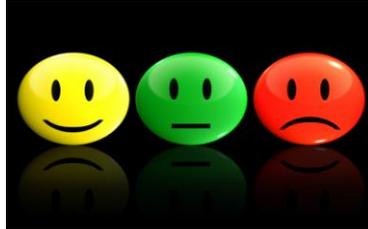


Little Cherubs Children's Report - September 2014



What's been taking place at Little Cherubs over the last year, since our last children's report:-

Oct 2013

Physical and Active Play Policy devised and was added to nursery policy's and procedures, questionnaire results were compiled and sent out to parents on children's nutrition at nursery – results for nursery were very good, parents were extremely happy with quality of food and drinks on offer, a fruit basket was given out from a prize draw as a thank you.

Nov 2013

Resources were put together from British Heart foundation on importance of physical play and activity ideas for all groups to carry on using. Resources readily available for parents to borrow to encourage them to stay active at home and give them new ideas (change for life, busy feet, food and active play & adventures in food land also available for parents use and continue to be used by staff in monthly planning)

Dec 2013

New, no birthday cake rule (under chasps guidelines), new birthday routine for all groups to follow using the birthday box.

Completed year 1 of chasp's criteria – see scrap books in foyer. Started a book loan scheme to children, monthly yoga sessions started with Rachel, which will continue throughout the year for the 2-3yrs and 3-5yrs.

Jan 2014

New hand over Key-worker sheets devised, for every child when they move groups. Gold award received from Design to smile. Homework for children's circle time discussed with parents in newsletter, keep them informed.

Feb 2014

Additional staff attended training on the cook bus, bringing fresh ideas to the nursery, using Charlie chef with

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healthy cookery activities, staff making a scrap book of the new recipes trialled with photo's from cookery sessions around the nursery.

March 2014

NDNA – Healthy body, happy me week- Week full of fun activities under this topic and ideas for at home activities

Parent questionnaire sent out for quality monitoring purposes – feedback from parents and ideas to get them involved in nursery life. Report was then drawn up with result, and an action plan was drawn up with dates of when actions must be completed and by whom.

April 2014

Children's pottery session planned. Children learnt about Indian heritage when Isla's grandma came to visit :) Children participated in planned activities to celebrate and learn about (sports relief, earth day, international dance day, National garden week) More circle time sessions introduced in downstairs groups particularly our 3-5yrs age group, following on from parents involvement in homework activities also included in this. Equipment purchased – dolls house and furniture, wooden train track, play food, aeroplanes, cars and mat.

May 2014

Beep Beep day celebrated, Special visit from the road safety lady, family week celebrated, Activities planned around "all about me". Children participated in activities planned around international day of families, and national smile month.

June 2014

Nappy areas up-dated with new mobiles and visual aids to brighten up areas

Outdoor area regenerated – new pathing laid, new planting schemes all garden updated and re-newed.

Gained an award from chasps and attended a presentation evening

Circle time introduced in the 2-5 years groups with guidance and literature and an emphasis on emotional well being.

July 2014

Happiness day, Healthy eating week, Falconry visit, promoting sun safety in the nursery. New photocopier, out-door sand pit enclosure made, new sand added.

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Family fun Day organised for staff, parents and children, chance for the family to come along and have fun in the nursery setting together, chance for parents to chat to staff etc to discuss child's development. Fun was had by all with fantastic weather!

Aug 2014

New equipment purchased for 1-2yrs, tents, tunnels, book rack, bunting.

Lovely parents comments added to netmums (quotes from these are detailed at the end of this report)

Additional equipment purchased over the last year – following on from email to [parents to vote for what they would like to see

Balance bikes, scooters, basket ball, goal posts, tuff tray and stand, items for supporting literacy, clip boards, weaving sets, Perspex outdoor writing boards, chinks, literacy idea book, games, large bug house for the garden.

New report sheet introduced to gain feedback on parents and children's feelings on the assessment that children receive when moving groups.

