

As you are all aware at Little Cherubs Nursery, we regularly quality monitor parent, staff and children's feedback of the service we provide, via various methods. Questionnaire reports are regularly sent out the parents and staff, parent's evenings are held throughout the year, and children's activities are evaluated by staff every month, where staff access the children's enjoyment of a planned activity by watching their body language, general involvement and interaction during the activity. The older children are also asked their personal opinions and different methods are used by staff to assess their enjoyment and show where improvement can be made.

In this report we have briefly summarized some of the quality monitoring methods we have used at nursery within the different age groups over the past year, A brief evaluation of each age groups activities will also be detailed, showing a mixture of activities which have proved a success and those which have negative comments and didn't work as well as we had hoped. Details of our quality monitoring scrap book (available to look at in the foyer) will also be summarized, as well as the recent Living egg programme, our latest CSSIW Inspection report, Investors In People, Our 10 year anniversary fun day, The children's views and drawing (from the latest parent questionnaire) and our new self service, independence and school transitions. We have also included some visual evidence in the form of photographs to show some of the children's quality monitoring work.

Quality monitoring ideas used around the nursery over the past year

CHILDREN

- Children's report and quality monitoring book to show all the quality monitoring undertaken by management with staff input.
- Continuation of evaluations of activities by staff
- Continuation of evaluation through smiley / sad faces for the 3-5yrs age group
- Space on the parents questionnaire to put their own views and drawings of what they enjoy at nursery

PARENTS

- Parent questionnaire and report with action plan – New questionnaire incorporates space for the children to also get involved, by making their own comment and drawing their likes / dislikes

- Parents Evening
- Fun Day (10th Anniversary)
- Parents comments for our book
- Quality monitoring scrap book showing activities, photo's etc
- Posters up for parents to choose what we spend money on, such as toys, visits to nursery etc.
- Viewing questionnaire, questionnaire given to new parents on joining the nursery to see if we meet expectations, or to give any suggestions they may have. Movement of group questionnaire to check the information we hold on child is still correct and to gain views on each group.

STAFF

- Work on action plan from parents questionnaire report
- Staff questionnaire to gain staff views, and report produced on findings including any actions needed
- Parents evening, feedback with parents and ask to make a comment in the book
- Staff meetings held 4 times a year. Staff to feedback in the meetings on courses attended. Also staff to make comments on the agenda slips of what they wish to discuss and bring up during meetings. Minutes of meeting given out the all staff to work on.
- Staff to attend UNCRC

On the following page is a table showing all the different quality monitoring ideas we have used over the nursery during the last year, in all the different age groups around the nursery. Some quality monitoring ideas have been reused from the previous year which worked well for us at nursery and other ideas have been trialed in different age groups and adapted to their age.

0-1yrs	1-2yrs	2-3yrs	3-5yrs
Tick list of what the babies like and dislike to be displayed – choice of topics	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. To be drawn up with the help of staff and put on display – Staff to refer to – Every September	Rules – Children to have circle time to discuss behavior and decide what rules they would like for their room. What is good behavior and rules to keep to. To be drawn up with staff and referred to and children reminded of rules. Changed every September
Display board of large photographs, showing the babies routine and what they get up to during the nursery day	Display – Take Manuela home as a topic, ask parents to fill in a book, and take photographs. Use at circle time and display comments and photo's	Photo display – children to take own photographs with the camera of things they like and dislike with comments.	Display- Welsh board – use Welsh box / Ticw bear or Welsh history so children are aware of where they come from
Babies to participate in only activities they want to, giving them freedom of choice	Parachute games to gain trust and work together	Circle time using Manuela to gain feedback on activities	Circle time using Ticw bear to discuss feedback from the children. Use UNCRC booklets to discuss and color in with the children
Puppet games – singing and acting.	Puppet games- storytelling and singing, use puppets and story sacks	Parachute games to gain trust and work together	School collage – all the children going to school to do a collage with pictures, paintings, cutting out etc of what they think big school will be like. Linked in with topic in June
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	Toy choice for the children daily, show them what toys we have and let them choose	Trial giving the children chance to plan for the beginning of the day of what to do – evaluate at the end of the session
Display board of messy activities and / or free paintings to include hand and foot prints (which one's they enjoyed the most)	Introduce toddler treasure baskets and more tip and fill activities	Happy suns – sad sheep consultation method, children can inform staff of their feelings	Parachute games and trust games such as moody corners and musical clumps to bring the group together and share ideas
	Ensure the children are able to choose free toys and with messy activities , there are a variety of tools on offer so they can choose which ones to use	Puppet games – story telling and singing to build confidence and imagination	Dot voting on any topic relevant to the group – such as what food they like, feelings about school etc.
		Welsh history, so children are aware of where they come from by using Welsh box and Ticw bear.	Puppet games – story telling and singing to build confidence and imagination.

