

DCSF/NDNA Quality Case Study

Babraham Nursery, Cambridge

Background

The Babrahma workplace nursery was opened in 1990, and is situated in two converted houses at 17/18 The Close, and accommodates 60 children aged from six weeks to five years. It enjoys a quiet corner in a residential area within the Babraham Institute campus and has a homely atmosphere. Surrounded by green fields and woods, it has a large enclosed garden with patio as well as a sandpit and fenced area for swings.

Subject to availability, places are available on a full-time or part-time basis, mornings or afternoons (or a combination of both). The nursery is open between 8.45am and 5.45pm (Monday to Thursday) and 5.15pm (Friday). It is open all year except Bank Holidays and one week over Christmas.

The nursery also runs a breakfast club for those parents who need an earlier start - either on a permanent or occasional basis. The Club operates from 7.45am to 8.45am Monday to Friday. The children are offered a breakfast comprising cereal, toast, fruit, yoghurt, milk and fruit juices.

Developments

A not-for-profit nursery, Babraham prides itself on continued investment, both in its business and its staff. The nursery currently employs about 30 staff with a variety of professional skills and level of experience, although it is the policy only to recruit staff over the age of eighteen to ensure all staff members possess the necessary experience and qualifications. As our hours avoid staff having to work a shift-system, the children have the invaluable added benefit of seeing familiar faces throughout their sessions

As the owner of the nursery states; "we value and advocate staff training, which is pivotal for the sustainability of the business. We are fortunate that our staff, have the generous contribution of the Institute, who are able to fund qualifications and on-going training for staff. This has proved great in regard to staff retention."

The nursery values strong partnership working with its local authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, is a member of NDNA and attends and supports the NDNA PVI Cambridgeshire network, a forum for discussion and business development. The nursery has also completed the NDNA Quality Assurance scheme e-Quality Counts, along with the Cambridgeshire County Council framework for quality.

Partnership

Recently awarded an outstanding Ofsted, the nursery promotes strong partnership with parents and carers of children receiving funded education. Parents receive a comprehensive range of information about the Foundation Stage and how it is implemented through the setting's prospectus, display boards and newsletters. For

example, at the start of each topic parents receive a detailed newsletter, which gives them information about the areas that they will be covering.

These newsletters also informs parents of how they could contribute, for example, by bringing in objects from home, and suggests further activities that parents may like to try at home to support their child's learning. This enables parents to be fully involved in their children's learning both at the nursery and at home.

Marketing and promotion of the nursery is through word of mouth and reputation. Working closely with the Institute, the nursery is ideally placed to offer discounted places for employees of the institute.

Contact details

Louise Brook

Babraham Nursery
17/18 The Close
Babrahma
Cambridge
CB22 3AQ

Tel: 01233 835580
Fax: 01223 837366

Email: babraham.nursery@bbsrc.ac.uk