Looking back over the last year, what we have been doing and will be continuing

- Self service of breakfast is continuing in our 3-5yrs, and is currently in motion in our 2-3yrs but on a slightly different scale.
- Drinking water readily available in all groups
- Water bottles are continuing to be used in our 3-5yrs
- All activities are continually being evaluated
- Staff training on going for new fresh ideas
- Children given freedom of choice during day of what they would like to do
- Children given chance to evaluate activities through various methods of quality monitoring
- Monthly Dance, football and yoga sessions continued throughout the year.
- Design to smile continuing

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- Easter pottery
- Visits from zoo labs and falconry
- Soft play hired
- Children given the choice of entertainment for leavers party
- Action plans set up from last children's report, parent questionnaire and staff questionnaire all actions either already met or ongoing
- Parent homework photo boards to give children a sense of belonging and familiarity.

Evaluation reports of children's activities.

Evaluation allows staff to make judgement based on evidence of whether something has worked and allows us to constantly improve what we do and what we offer the children. Evidence can be derived from a range of sources. One of the main sources in childcare setting is observation. Self-evaluation is also widely used around the nursery which involves staff asking key questions about how good the experiences being offered are and if there are ways of improving these for the benefit of the children and their families. Other staff members and supervisors often evaluate staff in an objective way and provide feedback based on fact. Most importantly the children are involved in the evaluation process and are often consulted with staff asking them how they enjoyed an activity or whether they thought they had been provided the right materials or equipment.

Below are some examples of the evaluations made after planned activities in the different groups around the nursery and will give you an insight of the type of activities on offer.

0- 14 months (butterfly Group)

Activity – Beans Play

The babies were all sat in their low chairs with aprons on for the activity, beans were placed in trays in front of them with plastic stampers and pieces of lego, all children on the day were able to participate (due to age), the babies practised co-ordination and explored using their senses – touch and smell and taste, picking up the plastic stampers, lego pieces and the beans. All the children tried the activity but to varying levels some just poked the beans others were happier to get really mucky exploring the beans with touch and taste, squishing them in their pincer grasp and using fine motor skills. Staff observed the children throughout the activity making observations of the babies smiling, laughing, engaged and happy, others were reluctant to touch the

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beans, had minimal contact, toys thrown on the floor. Staff commented on the evaluation that spoon could be trialled next time the activity was planned to practise their scooping skills. Overall the activity was a success.

Photographic evidence was taken during the activity.



14 months – 2 years

Activity – Cheese and tomato wheels

Staff planned the activity to make cheese and tomato wheels, the children had been learning about transport and the cheese wheels stemmed from the “Wheel on the bus”, the children sat and sang the song as the one staff member put the ingredients on the large table the children were sat around. Staff helped the children roll out the ready made puff pastry and cut into a rectangle shapes, the children were then encouraged to spread on a tomato toppings and sprinkle on grated cheese. Staff then helped the children roll up the pastry and cut down the rolled up pastry into circles. Staff communicated with children throughout asking them questions about the ingredients, discussing colours and shapes of the wheels and giving instructions. Observations were made by staff throughout the activity of the children being willing to participate, chattering and interacting, the children enjoyed joining in with singing of the “wheels on the bus” doing lots of the hand actions. Staff completed on the evaluation that the children favourite part was picking up the grated cheese and taking turns of sprinkling it and having a taste too!



2-3 years

Activity - Play-dough Fish

Before the activity took place, staff had provisionally made three different colours of play-dough, children were split into groups of four and took turns in their small groups to take part in the activity. Staff chatted with the children about fish, as they had been learning about them as part of their topic work. The gold fish was brought in for the activity in its tank and the children were able to watch the fish swimming around the tank. The children were encouraged to make a fish from their chosen colour of play-dough and given a variety of utensils to assist them. While the activity took place songs and rhymes were sung about fish "one, two, three, four, five once I caught a fish alive" "fishy in the water, fishy in the sea" Staff made observations as the activity took place, staff ensured plenty of language opportunities were available asking open ended questions, discussing colours and the shapes children were making and about fish in general, where they live, the different coloured fish, big fish and small fish in the ocean. Staff commented on the evaluation that the activity went well and children had enjoyed the activity as a whole, but that next time the activity could be broadened to different types of fish as the children enjoyed talking about sharks and dolphins. Staff could also

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have the plastic sea creature fish available for the children to base their models on and play with during the activity.



