

DCSF Quality case study

Carol Jane Montessori Nursery School

Background

Carol Jane Montessori Nursery School first opened its doors to children in June 1991, the fulfillment of the owners dream, to one day have a nursery school. A great deal of love and careful planning has been put into this small country style cottage to make it the best and highest standard nursery possible. Every tiny detail has been considered and re-considered ensuring nothing has been overlooked. Plans to open the nursery began in 1990 and took 17 months to complete. The nursery was registered with Enfield Social Services who offered a great deal of guidance and support. The nursery opened on 17 June 1991, and was full by September of that year.

Using the experience gained over the years the nursery has offered an unbeatable combination of outstanding premises, equipment, timetables, activities and staff. The nursery re-opened on 17 September 2001. This date also marked a change in the nursery hours from an 8am - 6pm day to 8am - 3pm and a reduction in children from 24 to 15, offering a unique exclusive service for parents who want the best possible start to their child's education.

Quality

Communication is a key cornerstone to developing quality, obviously communicating with the children, but also between staff. Carol Jane Montessori prides itself with the system of partnership it has with its parents. Monthly notes, newsletters, parent evenings, coffee mornings, outings and questionnaires reinforce this message of working with people, whether they are children, parents or staff.

Before parents are offered a place at the nursery, Carol Jane communicates with the parents, offering three settling in sessions for each child, four if necessary, during which the parent can come into the nursery with their child. This is as much for the parents, as it is for the child. It allows them to get to know the staff, the way the nursery operates and to see the timetable on offer. These sessions are led by the nurseries key worker. A message is reinforced that parents can attend at any time, attend an activity at the nursery, take profile books home or offer suggestions on how to improve the nursery.

This is followed by a home visit. Staff at the nursery visits the child and parent at home, offering a different picture of the child and additional information.

As the Managing Director at Carol Jane points out; "quality is what we do, I am always looking for new ideas and read Montessori International, from cover to cover, alongside the newsletters from NDNA. The staff attend courses facilitated by Enfield Council, which are invaluable, with inspiring people who have helped as grow and develop as a nursery."



The nursery recognises the importance of quality assurance and is currently working through the NDNA Quality Counts scheme. It has also been awarded Investors in People.

Partnership

As a result of investing in quality childcare, Carol Jane Montessori Nursery has become viable and sustainable as a business, building on strong and flexible relationships with the local community. The nursery works closely with local schools and the London Borough of Enfield Early Years and Childcare team. It also supports and works closely with the local private, voluntary and independent childcare network in Enfield.

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