

Children's Report – September 2011



As you are all aware at Little Cherubs we are always keen to monitor the service we provide to you all, we regularly monitor parent and staff feedback via various methods, such as sending out regular questionnaire reports, holding parents evenings, fun-days, viewing and movement of group questionnaires, holding regular supervision chats with staff, and yearly appraisals, But most importantly we value the children's feedback, as they are the one's who the service is being provided for and their happiness at nursery is our main priority. On a regular basis we look at the children's happiness at nursery, the service and meals we provide and the opportunities we offer them on a daily basis. This can often be more difficult to monitor than the parents and staff, as children are not able to fill out a detailed questionnaire report to air their views, so each year at Little Cherubs we look into new ways to enable us to quality monitor all the groups within the nursery (including the babies) on the service which we provide them.

Contained in this report is a brief summary to show you some of the methods of quality monitoring which the children in their individual groups have been using over the past year. A brief evaluation of each age groups activities will also be detailed, showing a mixture of activities which they have not only enjoyed but also showing negative evaluations. Details of our quality monitoring scrap book will also be summarized, which includes comments made from parents, leaver questionnaires, cards and quotes. Within this report details and information will be given regarding the United Nations Convention and how as a nursery we are incorporating this. Details of our fun-day, Parents Evenings, parent and child involvement in the purchases of new equipment will also be given. We will also include a very brief summary off our latest inspection report, for those of you who have not read the detailed report, We will also provide a brief summary of the children's menu, including their likes and dislikes in each individual group and changes we have made to the nursery menu in accordance with this. We have also included photographs where possible to show some of the children's quality monitoring work.

Quality monitoring Ideas used over the past year

- *Children's Report and quality monitoring scrap book to show quality monitoring undertaken by management with staff input
- * Continuation of evaluation reports for groups individual activities – completed by all staff
- * Continuation of evaluation through smiley faces for the 3-5 year age group

Ongoing Ideas

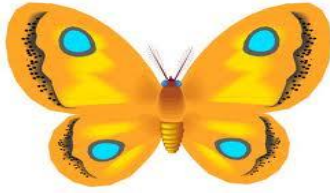
0-1yrs	1-2yrs	2-3yrs	3-5yrs
Tick list of activities – what babies like and dislike to be displayed – choice of topic (i.e. Messy activities)	Tick list of activities, of what the children like and dislike to be displayed – choice of topic	Rules – Children to have circle time and to discuss what rules they would like for their room. Rules to be drawn up and written with the help of an adult and put on display.	Rules – children to have circle time and to discuss what rules they would like for their room. To be drawn up with the help from an adult and displayed, to be regularly reviewed and added to.
Heuristic play display board – photos and interactive display on treasure baskets and free choice of treasure basket.	Play panel display board – photo's of the children taking part in the activities they like and dislike	Mural display board – children will make this by drawing and painting themselves on what they like at nursery. Speech bubbles will be used to show the children's quotes.	Photo display board – children to take their own photos of what they like and enjoy about coming to nursery and what they don't like, displayed with speech bubbles next to their photos.
Babies to participate only in activities they want to.	Parachute games to gain trust and work together	Circle time using Ticw bear to discuss feedback from the children.	Circle time using Manuela to gain feedback on activities
Puppet games, signing and acting.	Puppet games – storytelling and singing through use of puppets.	Parachute games to trust and work together	School collage – all the children going to school to do a collage with pictures, paintings, cutting outs etc of what they think big school will be like. To be displayed on the fun day for parents to see.
Babies to have access to a wide variety of toys so they can have free choice of what to play with.	Children to have access to a wide variety of toys so they can have free choice of what to play with	Trust games such as moody corners , musical clumps	Trial giving the children a chance to plan for the beginning of the day of what they would like to do.
		Happy suns – sad sheep Consultation method, children can inform staff on their feelings	Parachute games and trust games such as moody corners and musical clumps to bring the group together and share ideas.
		Puppet games – storytelling and signing to build confidence and imagination	Voting on any topic relevant to the group – such as what food they like, feelings about school etc.

