



investing in children

Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Places for Children Nursery

Places for Children is a really modern nursery, tucked away amongst high business buildings on Newburn Riverside.

On entering the nursery, it's really modern and open plan. The nursery don't believe that the children should be confined in separate rooms and so therefore the 2-5 area is just one **huge** room with lots of different 'areas' in it. Running down the left hand side of the room are large glass doors which are opened during the summer months so the children and free to come and go as they please between the outside play areas and inside.

Every morning, after they have hung up their coats, the children go to the greetings area, where they chose from their 'feelings tree' about what kind of mood they have come to nursery in. They also have an activities board where they chose in advance the things that they are going to do during the day.

As requested by the children, the staff have created a picture routine board so the children can look at the photos of their daily routine, so they know what is going to happen next.

The children are encouraged to clean their teeth after every meal and they each have their own tooth brush to clean with. As I mentioned before, the layout of the nursery is very open plan so the toilets are in a separate section from the playing area however they have separate cubicles so the children are encouraged to go to the toilet themselves, with the small sinks so they can clean their teeth themselves

Evidence of dialogue:

- ✚ During the lunch time, the children self serve themselves from the main counter and when they are finished they empty their leftovers and clean off their plate. This is giving them a choice of what they want to eat and the nursery isn't dictating a specific meal.
- ✚ The children go through an evaluation process every 4 months – which they are involved in through photo evaluations – to see the things they like and dislike about the nursery.
- ✚ There is also a parents evening every 6 months so parents have the opportunity to see the nursery, see how the children are developing in the setting and also speak to members of staff.
- ✚ The children are observed in their nursery settings and also asked their opinions on the things they like and don't like playing with, and also the layout of the nursery. One young girl said that she was scared of the climbing frame because it was in the middle of the room. As a result, the climbing frame was moved to the side of the room and she is now much happier to walk past it and play on it.
- ✚ The nursery arranged a visit to the beach because the children expressed how much they enjoyed playing with sand – in the sandpit within the nursery.

In a separate part of the building is the baby's area, which is for 0-2 years. The layout of this area is smaller however excellently equipped. The babies have their own outdoor area, as well as lots of sleeping areas and play areas.

The nursery have designed a diary for parents and staff to use, so the parents can write comments in about whether the baby has had a restless night etc and the staff can write in what the baby has eaten, slept and done during the day.

The baby's room is mainly sensory and heuristic areas and again they are monitored on the areas that they like using the most, and the nursery adapts its activities to what the babies enjoy doing/playing.

Future Developments:

- ✚ The nursery has applied to the National Lottery Fund for some money to do up the garden areas. The children have asked for 'Telly Tubby hills' and also a vegetable patch where they can grow things and watch them grow.
- ✚ There has been a keen request for dance classes to be provided over the weekend and on evenings.

Places for Children have made some small but significant changes to their nursery because of what the children have either said or expressed. However small these changes are, they are still important because they demonstrate that there is dialogue and that is what achieving membership is all about. I would therefore recommend Places for Children for Investing in Children membership.

Ashleigh Greathead
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