

## ● THE DAY NURSERY IN RAWRETH GIVES GRADUATING KIDS SPECIAL GOODBYE

# Parents praise 'magical' nursery for big send-off

PARENTS have heaped praise on a nursery for keeping their children safe and giving them a heartwarming send-off during the pandemic.

Children leaving The Day Nursery in Rawreth, traditionally celebrate with a garden party, including a barbecue, entertainment, a petting zoo and a graduation ceremony.

With social distancing and strict cleaning regimes now a part of nursery life, the latest group of 30 children looked likely to miss out.

But owner Glenda Mitchell was determined the much-anticipated event would go ahead in some form.

The children were invited to the nursery in their bubbles to enjoy outdoor entertainment, before their parents and grandparents watched from the boundary as they were clapped out by their teachers.

**By ELLIS WHITEHOUSE**  
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Mrs Mitchell, whose nursery cares for children aged between 12 weeks and four years, said: "We had parents asking us if we were going to be able to hold the grand graduation. It made me feel sad as we did not think it would be possible with the restrictions in place.

"We spent a lot of time on making it happen. It was tricky, but it was worth doing."

The nursery was closed from the end of March to June 1, placing 28 staff on furlough.

It helped support families by reducing its fees down to 20 per cent, and invested in three large marquees enabled children to be split into bubbles when they returned, spending more time outdoors.

Carla Corbet's son has attend-

ed The Day Nursery since he was ten months old.

She said: "The way they have opened during the pandemic has been fantastic. The settling-in session allowed our son to re-familiarise himself with the environment and see his friends once again. The outdoor space is particularly great and we love that the children spend as much time outside as possible."

Fellow parent Kate Buddle said: "I was so pleased they found a way to hold the annual graduation, so we could celebrate all they have achieved in their time at nursery and our kids didn't miss out. It was a magical day."

Mum Lisa Harvey said: "We were so nervous about sending him back after lockdown.

"The steps the Day Nursery has taken to keep our little ones safe and the helpfulness of staff only helped convince us he would be safe."



■ Graduating - children at the Day Nursery in Rawreth, Wickford

## Support for all from the Essex Wellbeing Service

The Essex Wellbeing Service is here to help as we emerge from lockdown and shielding comes to an end. It offers a single point of access to practical, emotional and specialist support.



All Essex residents, including parents and families, can now use the service. Support ranges from volunteers collecting food and medicine to local and specialist organisations giving help and advice.

If you or someone you know needs support, visit [www.essexwellbeingservice.co.uk](http://www.essexwellbeingservice.co.uk) or call 0300 303 9988



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