



# Quality is Assured for Kent Children

Fifty top nurseries and pre-schools have been praised for their high standards.

They were handed certificates at an awards ceremony in Ashford after completing the Kent Quality Mark scheme. To gain the award, they had to show commitment to raising the quality of their service and improve outcomes for pre-school children and their families.

The scheme, organised by Kent County Council, aims to improve the quality of private, voluntary and maintained early years nurseries and pre-schools.

KCC Children, Families and Education Managing Director, Rosalind Turner, presented the awards at Ashford International Hotel. She said:

"In Kent we want the very best start in life for all children, and we want parents to be confident that our early years and childcare is of the highest quality. This evening celebrates 50 nurseries and pre-schools who have gained the Kent Quality Mark right across Kent. They have worked hard for these awards and I want to congratulate them all. The whole of Kent can celebrate the excellent service this gives to our young children and their families."

Sandi Mortimer, the senior co-ordinator for the scheme, said:

"The Kent Quality Mark encourages practitioners to observe the well-being and involvement levels of individual children and reflect on ways in which the environment could be improved to raise standards of care and promote children's learning. Successful nurseries and pre-schools must also demonstrate a commitment to continuous professional development for all staff and ensure that the views of staff, children and parents are respected."

The mark is awarded for three years and participants – who came from across Kent - received training and mentor support to complete the award.

St Michael's Pre-School in Tenterden was one of those who took part in the scheme. Manager Brigitte Watkins said:

"As a result of completing the Kent Quality Mark we have become confident in challenging why we do things, and the improvement planning process has become automatic which ensures that when we discuss changes to be made, these actually take place."

Cheryl Martin from Little Learners in Sellindge said:

"It has been hard work and sometimes a very steep learning curve but I would do it all again! The benefit of the Kent Quality Mark experience to our nursery has been immense. It has brought the whole staff together and given us a real desire to continue improving our practice."

For more pictures of the evening see:

[www.flickr.com/photos/kentcountycouncil/sets/72157623273367691/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/kentcountycouncil/sets/72157623273367691/)



### Those who took part were:

Bluebell Nursery, Lydd; Brambley Hedge Children's Centre, Dover; Bright Sparks Child Care Centre, Deal; Bubbles Nursery & OoS Club, Sandwich; Busy Bees Nursery, Canterbury; Buttercups Nursery, Dover; Butterflies Class - South Borough Primary School, Maidstone; Callis Grange Nursery & Infant School, Thanet; Fledglings at Cartwright & Kelsey CE Primary School, Ash; Castle Hill Village Nursery, Folkestone; Choochoos Day Nursery, Whitstable; Country Kids Nursery, Newenden; Dover Discovery Nursery Ltd, Dover; First Learners' Nursery, Folkestone; First Steps Pre-School, Sevenoaks; Happy Days (UK) Ltd, Iwade; Happy Face Pre-School, Tonbridge; Hickory House Children's Day Nursery, Dartford; Kaleidoscope Childcare Charity, Aldington; Kid Ease @ Hawkinge, Folkestone; Linden Lea Childcare Group, Downswood; Linden Lea Childcare Group, Weaving; Little Acorns (Herne) Pre-School, Herne; Little Learners @ Sellindge Pre-School, Sellindge; Littleview Day Nursery, Tonbridge; Meadow Children's Centre, Maidstone; Mrs B's Pre-School & Day care, Malling; My Nursery, Margate; Nursery Days, Upchurch; Plaxtol Nursery School, Malling; Playbox Pre-School, Folkestone; Saxbys Montessori Nursery, Sevenoaks; Seashells Nursery @ Herne Bay Infant School; Shatterlocks Infant and Nursery School, Dover; Sheerness Neighbourhood Nursery, Sheerness; Springfield Lodge Day Nursery (Dartford); Springfield Lodge Day Nursery (Swanscombe); Springfield Road Day Nursery, Tunbridge Wells; St Martin's Pre-School, Dover; St Michael's Pre-School, Tenterden; St Thomas More Pre-School, West Malling; Sturry Pre-School, Sturry; The Farningham Day Nursery, Swanley; The Five Oak Green Montessori School, East Peckham; Tots R Us Pre-School, Dover; Towers Tiny Tots, Ashford; Weald Pre-School, Sevenoaks; White Oak Pre-School, Swanley; Whitehill Nursery School, Gravesham; Wiggly Worms at Parkside Community Primary School, Canterbury.