



**The significance of the work carried out by a Nursery School and the impact that it has on society is understood by few. This document includes testimonials from a wide range of stakeholders that have been supported by the work of BEYA. This includes the views of those who work for essential Barnet Children Services such as Educational Psychologists, health visitors, inclusion services, schools and the Early Years Strategic Lead for Early Help. It also includes the views of Early Years Settings, childminders, headteachers and parents, both in Barnet and beyond.**

**By reading the testimonials, it is clear that Barnet Nursery Schools are a 'jewel in the crown' within our educational system. Our Nursery Schools require urgent re-defining, re-claiming and re-investment. With a clear vision and by working together, we can ensure the best possible future for Barnet's youngest children.**

I am writing to highlight how closely BEYA works with our team and how their support has been invaluable for the children and families that we work with.

I have had the opportunity to work with BEYA and settle a huge amount of children and families across all their settings.

They have always been welcoming and supporting of any family no matter how complex their needs are. They work tirelessly with the families to ensure the child gets the best support possible. During the recent pandemic they remained open and have proactively engaged families at the setting and supported those who remain in the home. I know from the families I work with this has been so important. Whenever I visit the nurseries I always find them to be skilled in meeting the needs of complex young children and are challenging yet supportive of the families. Without their input the outcomes for the young child and the early identification of need would be quite different.

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This is my third year working with Barnet Early Years Alliance (BEYA). It is an absolute pleasure to work alongside the highly skilled staff at BEYA in order to support the children and families who attend the settings. The learning and play opportunities, that are provided by all three sites to support the children's development, are outstanding. Opportunities for learning are carefully planned for to ensure each child makes progress in all areas of their development. BEYA are wholly inclusive in supporting all children, from a wide range of backgrounds, as well as those with special educational needs and disabilities. They always implement early intervention to ensure that children have the best outcomes. They continue to support and include children with a diverse range of physical, medical, learning, social emotional and communication needs. In my experience, the staff go above and beyond to support families in accessing appropriate services and ensuring children are able to reach their full potential. Staff are all well-experienced and have been trained to a high standard. Staff are always extremely receptive and willing to implement appropriate support for children. They take on board external professional advice and continually review practice to ensure children receive the most effective support.

The early intervention and support, which is consistently implemented, ensures that children have the best chance in succeeding and that their strengths and needs are understood before their transition to school. The children are always at the forefront and each child is valued and recognised as an individual. The emphasis on play provides all children with a key foundation for learning. The nurture and support provided by all three settings allows children to feel happy, safe and secure, which is key in facilitating their learning and development.

**Dr Aimee Cole**

Educational Psychologist

Educational Psychology Team

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I have had the pleasure of working jointly with the staff and parents from the BEYA settings for many years and their vast experience and knowledge in nurturing and caring for the children that come into these settings is some of the best in the borough. The children flourish, love going to nursery and parents have confidence in knowing their little ones will be cared for and grow with staff who are experienced, trained and have experience in all aspects of early years. The joint working that we carry out between services is always accommodated, we have a great working relationship set up where we know we are always welcomed into a setting and someone from the team will always make time to join a session with us so we can, together, implement a strategy or a target. We support families together making an overarching learning service for the child and family so we are able to offer a comprehensive service. This does not happen with other settings where we don't have such a good long standing relationship.

**Jane Mulley**

**Specialist Support Worker/BEAM Facilitator**

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We have had a huge amount of support from BEYA over a many number of years. Members of BEYA staff have visited us on several occasions to offer their advice and guidance on our nursery provision as well as helping us to set up our 2 year year old provision and Forest School! We have been using OPAL which we love as it has helped practitioners focus on what is really important - the children!

Deputy Head – Queenswell Primary School

### Working with BEYA

I have worked with staff from BEYA many times over the last seven years, when a child on my caseload has attended one of their nurseries (St Margaret's, Brookhill or Hampden Way)

The settings are welcoming and inclusive and are very keen to work jointly with our team.

If the child is known to us before they start at BEYA we work together to plan a successful transition in . We work jointly to assess the child's needs, identify strategies to support their development and identify ways in which to deliver this.