Group Evaluations of activities

We follow standards in the nursery to ensure that each child is given the choice and voice if they want to participate in play and activities, and what and how they do it, ensuring no discrimination is used and that every child has a say. We ensure that the children get something out of all the activities planned and that all activities are evaluated against the standards so we are able to improve all the time and assess our work. Activities are carefully planned by staff, ensuring that they are always age appropriate; activities are also carefully based on daily observations so they also cater for the individual needs of the children.

Below we have included some evaluations of different activities carried out in the different age groups around the nursery.

Butterfly Group



Topic most enjoyed by the babies

***Food**

The babies enjoyed carrying out various activities around the topic of food, they enjoyed exploring a heuristic fruit and vegetable treasure basket, tasting different fruits, printing with fruit and vegetable, participating in lots of messy play using various food items such as jelly, custard and melted chocolate. Also a beautiful frieze board was produced showing the babies participating in play with the heuristic fruit and vegetable treasure basket.

Butterfly groups evaluation reports

Gloop Play - (January 2011)

The babies' experience of Gloop play back in January was not enjoyed by all the babies, all the babies were offered a chance to experiment with some coloured gloop, but some of the babies were not keen to participate, and did not want to touch the gloop, this was mainly due to the activity taking place in the morning when some of the babies were tired and ready for a sleep. The staff stated in their evaluation form that they felt that the babies would have benefited from having some toys in the coloured gloop such as dinosaurs or lego blocks as the babies were not keen on touching the gloop directly at first. This way the babies could have played with the toys in the gloop first while their confidence grew. The staff also stated that maybe the activity would have been best suited to the afternoon, when the babies had had their morning sleep.

Fruit and vegetable Heuristic Treasure Basket – (August 2011)

The babies really enjoyed exploring the fruit and vegetable heuristic treasure basket, the items of fruit and vegetables available for the babies to discover, were as follows: Carrots, new potatoes, celery stick, broccoli, cauliflower, orange pepper, beef tomato, banana, avocado, pomegranate, kiwi, orange, apple





The babies took part in this activity in small groups and had fun examining the different pieces of fruit and vegetable from the basket, they firstly chose items out of the basket to explore, then when all the items had been removed they continued to explore the items of their choice from around them. The babies used their senses to explore, they looked at the different pieces of fruit of vegetables, felt the different textures and put them to their mouths for a closer explore. Staff took photos of the children while they explored and observed which items interested them the most. The photographs were printed out and a display board was made to display the activity. The staff later went on to cut the fruit up and carried out a tasting activities with he babies and recorded the baby's different likes and dislikes.

The staff evaluated that the babies really enjoyed this activity as it was, but felt that if they carried out this activity again they would include a wider variety of fruit and vegetables in the baskets. The staff have also decided, to make some more treasure baskets to co inside with their future topics over the next year.

[Children's quality monitoring within the Butterflies](#)

Tick list of the activities that the babies have liked and disliked have been displayed for parents to see, this has been carried out for each child during the fruit tasting activity, which shows the differences of each child's likes and dislikes, and also the staff have recorded the messy activities which the babies have taken part in, showing the babies different likes and dislikes of a variety of messy play activities. Photographs have also displayed which each tick list chart.

Heuristic play display board was completed while the children explored the fruit and vegetable treasure basket. This is available for parents to view in the 0-1yrs messy dining room.

[Favourite meal in the butterflies](#)

Finger foods & Lasagne

[Meal most disliked](#)

Tuna Mash

[Favourite snack](#)

Bread sticks

[Snack most disliked](#)

Cherry tomatoes

[Dragonfly Group](#)



[Topic mostly enjoyed by the Dragonfly Group](#)

*Painting Techniques

The dragonfly group's favourite topic from over the last year has been Painting techniques, the children really enjoyed all the painting activities on offer, particularly the mono painting, free style painting using the easels and the colour mixing, as they got to experiment with colours of their choice and get very messy! The children's art work also was displayed in the messy-room.