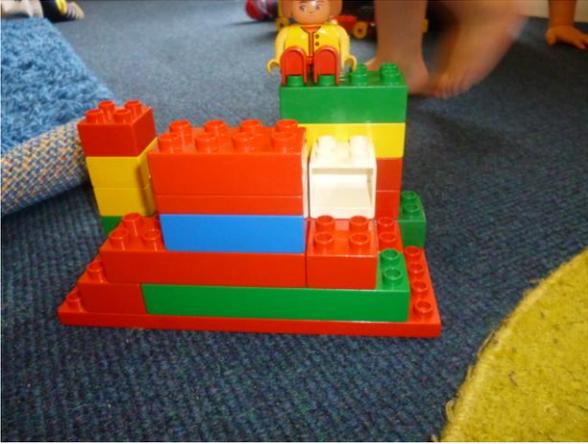
3-5years

Activity – Photo Day

The children celebrated National photo Day throughout the day, the activity was not just planned for a set period but continued as the children went throughout the day. The nursery camera and the chrome laptop were available throughout the day for use by the children to take their own photographs of things of interest to them. The activity started with circle time where photographs were discussed and the children were told about the activity and were all showed how to use the camera and laptop to take photo's. The children were split into small groups and were able to go where they wished with the nursery camera and were escorted by a member of staff, meanwhile the other children in the play-room had access to the laptop and were busy taking selfie's. All children got a chance of being in a small group and taking photo's with the camera and using the laptop while in the play-room. The camera was readily available along with the laptop throughout the day for the children to come back too as and when they wished. The children lead the activity and staff escorted them to different areas asking them about the photo's they were taking. There were excellent language opportunities throughout the day and good sharing skills were used by all. The children had particular fun taking group photos of themselves from the laptop and looking back at the previous photo's they had taken. The photo's were printed out on a wall display and were used in the children's profile books. Staff commented that the activity was really successful and the photo's taken were really good and meaningful to the children. Staff commented that this activity could have been extended to add a circle session at the day of the day to show off the printed out photo's to one another to extend language

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opportunities and listening skills. Staff also commented that this would be good for quality monitoring as the children could be asked to take photos of things they like and dislike about nursery.



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As From October we have decided we will changing the way in which staff evaluate the activities on offer and instead of choosing a handful of activities each month and writing evaluations on them singularly, staff will be evaluating together as a group in the same way as they brainstorm, using an A3 sheet of paper and will be evaluating the month as a whole, looking at the topic itself, was this a good choice? What the children got out the topic?, the quality of the activities on offer - (ones which worked well and ones which didn't and why), how they could have been improved (happy and sad faces written on planning sheets daily, jotting down [positives and negatives) adding a section for children's feedback and parents. Whether learning outcomes had been achieved, what still needs to be worked on, new ideas which have stemmed from that months activities and improvements that need to be made.

Looking forward to next year (October 2014 – August 2015)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (U.N.C.R.C)

Staff will continue to ensure that they are following the guidelines set out by the U.N.C.R.C. It has been put in place to benefit all children. It is our job as adults to make sure that it happens. All staff within the nursery are aware of the U.N.C.R.C and we have drawn up our own nursery Policy. Staff will be incorporating this into daily life at nursery.

