

## Case study: The Haven 2000 Nursery Ltd, Bedford

*The Haven 2000 Nursery Ltd is a privately owned and family-run nursery, which was established in 2000. It aims to promote a family ethos, with family values for the children in its care. Children can access spacious, well-equipped bright playrooms, as well as a quarter of an acre of safe, enclosed gardens and outdoor play equipment. The nursery is Ofsted registered and is a member of the National Day Nurseries Association.*



Haven 2000 Nursery Ltd makes good communication its highest priority. Children are assessed on their stage of language development and have an individual plan created for them. Group activities are planned each week across all age groups to promote language skills and evaluate their effectiveness against the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statements. They also have a working document entitled 'What we do every day to promote speech, language and communication', which is available for parents and carers so they can understand the quality of language interaction between staff and children.

Children are assessed for their articulation of age appropriate speech sounds and, as nursery staff are trained in Every Child a Talker, children are monitored against ECAT criteria. An individual plan is also created for each child requiring help in specific areas and their progress is evaluated.

The nursery was chosen for the award by judges for strong evidence of having speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) as part of its culture and ethos and for their use of Makaton sign language with children who are prelinguistic or who speak English as a second language.

The nursery also makes great use of the additional languages spoken by children in their homes by encouraging parents to share translations of words for places within the nursery – such as classrooms or lavatories - and equipment they might use into their home language and greeting children in that language.

Judges were also impressed by Haven 2000's creative involvement of parents and carers through consultation evenings where they show parents videos of their children playing and learning to show them what language strategies to look out for during interactions. They even attempted to teach parents *Heads, shoulders, knees and toes* in Lithuanian to demonstrate the challenges facing children learning an additional language.

**PEARSON**