Mono Painting June 2011

From looking at the evaluation report the children thoroughly enjoyed the mono painting, firstly the children the offered to choose their own choice of colour from a selection of four, the paint was then poured directly onto the table top and the children were offered the chance to help with this, the children then enjoyed making marks and patterns in the paint using their fingers, Staff got involved in the activity too to help encourage the children. After the patterns had been made the children were then helped by staff to put paper directly onto the paint, the children helped to press down, then got to admire their pieces of art work. The staff commented in the report how the children enjoyed getting messy and seeing their pieces of work. However the staff commented that next time it would be better to offer the children with equipment such as sponger rollers or potato prints to use in the paint as at first not all the children were keen to participate and put their hands directly in the paint. The staff would definitely carry out this activity again, but would definitely provide a variety of mark making tools.

Making Ice Lollies July 2011

The evaluation form from making ice-lollies with the children, shows both positive and negative feedback from the staff, the children enjoyed the second part of the activity were they got to see the end result of their ice lollies and got to sample them, however they didn't gain a great deal of enjoyment from making the lollies as there was not much for them to do apart from pouring their choice of squash into the mould, they then did not get to see the end result until much later on in the day when the ice lollies had frozen. The staff evaluated that they did not feel that this activity was age appropriate for the children, and they did not really get anything out of the activity apart from enjoying their ice lollies much later on the day. The staff decided that smoothie making would be much more fun, as the children could have more input and involvement in the counting and discussing of the fruit choices and deciding on their own ingredients, the end result would also be more instant.

[Children's quality monitoring within the Dragonflies](#)

Play panel board – The Dragonflies have been busy completing a play panel display board, this details all the children's personal likes and dislikes of the activities on offer in nursery and details of their favourite meals and snacks. Photographs of the children have also been displayed, showing them taking part in their favourite activities at nursery and enjoying their favourite meals and snacks.

Free choice of activities- The children within the group are given a freedom of choice of activities on a daily basis, a range of equipment is available for the children to decide what activity they wish to participate in. The children also get chance to pick and choose which stories and songs they would like during group sessions.

Puppet games- The children in the Dragonfly group enjoy a wide variety of songs, rhymes and games through the use of varies puppets and story sacks, the children make chooses by choosing their favourite puppets.

[Favourite meal in the Dragonflies](#)

Chicken Dinner

[Meal mostly disliked](#)

Egg Frittata

[Favourite snack](#)

Grapes

[Snack mostly disliked](#)

Banana

[Ladybird Group](#)



[Topic mostly enjoyed by the Ladybird group](#)

***Farm & Zoo animals**

The Ladybird group really enjoyed the topic about farm & Zoo animals, they learnt all about different types of animals, where they live, what they eat etc. the children looked at the different patterns, textures and colours of their fur and skin, and the different noises they made. The children enjoyed stories, rhymes and songs about farm animals and zoo animals, and enjoyed painting and sticking pictures of them, and making models out of play-dough.

Bug Hunting in the Garden

From the evaluation report we were able to see that the children mainly enjoyed the bug hunting activity, although the report stated that some children enjoyed the activity more than others, as the younger children in the group struggled to find any bugs alone, as the older children found them with greater ease. Some of the children were also keener to find bugs and look at them, where as other children in the group did not want to touch or go near the bugs. The children all got fresh air and exercise and if the children were not keen on looking for bugs they were able to take part in free play. The staff suggested that if this activity was to be carried out again then it would benefit the children to be split into age appropriate groups of older and younger children, the older children could discuss and look at the bugs in further detail and the younger children could be given more assistance and perhaps pretend bugs could also be used. Staff also suggested carrying the activity on inside and making a miniature garden to put the bugs which were collected in, so they could be discussed and used for the children to watch study and draw. Staff also commented how a worm hunt would be good, and the children could have discussed worms first and made a wormery.

Hosing down a pretend fire in the garden

The children were given the choose of using the water hose, jugs or watering cans to pretend to hose down a pretend fire made of cardboard in the garden. The children had previously been discussing fire safety and we had also had the fire engine and fire men to visit. The children enjoyed having the freedom to choose between the hose, water jugs or watering cans, however the children did not seem interested in the activity on offer and the children were more focused on just playing with the water in general. The evaluation report stated that the group was too large, as many of the children wished to play with the hose and had to wait a while for a turn. The staff commented that the children gained more enjoyment from just the general water play and were not interested in the imaginative play of putting out the fire. The staff would carry out this activity again, but would ensure that they worked in smaller groups and discussed the activity beforehand letting the children take turns and watch one another first before all joining in. The staff also stated it would have been good to have provided fire fighter hats for the children to wear and let the children help to make a fire engine from old boxes.