The settings are good at accessing training that is on offer from Barnet and developing their staff skills in the area of SEN.

The settings take on board advice offered from other professionals

The settings liaise closely with other professionals such as Paediatricians, speech therapists and physiotherapists, not just ourselves

Their observations and reports are very informative and of a consistently high standard.

Strategies for supporting children with SEN, such as using reduced language, use of gesture and visuals, are imbedded into their practice and communication with all children.

In addition they offer targeted interventions through small group work to support communication, attention ,social skills and play skills, using evidence based strategies from Gina Davies Attention Autism among others. These interventions are carried out by experienced staff with high level of expertise and understanding of the needs of children with SEN.

The setting are able to provide some home visits (when Covid 19 restrictions allow) to provide targeted support to families and will also make onwards referrals to Early Help and work closely with Family Outreach workers to support the whole family.

Kind Regards

Jenny Luxon

Pre School Teacher

4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

BEYA has been a very important part of our lives before our son could even walk.

Being able to attend the "Stay and play" sessions in the different nurseries in the area like St Margaret's, was a great deal to us, not only for our little one but for me.

As a new mum everything was a learning process, having a place to go and meet other parents and understand that I wasn't the only one feeling overwhelmed, helped me to get reassurance that all was going to get easier.

Interacting with the support staff in charge of the sessions, receiving advice from them as professionals, was a great support to gain more confidence as a mum. What I always remember is the smile and commitment of all the employees and volunteers.

When kids are growing up, they go through different milestones and parents go through these milestones right next to them. Our next big step was taking our son to nursery.

First time being apart from my son for more than 5 minutes, was not only scary for me but more to him. But BEYA did not disappoint.

The amazing support, the positive environment and the good organisation that we received at Brookhill nursery, from all the employees and specially from Julian, was priceless.

For instance, it took almost 3 months for my son Ismael to adjust and be fully confident to be without us around. The steps and plan put in place to help my son to accept staying at nursery without me, helped him to go through the process without being sad or scared. He was a happy little boy.

I remember always been amazed about how well Brookhill nursery is organised and how beautiful place it is, it just made me feel happy every day we were going, knowing he was going to enjoy and to learn so much every day.

All of that was achieved by the commitment, good work, professionalism and love for what they do of each employee at Brookhill.

BEYA helps families with all they do to feel part of a beautiful community.

Thank you, Brookhill, thank you BEYA!

Monica Idrobo

We have worked with BEYA for several years, they are an outstanding resource for the Early Years community across the country and have supported us and many other schools and early years settings to improve the outcomes for the children in our care. The development of their OPAL assessment system has had a significant impact on our school and has led us to reflect on every aspect of our provision, making an already outstanding school even stronger. I believe OPAL is a system that could have a really positive impact on the Early Years community and the outcomes for children in what is a very challenging time for us all. In all aspects of their work with us children and their families are at the heart of everything they do and at this time in our history this should be the priority for all Early Years settings and Local Authorities as early intervention is key to their future success.

The team at BEYA are truly leaders in their field and their knowledge, skills and support have been inspirational for my whole team. We can only aspire to be as inspirational as they are!

Debs Watson & Team Tanglewood

Headteacher

Tanglewood Nursery School

Chelmsford, Essex

I have found the services and support that BEYA have offered over the years to be invaluable. Myself and other colleagues have been able to visit the different nurseries that are part of the federation and this has really enhanced our own provision at Underhill. Having attended the OPAL launch we have adopted the assessment system at Underhill and have seen a huge impact in our understanding of children and the progress that they have made. The support that Beya has offered has been fantastic in helping us adopt the formats and systems that OPAL requires and I have attended many training sessions at Beya over the last 18 months. Whenever I have had questions they have always been available to answer an email promptly. I have also been part of some 'Leaders in Early Learning research' at Beya which was really inspirational as well as sessions on pedagogy. Being connected to Beya as an Early Years leader has been so helpful in enabling me to reflect on our practice here at Underhill as we strive to improve our outcomes for children. What shines through is their knowledge and understanding of young children's learning and development and it is so inspirational to be part of.

