of the nursery has changed as a result of what the children have said and also from observing them play. Children were regularly playing more frequently in the creative area and staff were struggling to deal with the demand for use of the area safely. The creative area has now been extended into the room next door, which has in fact complimented the next area which has encouraged more investigative play. Children attending the nursery often require support in developing their social skills and therefore the house area has been recognised to facilitate more imaginary play in a social setting, with the ability to enact home life routines such as bed time, dinner time or playing with dolls. The heuristic area has been combined with the story corner to make a calmer atmosphere. This area is just outside the main rooms and is therefore the quietest part of the nursery.
- Within the nursery, staff continue to follow the child's lead. For instance, if a child doesn't want to join in singing time, an adult will accompany them to

another area where they would prefer to be, with as much or as little support as he/she chooses.

- The dining area has been developed with the purchase of smaller tables and a reorganisation of crockery and cutlery. The children are encouraged to collect their own crockery at snack times from the open cupboard. At dinnertime, key groups sit together and self serve their meals. This obviously encourages independence however support is available where necessary.
- Healthy eating is promoted in the nursery. The children are encouraged to select foods of their choice, using a variety of materials such as photographs, cookery books and vocal requests. These are then checked by the cook to ensure the children's choices provide the required element of a balanced diet. All food is also freshly prepared in the nursery kitchen.
- When the children arrive at nursery, they self register. When they hang up their coat on their individual pegs, they have a photograph with their name on which they then take to the register box to register themselves in.
- The menu is available in the main entrance of the nursery so that parents can see what their child is having for lunch/had for lunch.
- The sandpit used to be "a pit" however it was recognised that the children couldn't register that they had to keep the sand within the "pit" so it has now been changed to an open sand area, so the children are free to do whatever they want in the sand (within reason).

During snack time, I was able to see the children encouraged to collect their own crockery and also pour their own milk (with assistance) into their own cups. They children were encouraged to use forks to eat their pie with too, which was something that I found really impressive. Everyone enjoyed their pie and orange pieces – especially Jack!

Comments made by the children:

Cain told me how he really enjoyed playing in the ball pool in the sensory room and he also enjoyed watching the fish.

Jack enjoyed eating his pie.

Chloe was showing me how she enjoyed looking at different letters on a poster and also how she didn't like robot when it moved and talked. She did however like it when it didn't move or talk.

Both staff and the children of the nursery were involved in this report and they are happy and agree with the content.

The future of Lowhills Nursery is currently uncertain but I am very impressed with the work they have done over the past year, regardless of the uncertainty of their future. The fact that they have carried on working so well and continue to have dialogue with the children shows that they are committed to the involvement of children within their nursery. I therefore have no hesitation in recommending them for another successful year of Investing in Children membership and wish them luck for what ever the future brings.

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