



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Newburn Manor Nursery

For the purpose of this re-evaluation I had the pleasure of meeting with Mason, Robin, Loughton, Sam, Lucy, Harry, Amber and Josh. This report will highlight and identify the positive partnerships which exist between the children and staff at Newburn Manor Nursery.

It is clear from my visits to Newburn Manor Nursery that the children play an active role in the way in which the nursery operates. They are encouraged to put forward their views, opinions and concerns, in order to make changes to the way in which the staff treat them and accommodate their individual needs.

The children of Newburn Manor Nursery are evidently familiar with their routine and the choices they need to make on a daily basis in order for them to move freely from session to session with confidence and enjoy the choice that the freedom of open play allows. Mason and Robin gave me a guided tour of the areas within the library. Mason enthusiastically showed me his planning sheet. Each child uses the daily planning sheet to decide which area they wish to spend their time in. This task is carried out as soon as the children enter the nursery on a morning.

Ensuring that the children can make positive choices and affect their own learning is a constant challenge to the staff team. Within their role they create the opportunities in order for the children to be able to explore, enjoy and make choices both inside and out of the nursery.

Since last years evaluation changes have been made and projects developed as a result of an on-going dialogue between staff and children.

Evidence of dialogue and change is taken from discussions I had with the children during an open play session.

It was evident from the relaxed atmosphere and the smiling faces that the children enjoy their time at nursery. Mason supports this, he informed me **“nursery is the best, my best thing is the book area”** I was quickly shown all of Masons favourite books. I asked Mason if he could choose when he read his books **“yes I can, its up to me, I like the big seats”**.

The nursery provides a varied range of learning activities, from playing in the sand to working on the computers. Robin enthusiastically showed me a painting she had finished the day before my visit. **“I didn’t use a brush; I wanted to use my hands.”** The nursery staff listens to the children’s ideas and encourages them to take risks such as Robin’s wonderful painting.

The children are encouraged to play and work together and to find their own solutions when conflict occurs. This was evident whilst playing with Harry, Sam and Loughton. Loughton was unhappy. **“Don’t be sad Loughton”** was Harry’s response. **“We are telling**

Kim why nursery is good” contributed Sam. Leighton informed me “I like it, I have my friends and it makes me happy.”

Co-operation, problem solving and enjoyment are central to everything that occurs within the nursery and it is clear that the children understand this routine. This co-operation is a two way process between staff and children. Zack informed me that he asked his teacher to change their routine on the way to the dinner hall. **“I wanted to stop and look at the frogs; we did walk straight past the pond. We now stop and sing to the frogs to get them to come and see us.”**

In addition to ensuring that children are engaged in continuous dialogue, it is important to the nursery staff that they also include parents in this process. The school strives to develop a positive partnership between the home and school. Parents are provided with information and activities to be completed at home. Mason’s mum told me that **“it’s not compulsory but it does help. The nursery is great, they listen to what I say, and they want the best for Mason, same as me.”** As a direct result of this relationship parents highlighted with teaching staff the possibility of having an outdoor toilet erected within the play area, to allow for the continuation of outdoor play. This was discussed with the children; they were included in the decision to get the toilet fitted. A builder was brought in to work alongside children, parents and staff. The toilet is now a new and much valued addition to the outdoor play area.

The children I spoke to were happy with the activities that they have and the changes they have made to the nursery. The children are without a doubt at the centre of decisions made within the nursery. Newborn Manor Nursery has successfully developed a system whereby children, parents and staff work together to create the exciting, vibrant atmosphere that is Newburn Manor Nursery.

Newborn Manor Nursery clearly continues to provide opportunities for the children to be included, make choices and have fun. In respect of this continued commitment I fully recommend on behalf of the children that Newburn Manor Nursery continues to be an Investing in Children member.

**Kim Kyle
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