

Celebrate the best



Welcome to our special publication featuring *Nursery World's* inaugural awards to celebrate the achievements of the early years sector.

The Nursery World Awards 2008 recognise and highlight the best that is being achieved throughout the UK by organisations, teams, individuals, initiatives and equipment providers. They shine a light on the hard work, innovation and dedication of those in early years education and childcare, communicating aspects of best practice while raising the profile of the sector.

Early years education and childcare services have undergone a revolution over the past decade or so, with many of the changes still under way. Recently, we have seen the launch of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the introduction of the Early Years Professional programme as the drive to raise qualification levels and skills and ensure high-quality early years services continues apace.

Yet the fantastic work going on in the sector is often not recognised and rewarded, and the Nursery World Awards aim to put this right. In these pages, you can read the inspiring stories of our winners, highly commendeds and finalists – thank you to everybody who took the time to enter. Many thanks, too, to our eminent panel of judges (see pages 4-5) who gave generously of their time, knowledge and skills to carry out their sometimes difficult, but always rewarding, task.

Liz Roberts
Editor of *Nursery World*
Chair of judges

Message from our sponsor

The Children's Workforce Development Council exists to improve the lives of children, young people, their families and carers by ensuring that all people working with them have the best possible training, qualifications, support and advice. It also helps children and young people's organisations and services to work together better so that the child is at the centre of all services.

Our vision is of a confident, capable early years workforce whose practice is enriched by recognised, high-quality learning and development, professional support and practitioner networks. A workforce which is graduate led, with Early Years Professionals supporting a minimum Level 3 qualified workforce, and where the quality of provision and outcomes for children are continuously improving.

The CWDC is delighted to sponsor the Nursery World Awards 2008, to celebrate the achievements of the early years sector and inspire its future development.

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