Within the 2-3yrs & 3-5yrs age groups, staff will be discussing certain points during circle time sessions and ensuring they are aware of their rights and that they have a voice. Booklets will be completed with the children about their rights, and varies other activities will be planned. (you should have a home, and a name, have friends, you can tell grown ups what thing's you don't like, and what you do like, You should be kept safe, and be looked after when you are poorly, you should have the chance to learn, and be able to play)

Here are some useful websites if you would like any further information

<http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/default.aspx>

Welsh Assembly Government children's rights website

<http://www.childcom.org.uk/>

Children's Commissioner for Wales

<http://www.un.org/en/>

United Nations

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Wish lists

Staff within their groups have got together and drawn up wish lists for their own individual areas of the things which they would really like for their groups and ideas of new equipment which the children would like (The children in the downstairs groups were also consulted in this), these were put in order of importance to them. We will be looking at the nursery budget for 2015 and then hope to start purchasing some items from each group's wish lists. New carpets for all areas appear high up on all group's lists so we plan to re-place these in all areas over the following year. We also aim to add new blinds to the front play-room upstairs to match the downstairs groups. We will keep parents informed in the monthly newsletters.

Staff Workshops

Staff will be continuing with their training, including all the statutory courses, but due to many of staff having already attended the majority of additional training on offer we have decided to now offer in house training workshops which management will be planning around the staff and children to offer staff to learn new skills, a chance for more team building and give the staff support and help with activity planning.

Rhyme sessions

Rhyme sessions, will be introduced in the baby unit by Lisa when she starts her role as maternity cover group leader. Lisa will plan weekly rhyme sessions using the tap tap box and other recourses she has gathered. Lisa will support the 1-2 year group in also carrying out weekly rhyme sessions.

Management Meetings

Management meetings will be held regularly throughout the year on top of the planned staff meetings, all group leaders will be involved in the meetings, group leader meetings will then be held to re-lay information to all staff.

Management will also be carrying out observations around the nursery and findings will be discussed during these meeting to improve practice and praise good practise.

Quality Monitoring

Quality monitoring will be continuing on from last year, with staff continuing on with plenty of planned circle time sessions, evaluating the activities on offer with the children whenever possible with staff trialling new ideas to do this. Children will also be involved with the planning process and have a chance to choose what equipment they would like to use for an activity or do at set times of the day, there will be a strong mixture of both child led activities and adult led. The 3-5yrs will be devising some new group rules, using the camera to take photos of things they like and dislike, trialling the pebbles in the jar to say whether or not they had enjoyed the activity on offer.

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Groups will be evaluating the monthly planning as a whole, and won't be just evaluating the activities on offer, but looking at the suitability of the topic, looking at the learning outcomes, what worked and what didn't, how to expand the topic next time.

Home-work will be continuing, to ensure parents are involved with their child's learning and for the children to bring in and discuss in their groups during circle time sessions.

To end this report we have added some lovely quality monitoring comments which parents have kindly posted on the Netmums site over the last few months. We really do appreciate all the lovely comments we receive, we all love the job we do here at Little Cherubs, but hearing such lovely comments makes the work we do even more worth while 😊

"I was recommended little cherubs by a friend I met in playgroup and I'm so glad I listened to her. My son started when he was 6 months old and he loves it. He is a real mummy's boy but when I drop him off he can't wait to go to his key worker and play with the other babies. I am always well informed about the day and there is a good mix of free play and structured activities even in the baby unit. The facilities are excellent. The staff are lovely and friendly. They take the time to get to know each child."

"My son started at Little Cherubs when he was 6 months old, he is now 2 and a half. My daughter recently started attending at the age of 3 months. My expectations of the nursery have been exceeded and I am thrilled with the level of care and attention my children receive. I am confident that they are well looked after, safe and happy and I never worry otherwise. The nursery is always clean and cosy, the staff are all friendly and welcoming and they always bend over backwards to accommodate any requests for extra/change of sessions. I am so pleased that I chose Little Cherubs and I can't speak highly enough of the establishment and their staff."

"I can not rate this nursery highly enough. My son is 2 1/2 and was going full time from 9 months. The staff are so kind and experienced that it made leaving him every day that much easier. The communication with parents is excellent and each day is always structured with learning through play. My 4 month old is already registered to start full time when I go back to work and I always recommend them to anyone that needs Childcare."

