

Reflective Practice drives quality childcare

March 2016

Ofsted
Outstanding
Early years provider
2014/2015

www.elmscot.co.uk



Over the last two years, the teams at Elmscot, Hale and Woodlands Day Nurseries (soon to be followed by Broussa) have taken part in an accreditation scheme by the Pre-school Learning Alliance, the largest early years membership organisation in England. The scheme, Reflecting on Quality, supports the team in evaluating how well the services they provide meet the needs of children, families and wider community; the scheme was recognised by the Department of Education as invaluable.

The teams began by choosing an area of practice to evaluate and gathered evidence and ideas for new initiatives. Many features that have been implemented as part of the accreditation are continued in our daily practice, such as parent graffiti walls, methods in which we listen to children's voices and the way we respond to children's interests.

Elmscot's case study focused on the activity planning format which has changed so parents will see more observations and photos within their child's Learning Journey. As well as gathering evidence, the team held an 'ideas shower' to obtain staff feedback and trialed the new approach to assess how children responded. The reflection process they developed is now used across the Elmscot Group.

The team at Hale chose to evaluate their outdoor area for enhancements they could introduce so that all age groups were provided for. A new baby garden (pictured above) was developed with age appropriate resources and baskets with herbs providing various sensory experiences. Furthermore, it was observed that children showed a great interest in the indoor construction areas: therefore a construction area was developed so that the children can explore on a larger scale, as well as the introduction of loose parts giving the children an opportunity to build with tyres, crates, pallets, pipes etc.

At Woodlands, the case study focused on strengthening parent partnerships and looked at different methods that are used to gather feedback from parents on their children efficiently, as a way of acknowledging that parents are children's first and long-lasting educators. The team introduced 'Wow Moments' boards so that parents can share their children's proud achievements, and 'Child's Interests' sheets so that the team could ensure that children's interests from home are incorporated in the nursery planning. Parent Support Bags were also enhanced to support parents at home and included topics such as toilet training, bereavement, self-care, maths etc.

All settings passed with flying colours and the PLA assessor was extremely complimentary on our strong practice and positive approach to reflecting on practice, as well as the team's general positive attitude and enthusiasm. The team at Broussa are very much looking forward to starting their accreditation soon and are already thinking of topics for their case study.

forthcoming events

- ☉ **St David's Day: March 1st - All Nurseries**
Children will be exploring and painting daffodils to mark the occasion.
- ☉ **World Book Day: March 3rd - All Nurseries**
A fun opportunity for children to dress up as their favourite book character or bring in a teddy character.
- ☉ **Yellow Friday: March 4th - Elmscot**
Children can be bright and colourful and dress in yellow today to raise awareness of liver disease in children.
- ☉ **Mother's Day: March 7th - Hale & Woodlands March 3rd - Elmscot & Broussa**
We invite all our mothers to enjoy a tea party with their children.
- ☉ **Living Eggs Scheme: March 14th - All pre-school children.**
A fantastic opportunity to experience real chicks hatching in front of our very eyes. Children will learn about life cycles and how to handle and care for the chicks.
- ☉ **St Patrick's Day: March 17th - All Nurseries**
Children will be having fun dressing up, listening to traditional Irish music and taking part in St Patrick's themed craft activities.
- ☉ **World Down's Syndrome Day: March 21st - Elmscot**
Children are invited to wear silly socks whilst learning about the values of diversity and inclusion.
- ☉ **Easter: March 24th - All Nurseries**
Children will be taking part in an Easter Bonnet parade, Easter Egg hunts and maybe a visit from the Easter Bunny!
- ☉ **Wear a Hat Day: March 24th - All Nurseries**
Children are asked to wear a hat to nursery today in aid of The Children's Brain Tumour Charity.
- ☉ **National Pet Day: April 11th - All Nurseries**
Children are invited to bring in photographs of their pets or favourite animals. Children will learn about these animals, their diets and how to care for them.
- ☉ **St George's Day: April 22nd - All Nurseries**
All nurseries will take part in a fun filled day of St George themed activities and games. They can even come in dressed in red for the occasion.
- ☉ **Shakespeare Day: April 25th - All Nurseries**
Children can listen to some Shakespeare works during circle time and learn about how our language has changed over many years. Pre school children can try writing their name with a feather quill.
- ☉ **May Day: May 3rd - All Nurseries**
Children can have fun all day long maypole dancing and taking part in garden games.
- ☉ **International Families Day: May 16th - All Nurseries**
Children can bring in pictures of their families and paint portraits.

