



Extended Services in and around schools

School's Nurture Group

Holly Spring Infant School's Nurture Group

In response to the needs of a small group of children we have set up a Nurture Group. This two term pilot has been supported by Extended Services.

The Nurture Group work has been around for the past 30 years and was pioneered by Marjorie Boxall. Nurture groups help children who present emotional and behavioural difficulties, to be successful in the mainstream classroom. The group provides a safe nurturing environment where each child is valued, understood and has their emotional needs met appropriately.

The School's Nurture Group supports ten children from years one and two. The children have all been assessed using the Boxall Profile and their individual emotional and behavioural needs have been identified. These assessments will provide a baseline from which we will measure progress. The group runs on three mornings a week. The children are collected from their classrooms at 9.00am by one of the two members of staff. They spend playtime with their peers and return to class in time for lunch.

During the sessions the children complete planned curriculum work, choose free play activities, take part in a variety of creative activities and spend time outside either in the school grounds or at Lily Hill Park.

They have regular opportunities to talk about their feelings, their moods and anxieties.

On a weekly basis their parents are being invited into the group to give the children the opportunity to share some of their work and talk about their experiences. After half term the Behaviour Support Team will be sending in a family worker to join these sessions and eventually there will be "Pyramid for Parents" sessions available to support those parents who feel they need it.

The school commented, "The group, called 'The Caterpillar Club' has been running for four weeks and we are already seeing positive results. Children are talking about their feelings more freely, their self-esteem is increasing and they are more aware of others around them. Feedback from parents has also been positive."

