

The **co-operative** financial services

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NEWS RELEASE

The Wigwam Day Nursery celebrates first birthday with a look back at successful year

The Wigwam Day Nursery in Reading is celebrating its first birthday, after a successful year in business including a £200,000 refurbishment, partly funded by The Co-operative Bank's Oxford Corporate Banking Centre.

The Wigwam Day Nursery is part of Tee Pee Limited, run by sisters Emma Tennant and Rebecca Platt. Having enjoyed success with their Nursery in Bracknell, The Teepee, Emma and Rebecca sought funding from The Co-operative Bank to buy a nursery in Reading going in to receivership in November 2007.

The building underwent a complete fit-out during seven-weeks over the summer holidays, and with the help of an interior designer, the kitchen was relocated and everything from the floors to the heating and windows were replaced.

The refurbishment allowed The Wigwam Day Nursery to up its allowance from 29 children to 36. Recently described as good with elements of outstanding by an Ofsted inspection, it is the only nursery in Reading to have five stars for food hygiene and now offers classes such as Tai Chi, football, French and music lessons.

Emma Tennant, Director of Tee Pee Limited, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the transformation of the nursery within its first year of operation.

"When we bought the nursery we felt that it didn't provide the children with the quality of facility and service they deserved. The support of The Co-operative Bank and a clear vision, coupled with a load of passion and commitment, has allowed us to upgrade the whole building and we now offer a first-class service."



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Mike Gill, Corporate Manager at The Co-operative Bank, said: “Having worked with Tee Pee Limited for five years, we have seen them grow in strength, first with The Teepee Day Nursery and then with the purchase of The Wigwam Day Nursery. We were delighted to fund the refurbishment of the nursery, which now provides children with a facility second-to-none.

“This package shows that even in today’s uncertain economic climate, we are still very much open for business and lending to companies with impressive business strategies. We are in a strong position to provide funding for existing and new customers, unlike some other lenders who seem to be more reluctant to provide funding at this current time.”

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Notes to editors:

- ISDN facilities are available for broadcast media interviews.

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