



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Ashfield Nursery

Last years membership report says: “There are major changes being planned for the nursery’s garden. Children have asked for a sandpit to play in”

As a result, this report is centered around the development of the nursery’s garden.

For the purpose of this report I had the pleasure of visiting whilst the children were taking full advantage of their new garden.

I was extremely surprised at how much space the nursery has at the back, even after all of the new equipment is in the gardens.

Evidence of dialogue with children:

- The gardens have been developed from what the children have said they would like.
- There is a large sandpit, which was requested by one child in last year’s evaluation.
- The children asked to spend more time outside rather than in the classrooms so a stage has been built so they can do performances on but it is also used for story time sessions.
- A bike track has been created, which has parking spaces and a bus stop so the children are learning road safety while playing in there. Each parking space is numbered so a member of staff can tell the children a parking space number to park in, developing their numerical skills.
- The children expressed an enjoyment to digging so the nursery has created a digging patch that is used for the children to dig as much as they like without digging up flowers.
- They have their own vegetable patch where they have been growing potatoes. All of the children that I spoke to said that they are very excited to see what their potatoes are going to look like.
- On the previous day, the nursery was celebrating their 75th birthday so the nursery arranged for a bouncy castle for the children. This was the topic of conversation with all of the children and everyone had a fantastic day and thoroughly enjoyed the bouncy castle.
- While I was in the classroom with the children, they were looking through a cookery book and choosing something to bake tomorrow. They chose to make marshmallow crunch.

Comments made by children:

“I like the sand”

“I enjoy making pictures for my mammy and daddy”

“My favorite is the slide and see saw”

“We all like playing in the sand”

“We like making dough worms”

Leon told me that he would like some play Mobil horses and police.

As I mentioned earlier, this nursery has a huge open space at the rear and I think the nursery have made an excellent job in turning it into a fantastic area for the children. More importantly it is brilliant to see that all of the children in the nursery have been involved in the planning and layout of the nursery's garden. This shows that the nursery is having ongoing dialogue with the children and on that note I would like to recommend them for another year of Investing in Children membership.

All of the children have agreed the content of this report.



Ashleigh Greathead
Investing in Children
July 2007