



## **Press Release**

May 2015

*To arrange a photograph at The Hollies please call 02920 378 177*

### **Cardiff nursery is crowned NDNA Nursery of the Year for Wales – and is in the running for UK title**

A childcare provider in the Canton area of Cardiff is celebrating after being voted National Day Nurseries Association's Nursery of the Year for Wales for the second time.

Now The Hollies, which first won the Welsh title in 2011, could go on to win the UK title of Nursery of the Year at the NDNA Nursery Awards on June 11.

Scores of parents also wrote glowing testimonies to help The Hollies claim victory.

The awards, supported by supported by Hope Education and Christie and Co, are in their 11<sup>th</sup> year and bigger than ever before with more than 200 nurseries registering and over 7,000 parents' votes cast.

Lisa Cronk, MD of The Hollies said: "We are thrilled to be voted Wales' best nursery for 2015 and delighted that we could win the overall UK accolade as well. This is fantastic news for the staff, children and the whole nursery community here."

The setting wins the award for the second time – and management have made amazing progress since we last visited in 2011.

Judges, supported by Netmums, felt that The Hollies offered fabulous training and professional development opportunities to their smart-uniformed staff and had a low turnover of employees. A total of 94% of staff are qualified to level three in childcare or above.

With space for 148 children, rooms are set up so that children can move around freely under the supervision of staff who speak both English and Welsh. Such is their dedication that some have learned Welsh specifically for work, as part of their training.

Natural materials give the facility a pleasant feel there's a small but well-designed garden. Resources include fabulous treasure baskets for babies and fresh play

dough made daily – with added extras like herbs and oats to give different smells and textures.

NDNA Chief Executive, Purnima Tanuku OBE, said: “This is a fantastic achievement – particularly second time around. Congratulations to The Hollies! The team there is a great example of the amazing, inspirational work happening in our sector every day.”

During the voting process, one parent wrote: “The Hollies is amazing, the management and staff are really accommodating, it’s like a big loving family.”

Another added: “It’s like a tightly-run ship that nurtures all its passengers, keeping them safe and happy.”

A third simply said: “The friendliest and most genuine staff in Wales!”

Representatives from The Hollies are set to collect their award at the ceremony hosted by pop star and TV presenter, Toyah Willcox, in Coventry on June 11.

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### **Notes to editors:**

National Day Nurseries Association is a national charity representing children’s nurseries across the UK, giving them information, training and support, so they can provide the best possible care to young children. NDNA is the voice of the sector, an integral part of the lives of nearly one million children and their families.

NDNA is calling on the next government to raise the bar through its [Childcare Challenge](#) to address the affordability, quality and choice of childcare and really make a difference for the sector, children and families. Among the solutions that NDNA is recommending are to:

- Ensure early education funding in the school budget can only be spent on under-fives.
- Implement a national funding formula for schools and early years, so local authorities are funded on a consistent level per child.
- In consultation with the sector, set and publish a realistic national funding level for early education places, and link it to inflation in line with nurseries’ rising costs.

- Work with the nursery sector to ensure any commitments to expand free hours are thoroughly costed so they can be delivered without making provision unsustainable and reducing choice for parents.
- Commit to a long-term review of the overly complex early education and childcare funding system, to bring together the multiple funding streams parents have to navigate into one simple childcare account

Read NDNA's Annual Nursery Surveys for England, Scotland and Wales here:  
<http://www.ndna.org.uk/news/ndna-surveys/NDNA+Annual+Nursery+Survey+2015>