

**Date of issue** May 08  
**Publication number** Em-37appawardskingscliffe-may2008.doc

## **Loughborough Nursery Praised for Excellence at Awards Evening**

Kingscliffe Day Nursery Ltd in Loughborough, Leicestershire is celebrating after collecting an award at a prestigious ceremony for its commitment to developing the skills of its staff.

The company, which employs nine people, received the coveted title of East Midlands Champion in the 'Micro -Employer of the Year' – (1-9 employees) category, sponsored by Train to Gain at the Regional Apprenticeship Awards. The event was hosted by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) East Midlands on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham and recognises outstanding achievements across nine different categories.

Alexis McConnachie, manager and proprietor, said: "As a local employer we have opened our doors to help schools and the local community colleges by allowing students to complete work experience with us to gain what we believe to be the most important insight into the possibility of choosing childcare as their career path. We believe our approach is a positive example of what a true Apprenticeship should be; the opportunity for young adults to gain qualifications and experience within their chosen career and be provided with the opportunity for continuous training and development.

"We have used Apprenticeship programmes to help recruit and retain employees with our commitment to on the job training. Our parents are informed about the training of all our employees with a monthly newsletter, which we believe helps to promote our business by showing our commitment to our staff and in turn the children we look after."

Tom Crompton, regional director, LSC East Midlands, said: "With the Government's recent announcement about Apprenticeships and how they will play a central role in its plans for growing skills in the economy, it's clear to see how vital apprentices and those companies supporting them are in helping to combat the skills shortages across the region. The economy depends upon skilled individuals across the whole spectrum of vocational learning and it is important that we recognise the high achievements in these fields.

"The awards are an opportunity to celebrate just a sample of the excellent results being achieved across the East Midlands. Everyone who has taken part: our learners, training providers and employers should all be very proud of their achievements."

Kingscliffe Day Nursery currently employs four apprentices and works closely with TNG training to structure the training. Anne Wright, regional manager at TNG, comments: "Kingscliffe recruit from within the local community and look for potential new team members through the work placements they offer. The management team exhibit an acute interest in the progression of learners and support them to achieve their objectives. Funding is subsidised through a private training budget proving positive recognition of the importance training and development is to the organisation. TNG confidently nominated Kingscliffe for their positive approach to training and their enthusiasm to promote Apprenticeships to school leavers and the local community."

Young people taking part in Apprenticeships or an e2e work-based-training programme, nominated by employers, training providers or individuals are recognised at the Regional

Apprentice Awards, as well as companies that continue to support staff in Apprenticeship training, for their exceptional achievements.

All regional finalists will go forward for consideration into the LSC's national Apprenticeship Awards 2008 to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at The Royal Horticultural Halls in central London.

**Ends**

**For further press information please contact: -**

Redbrick Communications: - Lizzie Carr or Helen Shorrocks, **Tel: 0115 910 1500**

LSC East Midlands: - Linda Penrice, **Tel: 0116 228 1849**

#### **Notes to Editors:**

- The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world-class standards. Our vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

#### **About Apprenticeships**

- There are currently 244,000 young people aged 16-24 undertaking an Apprenticeship nationally and nearly 18,000 in the East Midlands. They can choose from over 180 career paths in 80 different sectors of industry and commerce.
- Apprenticeships provide 16-24 year-olds with a mixture of on and off-the-job training while they are being paid. For employers, Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to improve their businesses bottom line through the tailored, relevant training of highly motivated young people.
- There are two levels of Apprenticeships:
  1. 'Apprenticeships', equivalent to GCSE level, incorporate a National Vocational Qualification to Level 2; key skills and in some cases a technical certificate

2. 'Advanced Apprenticeships', equivalent to A-levels, incorporate a National Vocational Qualification to Level 3, key skills and a technical certificate
- On 10th May 2004, the Government announced the introduction of Young Apprenticeships for students aged 14-16 and Adult Apprenticeships for those people aged 25 and over. Pilots for both are currently running
  - e2e (Entry to Employment) is designed for young people aged 16–18 who are not currently in education, employment or training. It can also be for people who may require a range of additional support to enable them to progress into education, employment or training.

