

## **DCSF Quality case study**

### **Little Feet Day Nursery, Lanchester, County Durham**

#### **Background**

Little Feet Day Nursery is a privately owned Ofsted registered day nursery and is situated in a beautiful, secure, rural setting, set back from a main road offering easy routes to and from Durham and Newcastle. It was established five and a half years ago, and is registered for fifty two places.

The nursery occupies a converted ground floor extension at Rose Cottage. It is set in an acre of privately owned countryside in the small village of Maiden Law, approximately one mile from Lanchester. The setting has ample parking facilities, so is in an ideal location for parents traveling to work and one that also allows them to take full advantage of the countryside surroundings. Little Feet welcome children from the ages of three months to five years old.

#### **Quality**

Little Feet believes that quality childcare is about ensuring parents and carers are confident in knowing that their child is in good hands, so removing any of the daily worries that come from striking that parental work/life balance.

To maintain a high standard of care, Little Feet are committed to developing its staff, and place a high regard on Continuous Professional Development. This investment sees staff at Little Feet undertaking foundation degrees in Early Years and Professional Practice, with many progressing to the BA (Hons) in Learning in Families, Schools and beyond.

This is reinforced by the consistent reviewing of policies and procedures at the nursery, coupled by internal audits of staff needs. Manuals from the local authority are used to pinpoint the relevant training courses, alongside the skills of staff internally at the nursery, who have attended previous training courses, who in turn share good practice. The setting rightly places a high importance on performance and review of its staff, monitoring through regular supervision and appraisal. This allows the setting to manage poor performing areas of work, but also consolidate where there has been growth and improvement. However, the importance of the child is never lost.

As the manager at Little Feet points out; “quality childcare has to be child centred, and by ensuring that we implement good childcare practice, and work towards the goals of the Early Years Foundation Stage, we can guarantee that the child’s requirements are met. We reinforce this by placing learning through play very high in our approach.”



In striving to be a quality provision the nursery recognises the importance of quality assurance and is currently working through the County Durham scheme. It has also been awarded Investors in People.

The setting uses its quality provision as the best form of marketing. Although at the top end of price for the locality, Little Feet is in a position where it can afford to advertise through 'word of mouth'.

### **Partnership**

As a result of investing in quality childcare, Little Feet Day Nursery has become viable and sustainable as a business, building on strong and flexible relationships with the local community. The nursery works with its local authority, establishing a good rapport with the Early Years advisory teachers and other local authority staff.

### **Nursery details**

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