

Thistle launches the definitive training manual for nursery nurses

Leading Scottish nursery nurses training organisation Thistle Training Ltd is set to launch a two-booklet definitive guide to Children's Care, Learning and Development – a highly detailed but user-friendly manual geared to become the benchmark for trainees all over the UK.

The two-part learning guide aims to be the most accessible working tool on its subject in the country, and has been thoroughly tested with Thistle trainees to ensure it is as logical and easy to follow as possible.

Perth-based Thistle Training Ltd is a sister company of nursery company Little Einstein's, the business launched last year following the acquisition of the former Wonderland nurseries by entrepreneur Deepak Poddar.

Thistle trains nursery nurses across Scotland in locations including the north-east, Perth and Kinross, Dundee and Fife.

“We have very demanding criteria for staff at all our nurseries, and fully appreciate the need for fully effective training,” said Mr Poddar. “At the moment the qualifications publications side of things is not very well catered for, and our aim with these booklets has been to devise what we expect to become standard tools for people seeking to join the profession.”

He added: “They're the product not just of detailed knowledge of the profession but of completely practical application, and will be part and parcel of our own training regime – which we fully intend to develop to be the best in the country, in line with our aspirations for our nurseries.

“Most importantly, the system applied in the booklets answers fully the current criteria of training towards full qualification.”

Thistle Training Ltd associate director Tanya Small said: “The booklets aim to reflect fully the fairly basic change of approach to training which came with the introduction of the new system two years ago.

“Previously training was essentially modular, while now the focus is much more on a ‘holistic’ approach at every stage – meaning our own trainee nursery nurses really needed a practical course book which reflected this adequately, taking them right through level two and level three of the SVQ courses towards full qualification.”

She says the growing demand for high quality nursery nurses means there's a definite need for a reliable written course system which can be used by trainees around the UK.

“As well as being organised any such system has to be completely practical,” she added,

“and we had to tweak our original effort in a number of minor but collectively important ways once we had seen it operating fully with our own trainees.

“Having tested the system thoroughly in this way we’re now satisfied we have a first class resource which we hope will be useful beyond our own company - I’m not aware of any other publication which really covers the ground in quite the same way.”

In each booklet training is broken down into a logical course of assignment modules: for example in the level 2 booklet Assignment 2 includes “Communication difficulties that may exist and how these can be overcome.” and “organisational policies and procedures that must be followed when reporting any concerns about development, and why it is important to report concerns as soon as possible.”

Specific tasks are assigned to cover each specific area of endeavour, which in aggregate take trainees through the entire formidable body of knowledge they need to acquire to turn their inherent skills into fully professional abilities.

The Thistle Training Ltd booklets are to be made available to a wider audience over the course of the next year.

For further information, please contact Deepak Poddar, Managing Director of Little Einstein’s Kindergarten Limited on 07930 358080

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