Group Evaluations

At Little Cherubs Nursery we follow standards to ensure that each child who attends is given the choice and voice if they want to participate in play and activities, and what and how they do it, staff ensure that no discrimination is used and that each activity is tailored for any child with any additional needs. We try our best to ensure that all activities are enjoyable and that the children get something out of the planned activities, which is why we evaluate the activities to see where and how they can be improved. Activities are carefully planned by staff, ensuring that they are always age appropriate. Activities are also planned based on daily observations of the children so they cater for children's individual needs too.

Below we have briefly summarized some of the activities which have been carried out around the nursery in the different groups and added some observations which were made by staff during the activities. This will give you an insight into the type of activities the children carry out on a daily basis and how we try to improve on the quality of activities on offer.



Activity – Rice Pudding Play (April 2012)

Group size – 4

The babies were all seated in their low chairs and each given rice pudding to explore on their low chair trays (staff gave careful consideration into allergies before the activity began) Staff sat with the babies and encouraged them to make marks in the rice pudding and explore the texture, talking to them throughout the activity. Observations were made by staff and recorded on the evaluation sheets. "child 1 was putting his hand in the rice pudding, then waving it about and laughing as the rice pudding dropped" "child 2 was unsure about putting her hands in the rice pudding but after sitting and watching the other babies she soon joined in and enjoyed the taste of the rice pudding". Overall the staff commented that the babies thoroughly enjoyed the activity as all babies took part and enjoyed experimenting with the rice pudding. Photographs were taken during the activity and all babies had a photo to take home. Staff however commented that this activity could be adapted by adding different coloured food colouring to the rice pudding so when the children touched the rice pudding colours could be mixed to create new ones, or adding different flavorings to the rice pudding so children could explore this. Staff also commented that toys could be added to the rice pudding such as dinosaurs so that if a child was not keen to touch the rice pudding themselves they could use the dinosaur to make marks in the rice pudding.



Activity – Free sticking (June 2012)

Group size – 3

The babies were sat in their low chairs, and were all given a piece of paper on their low chair trays, each baby as given a small glue pot with a chunky glue spreader with a small amount of glue, staff encouraged the babies to swirl the glue onto the paper, the babies were then offered to choose different sized, coloured and shaped pieces of paper and pom poms from a large tub and also staff put a selection of pieces on the side of their low chair trays. The staff encouraged the babies as they choose different pieces discussing the colours, shapes and praising their efforts as the activity took place. Observations were made by staff throughout. "child 1 really enjoyed swirling the glue over the paper, but did not want to choose any materials as they were having so much fun with the glue pot and spreader" "Child 2 enjoyed choosing the coloured pom poms from the tub carefully examining them, but did not like the pieces of paper sticking to the glue on his hands and was shaking his hands trying to get it off" Overall the staff commented that the babies enjoyed the sticking activity particularly examining the different materials. The children took there pieces of art work home. Staff commented that the babies could in the future trial using chunky pritt stick glue so they wouldn't get such sticky hands as with the PVA glue and also trialing giving them a choice of different materials so the textures could be examined, instead of paper.

Dragonfly Group



Activity – Parachute (March 2012)



Group size – 9

While in the garden, the children were encouraged by staff to help to collect a variety of leaves from the sensory garden, the children were praised for helping and the staff encouraged the children and discussed their finding, i.e. the colours, size and shape of the leaves collected. The leaves were collected and once enough leaves were gathered the staff got out the large parachute and encouraged the children to come and hold onto the parachute. Not all children wished to participate and continued with free-play in the garden. The staff showed the children to gently help to wave the parachute up and down making waves and then once they had the hang in helping staff added some leaves to the top of the parachute and gently waved the parachute to make the leaves float. Some of the other children came back and forth to

take part. The children also enjoyed lying underneath the parachute as it floated down on top of them. Observations were made by the staff "the children were laughing as smiling as they waved the parachute and made the leaves float in the air" "child 1 was only interested in laying underneath but really enjoyed the activity". The staff commented that the activity was a success, and could be adapted for inside use also if the weather was not good also staff commented that a variety of different sized balls or cuddly toys could also be added to the top of the parachute for the children to bounce up and down. The staff also commented how they would like to plan a parachute session so the children could lie underneath the parachute as they had done pretending the parachute was the sea being calm then the waves getting rougher. Songs could also be sung.

