

The waterfront nursery

HMIE Report – 2nd August 2006 Review and update of Key Strengths and Recommendations for Improvement

Key Strengths

1. The warm welcoming nursery environment with high-quality resources and attractive use of displays.

The nursery has now re-located to the new campus and has a purpose built nursery. This includes a reception area and a full-time receptionist/administrator has now been employed. Additional high quality resources have been purchased a result of Big Lottery Funding. This enables the Pre-School rooms to have the compulsory area to deliver the curriculum.

2. Very good systems for assessment and recording children's progress and regular arrangements to share this information with children.

The new pro forma for the children's profiles has been introduced and the staff have had training on how to complete them. However the implementation is currently behind schedule, (due to staff in pre-school being off sick for a number of weeks). There is an agreed system to prioritise and then catch-up by September 2007.

Personal Learning Plans – We are working towards developing PLP's for every child. These involve the children in the recording and assessment process. It is important to share the children's learning with them. PLP's involve pictures or drawings of what the children can do, with brief statements - "I can..." The children will be involved in the process of putting the folders together.

3. Very good programme for emotional, personal and social development and communication and language.

Evidence of emotional, personal and social development and communication and language programmes are evident in our planning. We try to have a broad balance of curricular activities and we re-visit each key aspect regularly in different contexts.

4. The effectiveness of the staff team in developing and supporting children's learning.

Evidence of supporting children's learning is evident in planning. We record individual needs/interests and try to accommodate them.

Recommendations for Improvement

1. Staff should review the timing of some adult-led activities to provide further opportunities for children to make choices and develop skills in independence.

The design of the rooms in the new nursery helps to ensure that adult-led activities are available on a day-to-day basis, although children can now choose whether to participate or not. When the inspection was done, groups of children were taken twice a day to do adult-led activities in our activity room. Now, the activities go on in the room, but the children do not have to participate if they don't want to.

2. The management team should continue to improve how they monitor and evaluate the service.

The staff completed the Colleges Self Evaluation process and considered all areas which were evaluated to be graded at very good (where major strengths are evident). Systematic monitoring and evaluation of the rooms will take place from September 2007. It is planned that a comments box for parents will be placed at Reception. It is also planned to update, produce and distribute a Parents Questionnaire for early 2008.