

# NURSERY DISPATCHES

October 2017



## We have achieved Millie's Mark!



Many of you will be aware that over the past six months we have been working hard to achieve **Millie's Mark**, which demonstrates that we go beyond the minimum requirements to keep children safe and minimise risks and accidents at Northumbria Nursery. We are delighted that our efforts have been rewarded and that we have achieved this very special award.

The award by National Day Nurseries Association is in collaboration with Department for Education and Millie's Trust is named after Millie Thompson, who tragically died as a result of choking in a nursery in 2012. Her parents Dan and Joanne Thompson have campaigned for **all** staff to have paediatric first aid training\*.

Having the Millie's Mark award demonstrates how all staff working directly with children not only hold a paediatric first aid certificate but also proves how we have reflected on our practice to ensure that there are robust processes and documentation in place and that staff are competent and confident to apply their skills if needed. Every 8 weeks, Nursery Staff practice their First Aid competency skills, which includes using our resuscitation dolls, and undertake First Aid knowledge tests. This shows our commitment to keep these crucial skills in the forefront of staff minds so they are competent and can apply paediatric first aid in any situation.



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Although we are now an official Millie's Mark awarded nursery, our hard work of continuously developing our quality care and education will not stop. We are committed to maintaining our Millie's Mark award over its three years lifespan before re-accreditation, and in the meantime remain secure in our knowledge and practice for future 'no notice' inspection visits to the nursery.

Deborah Thorpe, Executive Childcare Manager said, "We are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded Millie's Mark This is a special achievement and shows how serious we are about ensuring children are safe when they are in our care. I would like to thank everyone who has supported us during this process and we are all very much looking forward to celebrating our success."



Purnima Tanuku, Chief Executive of National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) said, "Achieving Millie's Mark is a great achievement for the nursery, it shows that all staff are fully trained in paediatric first aid and that they have reflected on their current practice to improve competence and confidence. Becoming a Millie's Mark's nursery is a clear indicator for parents that this nursery has met the highest standards and gives them the reassurance that their children are safe".

\*Ofsted requirements are that at least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate must be on the premises and available at all times when children are present, and must accompany children on outings.