"My daughter has been attending the crèche since she was 9mths old and thoroughly enjoys her time and bonds very well with each of her key workers. My son previously attended the crèche before going onto school and several members of staff are still working at the crèche so I have built great relationships with the team. Staff undertake activities with my children that unfortunately being a working mum I often don't get the time to do. I would be lost without Little Cherubs and will be sad when my daughter leaves for school and my link with the crèche will end"

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"My daughter has attended the nursery for the best part of a year and she absolutely loves it. Her confidence has grown tremendously. Her development came on in leaps and bounds as soon as she started attending. I viewed a few nurseries but I was totally set on this one. I love the size of the garden and the outdoor play that's available to the children. I also loved the staff. They are so warm and welcoming. They made my daughter feel very comfortable and at ease with spending so much time away from me which is something she wasn't used to. I always receive thorough reports and if I have any queries, the staff are always quick to assist. I have received great support and advice from the staff as a new mum. I would definitely recommend".

"My daughter has been going to Little Cherubs for 4 years. I would highly recommend the nursery all the staff are professional and the children have a wonderful range of activities, for example they do pottery, dancing and cooking. My daughter loves the garden which they are involved in helping to maintain by planting and watering. The staff are very helpful and are always happy to help with any concerns. I have a professional job which I am unable to be worrying if my daughter is happy and from day 1 my daughter has always been happy at this nursery and I do not worry about her when I am working as I know she is in very safe hands and an extremely happy environment."

"We're so glad we chose Little Cherubs! Our daughter has been going for a year and a half and she loves it! The staff are professional, friendly, open and offer good advice when needed. Communication is great: we get regular newsletters and emails with updates and info. They take part in lots of different activities both indoor and out; walks to the park, football in the (lovely big and well equipped) garden, craft play, cooking, imaginary play, story time to name a few! We'd definitely recommend Little Cherubs to anyone looking for a good quality nursery in this area".

"Little Cherubs is truly a fantastic nursery with a homely, nurturing and educational feel all in one. From the day my son started the staff made us all feel really relaxed and welcome and this paid off with him settling really quickly. The staff are very approachable and always available to talk to you about anything you may want to discuss. The facilities are great including a fantastic garden and the children are taken out on walks and trips to the park etc. They also have visits from other organisations including dance, football classes and zoo lab. It's really varied and active. People told me you will know when you find the right nursery for your child and they were certainly right-I would recommend Little Cherubs every time and will be sad when my son leaves"

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"I would highly recommend Little Cherubs for its professional child care provision. The nursery is a friendly, vibrant place to be and my little boy loves it. They offer a wide variety of activities each week, the staff are flexible to ensure every child is happy and settled, they make it easy for you to leave your child and go to work. They also have a fantastic garden which the children use regularly. The communication received from little cherubs is frequent, up to date and informative; they really are an excellent child care provider."

"My little boy has been going to this nursery since February and I couldn't be happier with it. The staff in the baby room were fantastic and made the difficult task of leaving him so much easier. The staff are all so friendly and helpful. He is now in the older group and is enjoying their amazing garden and pirate ship. The nursery was recommended to me by a friend and I am so pleased that my son is there. I have recommended it to several other Mums."

We will be continuing with the monthly newsletter to keep all parents / carers involved in all aspects of nursery life and will often be asking for feedback on various matters, we would be grateful for all your continued support with this to help us strive to make Little Cherubs a very happy place for everyone who comes here, making nursery life fun packed and a happy memory and give all children who attend the best first stepping stone to a positive education and make them confident and happy individuals.

Conclusion

The children who attend Little Cherubs enjoy and are actively involved in learning through play. They are fully engaged, highly motivated and interact well during activities. At nursery activities are planned to sustain children's interest, help them make decisions, solve problems and develop independence. Children can plan and initiate their learning experiences. They exercise choice and take increasing responsibility for their own learning. Our children are treated with quality, fairness and respect. At nursery we use imaginative and appropriate methods to ask children about their learning and the activities on offer. Our staff listen to children and act upon their views and interests. Children feel successful and are confident, they feel valued, safe and secure.