Quarterly update for parents at Broussa, Elmscot, Hale and Woodlands

Tommy Conway Bell of Broussa is enjoying making marks and patterns with paint.



Our Nursery Gallery...



Joshua from Hedgehogs at Hale is exploring the mud kitchen through a magnifying glass.



The children from the Badger room at Hale are practising their gardening skills in their allotment area.



Ava at Elmscot decorates a heart for Valentines Day.



The children in Otter room at Woodlands are learning about visual impairment. They had an opportunity to use a braille machine and a braille doll that's used to teach blind children the alphabet.



Here is Lizzie using fine motor skills to pick up cotton wool balls at Broussa



Here, Erin and Everly from the Rabbit room at Hale are having fun getting messy in the shaving foam.



Children at Woodlands re-enacted the story of 'We're going on a bear hunt' at Broomwood Forest. They found an enormous bear hiding in the trees!



In the squirrel room Bradley from Hale is learning how to care for babies.

Lewis and others in Oak make structures of their bodies to compare sizes.



Alex from Broussa is enjoying a Forest School outing.

The children in Hedgehogs at Woodlands celebrated Chinese New Year by making their own dragon to dance with.



Jayden enjoys the pictures and sounds of a book in the book area at Broussa.



Saoirse at Broussa is enjoying mark making with bubble wrap.



The children from Hale's Owl room made Australian flags and didgeridoos for Australia Day.

NURSERY Development

In December, Hale underwent a mock Ofsted inspection conducted by an inspector from the National Day Nurseries Association so that the team were able to have a 'practice run' before the real inspection which is due imminently.

The team very proudly showed off all the wonderful things that they do in their rooms, displayed great confidence when talking about how we promote British Values, safeguarding, diverse cultures etc. within the nursery and explained how we support each individual child in making progress and developing in all areas of learning. The inspector was full of positive feedback about our practice and we got graded as 'Outstanding' which gave the team a great boost of confidence and reassurance.

Broussa has undergone some big redevelopments over the last few weeks. The first being the installation of another state of the art children's bathroom. We can't wait for the children to see it and start using it. The central heating system has also been replaced and new radiators fitted. This now makes Broussa more energy efficient and our playrooms warmer and cosier. Thank you to all the parents for your patience during these ongoing renovations. The garden is next!

Elmscot parents will have noticed that the painting of the nursery play rooms is now complete including the bathrooms, kitchen and staff room. Elmscot now feels bright and fresh once more!

SCHOOL'S OUT

Holiday Clubs

Outstanding childcare for children aged 3-11

"Busy kids, happy kids!"

Easter 2016: 29 March - 15 April
Whit Half-term 2016: 23 May - 10 June

Holiday Clubs located at:
 Bollin Primary School, Bowdon
 Cloverlea Primary School, Timperley





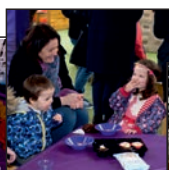
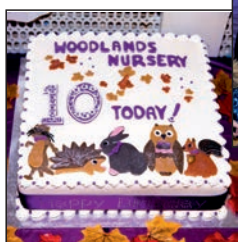

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WOODLANDS 10TH BIRTHDAY!

"On Saturday 6th February we celebrated 10 years since opening our second setting, Woodlands. Those 10 years have flown by and we are proud to still have some staff members with us who have been here from the very beginning. To celebrate this milestone we threw a party at Woodlands and we would like to thank everybody who attended these celebrations. It was a fantastic turnout, despite the weather! It was lovely to see so many past and present staff, parents and children all together celebrating our achievements!