Reception Teacher - Underhill Primary School

BEYA have supported my role as a childminder over the last few years in a way that no other organisation ever has. The BEYA Hub facilitated my networking with nursery managers and key figures from the Local Authority. Feeling like I'm a peer of people working at management level gives me confidence and it helps me to appreciate my own professionalism and to innovate at my setting.

I am very grateful to the Hub for scheduling our meetings to coincide with the Childminder Playgroup at St Margaret's, enabling me to attend the Hub meetings. When no Childminder Playgroup was scheduled during a Hub meeting, BEYA provided me with toys and a dedicated area so that I could take my mindees into the meeting. It's a prime example of how BEYA provide solid practical solutions. It's inclusive: genuinely so.

BEYA scheduled training and conferences at the weekend, so that Childminders could attend. And these events have been worthwhile: high-calibre speakers such as Neil Leitch are not normally made available to Childminders. Other training including online training has been provided free of charge

BEYA's work helps us to forge new alliances and to design and create new support structures, so that we can dedicate ourselves to children's outcomes.

Most importantly, I think, BEYA make me feel like if I have an idea about my work or about any aspect of Early Years, they will take it on and provide me with their backing and their immense enthusiasm. It's gold dust, given how isolating childminding can sometimes make you feel, and how exhausted all other areas of support are. I've been lucky to be involved with them and I hope their excellent work can continue.

Childminder

Strategic Hub member representing Barnet Childminders

BEYA are outstanding leaders in the Early Years sector. I have found our partnership to be deeply enriching, for me as a leader and for us as a Nursery School and ultimately, for the children and families that come to us. The BEYA leadership team are very highly skilled, combining profound depth of knowledge with creativity and principled forward thinking. We have been using the OPAL assessment system now for a few years. It is excellent, well thought out, straightforward to use and understandable for all parents, we love it. BEYA were way ahead of the game here, OPAL will work very nicely alongside the new Framework now being piloted and we are delighted to already be using it. BEYA have developed and achieved so much with so little, not just with OPAL, but through research and other projects. That they have done this and made such a difference to other settings in the sector while maintaining outstanding nursery schools of their own, all against a backdrop of crippling financial challenges is a testament to their combined knowledge, skill, strength, and resilience. BEYA is precious, to let something of such quality and value slip away through inadequate funding would be an absolute travesty.

Headteacher Woodcroft Nursery School

I have always found working with the BEYA invaluable. Working in partnership is a very efficient use of time and we worked as a seamless service. The Clients also found this very helpful. We have referred many clients to BEYA who has tirelessly followed everybody up. This is even more essential now as with lockdown there is increased cases of depression and isolation.

I feel it is essential for the mental health and general well-being of the Parents and the Under 5 children in Barnet  
Many thanks

Health Visitor

My twins attended Hampden Way's provision for two year olds and also attended the holiday scheme at St Margaret's. My daughter settled in almost immediately, however it became evident that my son has many difficulties in his social communication development. I was able to confidently relay my challenges to a highly skilled professional team where they sensitively referred my son to the appropriate services to assess him and gain a better understanding of his difficulties and how we could help him. The support and care he received from the staff team was incredible. Not only did he benefit but we all did as life got that much easier. This in turn enabled him to feel safe and establish solid relationships with his key worker and his peers, his behaviour improved and he could then learn, explore and play in a nurturing environment.

During the time they attended, they hopped, skipped and jumped into nursery and with that reassurance I could go back to work, this was such a relief as I had no extended family for support and the nursery was became not only a place of high quality education for my children but essentially our extended family.

The staff team went above and beyond their means to create an inclusive, diverse environment where every child started their learning journey in a unique way. The staff team would think out of the box and were curious as to how to support and aid learning for the individual child. The high-quality training of all staff is ongoing and the determination and drive that the staff share is phenomenal.

I cannot stress how important the nurseries are to the surrounding communities and the families who rely on taking their children to BEYA's excellent nurseries. I was secure in the knowledge that my children were well looked after and also being taught by caring and highly skilled professionals. I was able to regain my confidence and go back to work which was financially and personally beneficial for me and my family.

In essence BEYA is the heartbeat and a precious resource to the community. We must make sure that urgent attention and priority is given with the appropriate funding that is necessary in order to provide children with a first class education and also the valuable support that is given to families.

