



Press Release – For Immediate Release (07.04.14)

HACKNEY NURSERY WINS PRESTIGIOUS COMMUNICATION AWARD

Wentworth Nursery School in Hackney, London, are celebrating after being named **Early Years Setting of the Year** at the **2013/2014 Shine a Light Awards** in recognition of their work supporting and nurturing young children's speech, language and communication development.

The Awards, held in London on Thursday 3rd April and hosted by Broadcaster and Health Campaigner, Anne Diamond, are run by Pearson Assessment in partnership with The Communication Trust to honour individuals, teams, campaigns, communication friendly settings and communities that have excelled in their support of children and young people's communication.

Wentworth Nursery School was unveiled the winners of the *Early Years Setting of the Year* award for its commitment and dedication to supporting children's communication development, particularly recognising their work with parents and families. The Nursery provides a comprehensive support system, with the development of language and communication underpinning every interaction at the nursery.

Wentworth plan termly outings to the park with parents and their children to model and promote good communication strategies and run coffee mornings to further discuss ways to support children at home. The Nursery has a dedicated part of the website to support Home Learning and children with individual communication needs meet with support staff each term to discuss children's individual needs.

As a result of this work, many parents have noticed a change in their child, with some children progressing from having little or no speech to communicating confidently and articulately. At Wentworth, all staff members take shared responsibility for every child's communication development, and if any child is identified as having a possible communication need, swift action is taken to assess and intervene as quickly as possible.

Children identified as having speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) are provided with individualised support including receiving visual timetables or being included in a daily language group.

Donna Davies, Learning Support Coordinator at Wentworth Nursery School says: "We are really happy to have won the Early Years Setting of the Year at the Shine a Light Awards. We were runner up last year and this motivated us to continue with our hard work, so we're really proud to have won. What we are doing is right for the children. I'm a Hackney girl and I'm pleased Hackney children are getting a good start in life. We have had so many Hackney winners this year, it is an excellent borough for supporting all children's communication development and particularly for those with difficulties."

Hilary Berry, Headteacher at Over Hall Community School and Shine a Light Award Judge, says: "As practitioners, we all need a little boost sometimes, the work of the community from Wentworth Nursery has given me 'a tsunami of inspiration'. It's such a huge privilege and a true pleasure to be part of the team of judges for the Shine a Light Awards. It has been an opportunity to learn from, to acknowledge and to celebrate the work of outstanding professionals."

Chris Hall, Managing Director of Pearson Assessment and Shine a Light Award Judge, says: "It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Wentworth Nursery School for their well deserved win. Their strong emphasis on early identification acts as an exemplar for other early years settings.

"We have been blown away by this year's nominations and seen some truly inspiring examples of work being carried out to support children and young people with SLCN. With the awards now in their third year, we are excited to have helped over 90 teams shout about their work and go on to inspire others."

For the full list of Shine a Light winners and highly commended finalists, visit www.shinealightawards.co.uk

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For Further Information

For more information, or to arrange an interview with representatives from Wentworth Nursery School, please contact Laura Smith or Charlotte Hussey at Consilium Communications by emailing lsmith@consiliumcommunications.co.uk / chussey@consiliumcommunications.co.uk or call 07766651366.

Notes to editors

About the Shine a Light Awards

- The Shine a Light awards are sponsored and organised by Pearson Assessment in partnership with The Communication Trust.
- The Awards are designed to promote and celebrate good practice in speech, language and communication for individuals, groups and settings which work with children and young people, particularly those with SLCN.
- The awards form part of the legacy of the National Year of Communication (*Hello* campaign) and have become a key event in the speech, language and communication community's calendar.
- Nearly 80 applications were received with 16 winners and 13 highly commended finalists picking up coveted awards at a glittering ceremony hosted by Anne Diamond.
- 17 judges were involved in the Shine a Light Awards including Janet Cooper, Founder of Stoke Speaks Out, Virginia Beardshaw, Chief Executive of I CAN, Kamini Gadhok, Chief Executive of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), Diz Minnitt, Milton Keynes Youth Offending Team and Hilary Berry, Headteacher at Over Hall Community School.
- For further information and to view the film of the ceremony and full list of judges, visit www.shinealightawards.co.uk

About Pearson Assessment

- Pearson Assessment is the world's largest commercial developer and distributor of educational assessments and psychological testing materials with over 90 years history of commitment to researching and developing products to a reliable high standard.
- Pearson Assessment is dedicated to the pursuit of professional excellence, leadership, and growth through acquisition, development, publication, and the maintenance of quality assessment tools in order to anticipate and meet the needs of its customers.
- Pearson Assessment have sponsored the Shine a Light Awards since their launch in 2011, as part of the *Hello* campaign (National Year of Communication).
- For more information, visit www.pearsonclinical.co.uk or follow @PsychCorpUK #SAL2014

About The Communication Trust

- The Communication Trust is a coalition of nearly 50 leading voluntary sector organisations, which raises awareness, influences policy, promotes best practice among the children's workforce and commissions work from its members.
- It has an extensive advisory group, which includes the Royal College of Speech and

Language Therapists, Association of Educational Psychologists and the General Teaching Council.

- For more information about the Trust visit www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk or follow @Comm_nTrust #SAL2014