Over the last 10 years we have won numerous national awards including Early Years Teacher of the Year and Best Nursery Chef for our outstanding food provision; we have gained Ofsted Outstanding status, been awarded certificates for childcare quality initiatives such as the Preschool Learning Alliance, as well as Trafford's Healthy Setting and Inclusion awards. We couldn't have done this without our amazing team of practitioners, whose own personal development and training is paramount to the high standard of service of which we are so proud.



EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA curricular value ordinary

Free extra-curricular sessions run by specialist professionals

Choose from Italian or Spanish	Woodlands, Fri (Owls)	Children develop their knowledge and understanding of the world as they become aware of other languages.
JittaBugs Baby Sign & Play	Woodlands, Thurs AM (0-2s) Hale, Tues AM (0-2s)	Jittabugs explore the baby's senses including touch, vision, sound and smell using bubbles, mirrors, scarves, feathers, parachutes, balls, fabrics, puppets, musical instruments & more.
pyjama drama	Elmscot, Weds AM (Willow & Maple), Tues PM (Oak)	Pyjama Drama provides unique drama based classes for babies, toddlers and young children.
Stretch n' Grow	Broussa, Fri AM (2-5s) Hale, Thurs PM (2-5s) Elmscot, Mon PM (2-5s)	At Stretch 'n' Grow, children learn about how their bodies work, whilst joining in fun physical activities.
Tricks & Flicks	Woodlands, Mon PM	Tricks & Flicks sessions are aimed to develop children's co-ordination, awareness and skills such as dribbling, control passing and shooting.
FOREST SCHOOL	Broussa, Thurs PM (3-5s) Elmscot, Tues AM (3-5s) Hale, Tues AM (3-5s) Woodlands, Thurs AM (3-5s)	Hands-on learning outside the classroom in a wild natural environment promotes healthy child development including confidence and self-esteem; communication and language; physical development; motivation and concentration; citizenship and creativity.



And finally, last but not least, we could not have done it without the support from our amazing families! We are so lucky to have seen so many wonderful children and families grow over the years and we are so excited for what the next 10 years will bring!"

Stacey Child, Woodlands' Nursery Manager

team training

Members of the Nursery teams have attended the following training since December 2015:

- ©Equality & Diversity: Emma B, Chelsea, Jade, Mrs Bellis, Sue B, Emma, Amy, Parveen, Holly, Jenny P, Chelsea, Natalie, Alyson, Miss O'Connor
- ©Maths Training: Joy, entire Hale team
- ©Safeguarding Level 1: Danielle, Clair J, Sadie, Jade, Lucy, Jenny C, Holly, Jennie P, Antonia, Natalie, Alyson
- ©Prevent Duty: Victoria, Amy D, Amy G, Parveen, Sarah P, Louise
- ©First Aid: Verity, Harriet, Laura, Alex, Holly, Jenny P, Natalie, Alyson
- ©Food Hygiene: Sarah P, Louise, Amy G, Amy D, Hannah, Margriet, Holly, Chelsea
- ©Health & Safety: Harriet, Chelsea, Alyson
- ©Safer Working Practices: Louise, Alex, Lucy, Jenny C, Chelsea, Natalie, Alyson
- ©Risk Assessments: Louise, Harriet, Chelsea, Alyson
- ©NVQ Level 2: Antonia
- ©Coaching and Mentoring: Sarah P, Jess, Rachael, Vicky

Fundraising & Charity Events

Elmscot Day Nursery has been fundraising for various charities including the British Heart Foundation, Sunny Day's Children's Fund and the Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT) and has raised £180 for these causes - thank you for supporting them.

Towards the end of last year, the Elmscot Group as a whole ran a joint outreach scheme with CAFT: their practitioner came in to our nurseries and clubs to talk to preschool and older children about how they support children with disabilities or who are disadvantaged by giving them a holiday of a lifetime - assisted by the new CAFT Dinki Duck storybook! This benefited our children as they learned about inclusion and diversity and the world around them, and in return we raised £790 for CAFT - thank you so much to parents who supported this joint activity.



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