[Children's quality monitoring in the Ladybirds group](#)

Rules – The children in the ladybirds group had fun discussing and drawing up group rules, they discussed what behaviour was acceptable and un-acceptable at nursery. The children also had story time about children being unkind and not sharing. These rules are followed by the children and they are regularly discussed and reviewed by the children in the group.

Children's mural display board- The children in the 2-3yrs helped to make a beautiful display to show their likes and dislikes, the children looked in the mirror at themselves , and drew a picture of themselves and discussed their likes and dislikes in nursery. Speech bubbles were then drawn up and displayed next to the children's art work of their likes and dislikes along with photographic evidence.

[Favourite meal in the Ladybirds](#)

Salmon & parsley sauce with new potatoes and peas

[Meal most disliked](#)

Vegetable rice

[Favourite snack](#)

Strawberries

[Snack most disliked](#)

Kiwi

[Topic most enjoyed by the Caterpillars](#)



*Going to school and Friendships

The Caterpillars really enjoyed the topic about school and friendships, this topic benefited the children both who were going off to school in September, but also welcomed the new children who were moving over to the group, as they welcomed each other and learnt about new friendships . The children listened to stories about school, discussed the schools they would be attending, uniforms and making new friends. The children made friendship bracelets and school diaries.

Rolling balls down the guttering – August 2011

The children were given balls to roll down the stretches of guttering in the garden to catch, firstly the activity was explained and the children and they worked in small groups to make the balls move along the guttering, and were given the choice of smooth and bumpy balls. Children learnt that the smooth balls travelled faster and were able to move along the guttering with ease, where as the bumpy balls moved much slower and needed some extra pushes. Staff commented that the children thoroughly enjoyed this activity, but next time staff would like to use a bucket so the children can use this to catch the balls at the bottom. Staff also wish to carry out this activity using coloured water, so the children can experiment by pouring different coloured water down the guttering and watching the colours mix and move along, and collect the water at the bottom using additional funnels and jugs.

The children in the caterpillar's quality monitored this activity by using the happy and sad paper plates to show whether or not they had enjoyed this activity and were asked to comment why.

Results

7 ☺

"Because I like to watch them rolling down"

1 ☹

"because the balls were cold"

Making Pizza – August 2011

The evaluation report discussed how all the children took part in the pizza making activity, the activity was firstly discussed then the ingredients. All children helped to mix up the ingredients and enjoyed rolling out the pizza dough. The children enjoyed making their own choices as to what toppings they wished to put on their own pizzas. Lactose cheese was also provided to avoid any discrimination for the children with allergies. The children enjoyed seeing the end results and taking their pizza's home. The staff commented at how well the activity went and how much the children enjoyed carrying out the activity. Staff commented that if they were to carry out this activity again it would be wise to leave the dough for a while longer and next time provide a wider variety of topping for the children to experiment with.

The children in the caterpillar's quality monitored this activity by using the happy and sad paper plates to show whether or not they had enjoyed the activity and were asked to comment why.

Results

9 ☺

"I like making things"

"I like the crunchy bits"

"I love pizza"

5 ☹

"I don't like the soft bit of pizza"

"I don't like the hard bits"

"I don't like the sticky dough"

Photographic Evidence was also provided on the evaluation sheet



[Children's quality monitoring in the Caterpillars](#)

Photo Display board- The children were given the use of the camera over the period of a week to have access to the nursery camera and take their own photographs of what they liked and disliked in nursery. The children enjoyed operating the camera and seeing their photography displayed along with speech bubbles of their comments. These were all discussed and shared at circle time and photos and comments were then displayed.