Activity – Water Play in the garden (May 2012)

Group size – 10

A water play activity was set up in the garden by the staff, a large water tray was filled with water, along with other large tubs and washing up bowls were also filled with warm water. There were a variety of smaller tubs, jugs, funnels, sieves and sponges available for the children to use. The children were able to play freely, and were able to take part in the activity as they wished. Staff sat by the water and equipment and encouraged the children, discussing how the water felt, when the jugs were empty and full, tipping and filling and floating and sinking. Observations were made throughout the activity. "child 1 enjoyed making splashes, by dropping objects in the water" "Child 2 enjoyed tipping water from one jug to other showing good pouring skills" Staff commented that all the children enjoyed carrying out this activity however it is only really suitable on a hot day as the children got very wet, or otherwise wet suits and wellies would have to be used. Staff commented that the children enjoyed playing with all the different utensils, but that this activity may be better if in future it was carried out in smaller groups of 6 as then there is more equipment to go round. Staff also suggested that bubbles could be added to the water or food colouring to add further learning benefits. Staff also commented how the activity could just be used for the learning of floating and sinking or learning the concept of empty and full and use different utensils to provide this learning opportunity.

LADYBIRD GROUP



Activity – Making Clay hearts (February 2012)

Group size – 16 (split into 2 smaller groups of 8)

The staff had ready rolled clay out prior to the start of the activity, and each child was asked to choose from a variety of different sized heart cutters, the children were encouraged one at a time to use their heart cutter to press into the clay to make a clay heart, staff assisted where necessary, and praised each child for their efforts, taking about the heart shape..

Once all the children had made a heart, they were given a choice of a variety of different coloured paint, and different sized paint brushes, cotton buds or asked if they would like to finger paint to decorate their clay heart. Staff were chatting to the children throughout the activity ensuring the children were able to identify the heart shape they had made and chatted about the colours they were each choosing. Staff made observations throughout the activity. "Child 1 was able to recognize the heart shape and said I'm making this for my mummy, I love my mummy" "child 2 decided that she wanted to finger paint her clay heart and was able to identify all the colours of the paint she was using". Photos of the children taking part in this activity were also sent home. Staff commented that the activity was a success, however that if a similar activity was going to take place it would be better to work in smaller groups of 4, so staff could help to roll out the clay and wouldn't have to wait so long for their turn.

Activity – Bathing the dolls (March 2012)

Group size – 8



This activity took part in the garden, and the children were able to take part if they wished. Baby baths were filled up with warm soapy water, a number of dolls were available as well as some sponges, flannels and towels. The children were encouraged to help get the dolls undressed for bath time. Staff sat with the children and joined in with the imaginative play, chatting to the children as they played. Observations were made by staff throughout the activity. "Child 1 enjoyed giving her doll a hair wash, and carefully washed the bubbles out of the dolls hair" "child 2 was extremely gentle with his doll and was gently cleaning his doll with a sponge". Staff commented that the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this activity and were not keen when the activity ended and it was tea-time. The staff commented that if this activity was planned again, the children could be given a longer period for the activity and expand on it by letting the children help get the babies dressed again after bath-time, and also providing some other baby equipment such as the pushchairs to expand on their imaginative play. The activity was a great success with all children taking part.

Caterpillar group



Activity – Ice Play – (May 2012)

Group size – 11

The children chose their own tray and then helped themselves to ice cubes from a large tub, each child got to choose how many ice cubes they wanted, the children were also given the option if they wanted to add shaving foam to the ice cubes. The staff discussed ice with the children, and what ice is and how it is made, the children used different words to describe how it felt such as hard, cold, smooth, see through and learnt why it was melting. The children also looked at the shapes of the ice cubes and how they changed as it melted. Observations were made by staff throughout activity “child 1 said, I like it because it is cold” “Child 2 said, I like the circle and round ice shapes” “Child 3 said, I like clapping my hands with the foam” “Child 4 said, I didn't like the ice because it was cold” “Child 5 said, the ice was too slipper” For the children who did not like the feel of the ice a spoon was offered. The staff carried out the paper plate experiment after the activity was over and 6 children held up 😊, and 5 children held up ☹.

Staff commented on the evaluation form that next time they could use different shaped ice trays to make a variety of different shaped ice cubes and also use different food colouring to create different coloured cubes. Photographic evidence was also taken for the evaluation form.