Parent

BEYA has been an outstanding support to Puddleducks since it started. The first thing that it has been successful in is the communication. They have done extremely well to communicate with us and get different providers communicating. They have truly built an early years network with a group of us that is of immense support.

Their mission is clear, raising the standard of childcare and ensuring as many people take up local offers where possible. We have been really impressed with the training they have put together and again the network of professionals that has been built as a result. Our reputation has grown as they have spent time and effort in increasing our understanding and ability to deal with SEN children.

From the start of the Covid Pandemic, BEYA has been the only organisation that I feel has truly supported us through. Immediately the network was brought together to support each other. And this was beyond the norms of having to run a setting through a pandemic, but emotional support and just a friendly face to speak to when no one else understood. BEYA has been amazing in giving owners a support network which we have never had – someone that actually cares about us .

Puddleducks

The Early Years Hub (EYH) led by BEYA has been a vital link to support early year's providers. By building connections before Covid-19 started, this gave us all the head start in building bonds between each other. During Covid – 19 lockdown BEYA coordinated many zoom network meetings where we were all able to talk about 'our' feelings and anxieties, for me this helped enormously, just knowing I was not on my own. The Hub for me has been like having an extra bunch of friends to call on for support and guidance, we have laughed together, and we have cried together. When it is all safe to meet up again, we are all looking forward to meeting up face to face. Thank you, BEYA , for all the work and support you give us throughout the year you offer a vital service for early year's providers.

Manager Alban Pre school

Coppetts Wood has been supported by BEYA to become part of the Early Years Hub work and this has led to more collaborative working relationships with PVI's, Childminders and Parent & Toddler Groups. Termly HUB meetings with partners have been attended, which ensures correct info and advice is on hand for all attendees. BEYA has supported Coppetts Wood in conducting visits to our partners, which is time consuming, but extremely valuable. The work that BEYA put in behind the scenes has ensured a smooth process during all stages. BEYA keep us updated with relevant training opportunities and have supported delivery of Good Start Great Start .

BEYA is always available with relevant advice and support and I can't thank BEYA enough for always 'being there'.

Children's Centre Manager –

Coppetts Wood Primary School and Children's Centre

Being part of BEYA Hub has given nurseries the opportunity to come together and discuss any issues or achievements they may have. They have helped us all form a close bond with other nurseries within our area and this has made running a nursery so much more rewarding. We are no longer in competition, we are all now a team, helping each other and sharing advice and ideas.

The regular meeting and training we have had with BEYA have been extremely beneficial to my nursery and Staff. BEYA have helped form a big family within the Early Years Sector.

We have had such immense support from BEYA, they are always at the other end of the phone if we need advice and will go the extra mile to find the answers. They have such passion and commitment for their job that it has made being part of the BEYA family amazing!

Nursey Manager

Starlings Nursery



Our BEAM service supports preschool children who have received a diagnosis of Autism. Over the four years that I have lead the BEAM team, there have been 10+ children who have attended BEYA nurseries. The relationship of BEAM with BEYA has been one of the most successful examples of joint working and inclusivity in approach. There is a very clear dedication to child centred planning led by an excellent SENCO and amazing staff who are dedicated to making an inclusive learning environment, understanding autism and the uniqueness of each autistic child. There is always a sense of flexibility in thinking and action and the parents of these children report to feel consistently supported and listened to.

**Sara Mansi**

BEAM Manager

Barnet Early Autism Model (BEAM): Specialist Inclusion Services

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BEYA have developed the Early Years hub further than the work commissioned by the GLA. Following the success of the networks in East Central locality, they have expanded across the borough in to South and West localities. They have supported the Children's Centres to develop a model that works with PVI's and 0-19 practitioners ensuring close partnership working across all of these services.

BEYA have also been involved in the development of links with our health colleagues and we now have a link health visitor/community nursery nurse for every setting in Barnet.

BEYA continue to involve themselves and actively participate in groups with key stakeholders such as advisory board meetings for the 0-19 Early Help hubs.

Kind regards

Debra

**Debra Davies**

**Early Years/ Primary Strategic Lead ,**

**0-19 Early Help Services**

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