Circle time using Manuela to gain feedback on activities-The children enjoyed using Manuela throughout the nursery day to join in with activities, they then gave feedback through Manuela about what she had liked and disliked. A scrap book was drawn up the children to include photos and comments. This was also continued at home, as Manuela was taken home by many different children, along with a camera and then feedback was given to discuss what she had been up to at circle time with the other children about what they had enjoyed doing together.

[Favourite meal in the caterpillars](#)

Chicken dinner

[Meal most disliked](#)

Three bean chilli

[Snack mostly enjoyed](#)

Fig roll

[Snack most disliked](#)

Plum

[Quality Monitoring scrap book](#)

For full details please see our Quality Monitoring Activities scrap book in the foyer

Our quality monitoring scrap book gives details of all our quality monitoring which is carried out over the year, it provides details of our quality monitoring Action plan, for parents, staff & children. Photographic evidence is also included to show comments made on parent's evenings & Fun-days, Details of us gaining a Gold standard healthy snack award are also provided, and photographic evidence is given of thank-you cards, comments made by parents and children's quality monitoring displays.

[United Nations Convention on the rights of the child](#)



At nursery we are working in accordance with the articles of UNCRC making sure all the children in nursery have the opportunity to participate, express their views, influence decision making and achieve change. We are updating our quality monitoring action plan to reflect the input of UNCRU and ensure all the children have a voice. We believe the children's participation is an important process as the children develop new skills, increase their confidence and knowledge and see that their views are valued and respected. It will also bring a fresh perspective to the staff's work. Look out for our new quality monitoring exercises soon! Staff will be attending courses on this over the coming months so we will keep you informed on new ideas we have.

[Inspection Report September 2011](#)

Please pick up a copy of our latest inspection report from the foyer

Looking forward to quality monitoring next year

Over the next year we will be continuing with our quality monitoring all over the nursery, and as well as using existing methods we will be looking at new ways of doing this to make the quality monitoring even more effective. We will be looking at the evaluation forms and updating these to ensure there is room for staff to jot down observations that were made throughout the activity, and ensure there is photographic evidence included too. We aim to quality monitor the 3-5yrs day on a daily basis so feedback can be given about what each child has enjoyed the most during the nursery day.

Over the following year we will continue to use the methods shown in the table on page 2 of this report (ongoing activities), but we will also be adding new ideas for each group. With the babies we wish to quality monitor the range of messy activities which the babies participate in, including a visual display to show photographic evidence and observations made of the babies likes and dislikes during the messy activities. We also wish to quality monitor the baby's daily routine to show what they get up to on a typical day at nursery, showing the babies own favourite times of the day, again a visual display will be made including photos, comments and pieces of the baby's artwork.

In the toddler group (14 months – 2 yrs) again we will be using previous methods, but we wish to include the use of a persona doll (Manuela) for the children to take home as a topic and use to show own personal likes and dislikes and share with the group and staff what they have been up to at home. We will also be using a variety of treasure baskets for the children to explore and investigate, so we are able to observe items which are of interest to different children.

In the Ladybirds group (2-3yrs) we will be using some of the methods previously used in the 3-5yrs, such as the Happy suns – sad sheep, so the children can inform staff of their feelings and whether they have enjoyed activities. We will also be allowing the children to take their own photographs of what they like and enjoy about nursery, this will be displayed with the children's own photographs, showing the different comments they have made.

In the Caterpillar group (3-5yrs) we will be taking photos of a wide variety of activities which are available at nursery and letting the children discuss the activities during circle time, these picture cards can be used by the children in many different ways, they can put stickers on the photo of their favourite activity from a particular nursery day, they can look at picture cards to make choices of what activities they wish to participate in during the nursery day. We will be planning a topic based on school to help children with the transition to school, the children will be making a collage display of what they think big school will be like and discussing the children's feelings and what they are looking forward to. We will also be putting a fact sheet on useful hints on how to make your child's first day at school less stressful! Lastly we also aim to allow the children to plan their own activities for the first part of the nursery day.

If any parents wish to submit suggestions for activities or quality monitoring exercises please feel free to do so as we welcome new ideas. Thank you.

Thank you for reading our report, we hope you found it useful to know a bit more about your child's day and activities at nursery.