Activity -The Royal Wedding – April 2012

Group size -11

The staff planned our very own Royal wedding to celebrate the first anniversary of William and Kate. The staff sat down with the children at circle time and a member of staff showed them the book we have "William & Kate, The Royal Wedding" the children looked at the pictures and the topic of weddings were discussed. Staff discussed with the children that we would be having our very own pretend wedding at nursery, and children got to discuss different roles and what they would like to be, outfits from the fancy dress box were also picked by the children. The staff then helped the children act out there very own wedding. Observations were made by the staff, most of the children enjoyed the activity, but three of the children did not want to take part and just wanted to watch. "Child 1 said I like weddings" "Child 2 said I went to a wedding and we had confetti" Staff commented that next time it would be interesting to see what happens at weddings in different cultures and trial some of the traditional things they do i.e. Indian wedding henna tattoo's, looking at different traditional wedding dresses etc. The wedding would also be fun to organise in the garden and having a tea party for after the wedding.





Our quality monitoring scrap book

We have updated our quality monitoring scrap book for 2012 which is located in the nursery foyer, we have added all the staff's new key-worker profiles which were devised back in March 2012, we have had lots of positive comments from parents about these, as it is nice to be able to put a face to a name and know a bit about them when a child's key-worker is changing.

Also included in the scrap book is a selection of leaver's questionnaires, viewing questionnaires, movement of group questionnaires all from the past year, showing all the lovely comments parents have made, when viewing the nursery, when children have moved groups, and also when children are leaving nursery for school. Here are some of the comments from our scrap book.

"Very friendly staff, informative viewing and ample opportunity for questions. Thank you"

"As always little Cherubs have such a high standard throughout the nursery. I love the feedback I get about my child"

"My child has enjoyed every session since he was 9 months old! He is always happy when we leave and collect him, all staff have done an amazing job of looking after our baby boy! Always happy, smiling and happy to help in any way."

A collection of our latest thank-you cards, thank-you emails and our latest parent action plan are also included.

We have continued to ask parents to make votes for their choice of member of staff for employee of the month, all these votes are available to view to show parents kind comments.

Our latest action plan, following the latest parent questionnaire is also included to detail all the actions we made after collating the results, which details all the actions we have made to make improvements in various areas, we have also included the details from the new "Children's section" to show what the children like best about nursery, where they were given the opportunity to voice their own opinions and draw pictures of what they like. This new section was a great success.

Living Egg Programme



Our living egg programme which we carried out back in March was a great success, not only did the children enjoy learning about chicks and life cycles but carrying out all the fun activities and seeing the chicks on the daily basis, all the parents got involved too! We had so many positive comments following our daily blog, parents enjoyed being updated on the chicks daily and enjoyed taking their children into visit them when dropping off and picking up their child. It definitely was an activity to suit everyone. This is an activity we would like to plan again!! It was also lovely to be kept updated on the chick's progress after they left us as they went to live on Ella's grand parent's farm.

CSSIW – Inspection Report (Date of publication 25/07/2012)



At Little Cherubs we have recently received our annual unannounced visit from C.S.S.W, we received an excellent report which shows the excellent work put in by staff on daily basis, not only to provide excellent care for the children, but to provide good opportunities for them to learn, be active and stimulated, the report also shows how staff plan an extensive

range of play opportunities to promote children's development.. "People have benefitted from a warm, respectful approach and there is a strong emphasis on customer care"

Copies of our full report are available from the foyer



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Back in June we also renewed our investors in people award, which went well and we were lucky to keep out lovely plague in the nursery entrance.

–A copy of our Investors in People report is available on request

10 Year Anniversary Fun-Day



Our 10 Year Anniversary celebration Fun day back in June was a great success, It was lovely to see so many attend and for us all to get together and spend time in the nursery getting to know everyone ,without it being a rush on a normal nursery working day. Parents left some very kind comments in our quality monitoring book. Some have been quoted below.

"Great day, it was good to spend time in nursery to appreciate the facilities and meet the staff when not rushing to get to work/home. My child is very happy at nursery, Doing this on a Saturday is a good idea, and if you do something like this again I will do the BBQ!"

“Hi, just want to say thanks for arranging a lovely fun day! It was exactly what it said on the tin – FUN!, especially the ball pool and bouncy castle! Glad some money was raised too. It was well organised and well staffed, a good opportunity to chat in a relaxed environment and get to know other parents. When's the next one?”

“What a real treat for the kids, an event full of varied entertainment and refreshments with clear care taken to include all ages. All three of my children thoroughly enjoyed and were excited by the fun day, which was well supported by all staff who work at Little Cherubs. Many thanks to all those who helped and facilitated the fun-day it was a great success and much credit to the continued high standard of work that Little Cherubs provides.”

