

Netherton Park Children's Centre Funding

It is proposed to fund Netherton Park CC on a participation led basis from April 2010. The proposed hourly rate reflects the following additional services provided by Netherton Park CC:

- Netherton Park CC is a model of efficient interagency working. Over the years it has been particularly successful in working in partnership to help children and families in the most deprived areas.
- The Effective Pedagogy in Pre-School Education (EPPE) study recognised the educational advantages gained by children in Nursery schools above all other types of pre school education.
- Nursery schools have a central role to play as beacons of quality. Nearly all will receive an "Outstanding" or "Good" with Outstanding features' Ofsted report – a much higher ratio than seen in Nursery Classes and Primary Education in general. 'Good teaching and excellent relationships underpin children's success' Ofsted 2007.
- The Government is committed to the preservation of Nursery Schools and the 'unique contribution' they make to early years education in the UK, (Beverley Hughes 2008).
- Netherton Park CC plays a major role in training student teachers, degree students, Early Years Professionals and, NVQ level 2 & 3 students from across the Midlands.
- Each year large numbers of colleagues and students from across the region who come to Netherton Park Children's Centre to observe aspects of their innovative practice.
- Netherton Park CC hosts a range of training organised by the LA and it is intending to develop a role as 'Teaching Hospital' for the Borough and beyond. They have begun to develop training packages and would welcome a larger role in the future in developing Early Years excellence across the Borough, working in partnership with the LA, other schools and settings.
- Netherton Park CC has been commissioned by the LA to lead a pedagogical project with the Children's Centre Teachers in Dudley.
- As a school in the top 10% for deprivation as measured on the index of Multiple Deprivation, the need for quality led, pre school education is high.
- Netherton Park CC accepts children with special needs that other providers are often unwilling or unable to cater for.
- A recent study building on EPPE – EPSE is gathering research evidence. The early indications of which imply that a quality pre-school experience will have lasting impact into Key Stage 3.

Why Netherton Park is more expensive to fund than other early years provision?

- It has all the expenses of a 'school' e.g. buildings, utilities, caretakers, Governing Body, Headteacher, Deputy Head. These expenses are shared across the whole school budget in a larger, primary school.
- In Netherton Park the expenses have to be borne by a smaller cohort of 53 fulltime equivalent.
- It also funds resources for the children from across the Borough who have significant physical and learning disabilities via 'Leapfrog' and 'Enhanced' Provision.
- The proportion of children with learning difficulties and or disabilities is higher than average (Ofsted 2007).
- The LA 'Early Bird' training for parents is provided at Netherton Park with no charge for facilities etc.
- Additional costs are incurred by providing their own Pushto and Urdu speaking support staff – essential for the catchment area they operate in.
- As a Nursery School it is legally required to have 1 qualified teacher per 30 children, with a staffing ratio of 1:13 with the remaining staff qualified to level 3. With 53 FTE children 2 teachers and 3 level 3 qualified staff are required.