

Aims of Denny Nursery

FALKIRK COUNCIL
Education Services

At Denny Nursery we aim to provide a quality service for the local community by enabling children to develop into:

Successful Learners

1. To provide appropriate challenging experiences which will enable children to develop effective communication, literacy, numeracy and thinking skills.
2. To provide an environment where children are enabled to use ICT resources with increasing skill and confidence, to further develop their learning.
3. To provide all children with the opportunity to participate in the evaluation, planning and assessment of their own learning.
4. To provide a safe, stimulating, active learning environment where children are encouraged to acquire knowledge, understanding and an enthusiasm for learning.

Confident Individuals

5. To enable all children to become confident individuals with a sense of physical, mental and emotional well being and to pursue a healthy active lifestyle.
6. To develop the self esteem of children and to encourage a sense of belonging for children and their families.
7. To recognise and celebrate the achievements of all children and staff.

Responsible Citizens

8. To help children to develop self awareness and respect for others and their place within the wider world.
9. To enable all children to participate in the care and development of the nursery environment and resources.
10. To develop partnerships between the nursery, families, local schools, local community and outside agencies.

Effective Contributors

11. To encourage creativity and an enterprising attitude.
12. To ensure equal opportunities for all children to have their needs met and their potential developed by a caring staff team.
13. To provide all staff with opportunities to continue to develop their knowledge, expertise and skills.
14. To encourage all staff to work as a team and to provide opportunities for staff to take forward aspects of the development of the nursery.
15. To ensure that promoted staff provide high quality leadership, management and support.

These aims should be seen in the context of Learning to Achieve, Falkirk Council's strategy for raising achievement.

Denny Nursery provides pre-school education and care for 84 fulltime equivalent children from 2-5 years of age between the hours of 8.00 am and 6.00pm.

Denny Nursery

Standards & Quality Report Session 2008/09

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you probably know, each year the government and the Council publish information designed to show how well schools and local authorities are improving year on year.

We in Denny Nursery also like to keep our parents and the local community informed of the work we are doing with children. This leaflet has been designed to do just that. It is our "Standards and Quality Report" for session 2008/09.

Inside, you will find a brief description of the main things we achieved last session and our priorities for next session. Whilst we do many things in the course of a year, we have focused on what we consider to be the three most important areas.

We hope you find the leaflet helpful. If you have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to contact the nursery and we will be pleased to offer clarification.

Susan Douglas
Headteacher

Gill Torrance
Manager



What we achieved in 2008/09

*We were delighted to receive our Green Flag last session and many thanks go to Gillian Hall (Senior Early Years Officer) and the Eco Group and the children in the Eco Crew who took a lead role in this achievement. Both Gillian and Lisa McConnachie (SEYO) recently lead a seminar on 'Good Practice in Citizenship' at a Learning and Teaching Scotland Conference. Lisa has been invited to present at an HMLe conference in August with Aileen McLean, Quality Improvement Manager to share our work on the 'Pathways to Numeracy' pilot. Our very positive care Commission Inspection in which we achieved excellent in all areas inspected, confirmed that distributed leadership is evident and that staff had opportunities to express views and take forward initiatives.

*Staff attended very successful training on Falkirk's Literacy Strategy on the August In-Service day. All staff participated enthusiastically and showed commitment to taking forward the development of children's literacy skills in the coming session. A successful development has been the creation of a Literacy area which is an extension of the drawing/writing area and the lending library and includes a Literacy Wall, where children are encouraged to display their work. New resources including outdoor number and letter games and activities have been purchased. The home lending schemes of library books, story sacks and lion bags are proving to be well used by families this session, supporting home/school learning.

* Staff have attended appropriate training to gain further understanding of strategies to extend children's learning through play. Staff continue to ensure that Numeracy is evident throughout the nursery, indoors and outside. Further changes to areas and use of spaces will be implemented when the new layout of the nursery is completed. The nursery was invited to take part in Learning and Teaching Scotland 'Pathways to Numeracy' pilot. In partnership with Denny Primary School our focus has been to 'Create number sequences and describe order.' Staff have contributed enthusiastically to the pilot and from observations of practice, children's profiles and planning formats; it is evident that children are developing increasing understanding of early mathematics. We will continue to monitor the quality of staff interactions and provide training opportunities to ensure staff are effectively supporting children's mathematical development.

*A working group was formed with Denny Primary to review existing transition arrangements between nursery and P1 and to look at ways of enhancing the experience for staff and children. Staff from both settings had attended 'Continuity and Progression through Active Learning' training, organised by Falkirk Council. The training aimed to ensure appropriate challenging experiences for all children and to support the development of continuity and progression of learning in the Early Level of the Curriculum for Excellence in nursery and Primary 1. An audit of current arrangements was carried out and areas for development identified. Cross sector visits were arranged to increase staff awareness of each others' setting and children visited with nursery staff before the end of term. We continued to encourage transition between the nursery and other schools.

Our priorities for 2009/10....

*The Head teacher and the Manager will aim to ensure that all staff have the opportunity to take on leadership roles and responsibilities. We hope that through working effectively as a team and participating in continuing professional development, this will ensure we are delivering high quality experiences and outcomes for all children.

*We aim to provide learning opportunities which will enable all children to participate in relevant, challenging play experiences through implementation of the experiences and outcomes from Curriculum for Excellence. We also aim to develop effective curricular transition and progress especially in numeracy and literacy between nursery and Primary 1.

*This session we will be providing places for babies and children under 2 years of age. We aim to ensure the provision for children in the 0-3 age group supports the development and learning of all children. We will ensure that the development of the new provision takes account of current good practice as identified in Birth to Three documentation, which we already implement in the Rainbow Room.

*We aim to continue to develop our partnership with parents and endeavour to enable all parents to engage in their child's learning and the life of the nursery. We appreciate the importance of communication and consultation between home and nursery and intend to give this the highest priority to ensure parents feel consulted and informed and to have in place strategies to support home to nursery communication.

The building work is well underway at Denny Nursery. The children are enjoying watching the builders at work