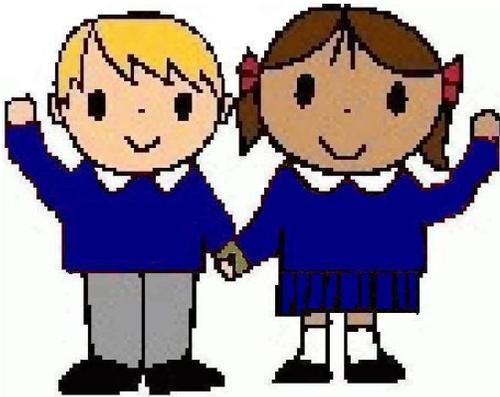
“A really super fun-day – very well organised – great activities – loved the glitter tattoos. So good to see such a lovely turnout – clearly a sign of lots of happy kids and parents. Here's to another 10 years!”

Self service

Over the past two months the children in our pre-school age-group have been trialling self service. When it comes to snacks and meals children have been given the opportunity to help themselves, staff have been ensuring portion control is maintained but children have thoroughly enjoyed helping themselves a choice of breakfast cereals, dried fruit and toast and also helping to dish out certain meals, snacks and dessert. This has been thoroughly successful



School transitions



This year our pre-school age group have had been trialling a new topic based on school, we have decided that it is important for the children to discuss the different aspects involved in going to school to help gear them up ready for such as big step. The children have been discussing, which school they will be attending, looking at the different school uniforms, taking about packed lunches and school dinners, teachers and dinner ladies, play-time, learning to read write, being able to identify letters and recognise their own names. Staff have also been assessing the children and planning activities to help ensure that all children are ready and have the independence needed., i.e. practicing putting own shoes and coats on, hanging up coats on pegs, lining up, toileting independently and following good hygiene such as washing hands after toilets and before meals. The nursery also organised a special parents evening event for parents, which was held on a Saturday during our fun-day for parents to attend just before their child went off to school so parents could discuss schooling and staff could give advice about how to help prepare their child, such as allowing them to have a go at opening food packaging ready for when they have packed lunches and practising getting dressed and un-dressed so they will be able to put own P.E kit on, and practising puts shoes on for themselves and perhaps doing some letter work at home..

We will be asking parents for some input, for ideas as t how else we will be able to help with the school transition in the future, as it is a big step for both children and parents when their child starts full-time school.

Looking forward to 2013

Over the next year we will be continuing with our quality monitoring all over the nursery and staff will be trialling new ideas with the children to quality monitor the activities on offer and nursery life in general. We will be devising a new table showing all our new quality monitoring ideas for 2013 which we will be using in the different age-groups. If you have any ideas we would love to hear them. We hope you enjoyed reading this report and it has given you an insight into how we quality monitor within the different age-groups.

Caterpillars

We have had baby caterpillars delivered this week, so look out for more information on this, we will keep you informed of their progress over the next couple of weeks



Quality Improvement

"Robust and consistent reflective practice and evaluation techniques ensure all children thrive. This is because wider processes of self-evaluation are fully embedded. A culture of reflective practice cascades through every aspect of the provision. For example, targeted activities are evaluated meaningfully, and there is a working planning board where team members contribute to an overall daily evaluation of what has taken place. This ensures there is constant team reflection on the quality of provision for children. This excellent, evaluation practice includes the views of parents, through regular feedback questionnaires, and children, through observation, discussion and smiley face plates. Children confidently talk about what they like best about their setting. In addition the management team drive improvement through regular monitoring and evaluation systems, such as the 'Reflecting on Quality' procedure which enables appropriate targets for further improvement to be identified"

Quotes from parents

Here are some lovely quotes we have received from parents over the past year, thank-you for all the parents who have taken the time to send over such kind comments.

"Little Cherubs has more than exceeded our expectations, I know my child gets so much out of nursery and is happy. Keep up the good work!"

"The girls are lovely and my child has obviously quickly bonded with the girls, they really helped during his settling in sessions and I was reassured when leaving him"

"We looked around a couple of nurseries prior to Little Cherubs. As soon as I walked in for a look around I knew it was right! Always trust your gut feelings!"

"I have nothing but praise for the nursery and would like to thank you all for doing a brilliant job constantly"

"Lovely garden, seems frequently used, even in the winter months, getting good use from the wellies!"

"Good staff, friendly, reliable and fun. Great outdoor space and good sized, well laid indoor space. Very happy with the service provided – thanks!"

[Quotes from Children \(From section 5 – Children's quality monitoring - From Parents Questionnaire March 2012\)](#)

"I love painting, Lego & making cakes"

"I like reading books and playing with my friends"

"My favourite thing to do at nursery is dressing up"

"I love drawing"

"I love eating and the messy play"

"I like to dress up, and make rice krispie cakes"

"I love playing in the garden with my friends"