

Awen interview with Julia

Q: When did you go to Educare?

A: I started at Educare on the first day in 1997. Mrs. Steinthal opened the school with only one pupil and it grew from there into the amazing school it is now!

Q: Did you teach at Educare?

A: I am a Nursery Nurse who started in the hall working with small groups. When Mrs. Manuel left I led the Kindergarten working with another Nursery Nurse called Charlotte.

Q: Who were the teachers?

A: When we started there was Mrs. Steinthal, Sue Merry, Mrs. Manuel and me. At the time I was called Julia Robinson. Whilst I was at Educare I got married so am now Julia Avis.

Q: Do you still know people from Educare?

A: Yes, I am still in touch with Mrs. Steinthal, Jessica Oxford who is the Kindergarten teacher now, Miss Rowe who taught at Educare and some of the past parents and pupils.

Q: What was your favourite topic?

A: I think my favourite topic was Travel. I loved turning the home corner into modes of transport so the Kindergarten children could role play. We had a train, an aeroplane and even a spaceship! I also loved Christmas!

Q: How did you end up in Educare?

A: I worked at Latchmere Infant's School in Kingston. That is where I met Mrs. Steinthal. I worked firstly in the Reception class and then in the Nursery. When Mrs. Steinthal decided to open Educare I was very excited to join her.

Q: What was your favourite day?

A: When I was leading the Kindergarten we had an Ofsted inspection. The inspector stayed all day in the Kindergarten and I was very nervous about what she was going to say at the end of her inspection! I needn't have worried because she said the Kindergarten was excellent in every area and that she had really enjoyed her day with us! I felt very proud of myself and our school community that day.

Q: How long were you at Educare?

A: I was at Educare from the opening in 1997 to December 2005. 8 years.

Q: What are you doing now ?

A: I am retired now. I live in the New Forest in Hampshire with my husband Rob and our Labrador puppy Rosey. We have two cats called Bjorn and Grete. I go for forest walks with Rosey every day! I volunteer with a hospice called Oakhaven as part of their neighbours scheme, which means that I visit an elderly gentleman in his home every week for a cup of tea and a chat. I also love to grow flowers in my garden and I enjoy making things with beads. I particularly like making Christmas decorations.

Q: What would you say to Mrs Steinthal?

A: I think my whole time at Educare is a treasured memory. I have worked with children for most of my working life and Kindergarten Leader at Educare is definitely my favourite job.

Q: Do you have a treasured memory?

A: I would say.....Well done Mrs. Steinthal, for believing in your vision for children and creating a truly wonderful school.