

Playhouse Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY344268
Inspection date	28 April 2008
Inspector	Elaine Marie McDonnell
Setting Address	St. Francis of Assisi Primary School, Lowfields Avenue, Ingleby Barwick, STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Cleveland, TS17 5GA
Telephone number	01642 767 576
E-mail	
Registered person	Joanne Cook
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Playhouse Day Nursery is privately owned and has been registered since November 2006. It operates from a purpose-built, single-storey building situated within the grounds of St. Francis of Assisi Primary School, in the Ingleby Barwick area of Stockton-on-Tees.

The premises are mainly open-plan, but partitions separate the children into three age groups; babies under two years, children aged two to three years, and children aged over three years. Out of school care is also provided for children aged up to 11 years, who may attend for breakfast, after school and holiday care. During school term-times older children are taken to and collected from various local primary schools. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

The setting is registered to care for up to 33 children under eight years. There are currently 65 children on roll, of whom, nine are aged over eight years. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 07.30 to 18.00, all year around except for some time over the Christmas period.

There are seven members of staff employed to work directly with the children, including the nursery manager and owner. Of these, five members of staff hold relevant childcare qualifications, most being at level two. An additional member of staff is employed on a daily

basis to prepare meals. The setting receives support from the local authority and from Playgroup Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because staff follow appropriate health and hygiene procedures to ensure that the premises and equipment are kept clean. For example, toilets are checked for cleanliness throughout the day and checks are recorded. Children are beginning to understand the importance of simple good health and hygiene practices, such as hand washing, as this is promoted throughout the daily routine.

Appropriate accident and illness procedures are in place to protect children's overall health and the nursery has obtained written consent from parents for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment. Suitable first aid boxes are available, plus medication and accident records, which are appropriately completed and include parental signatures.

Children are well nourished. They receive varied and nutritious meals and snacks throughout the day and drinking water is readily available. Eating times are observed to be relaxed and sociable occasions for all children, including those attending after school. Children have some opportunities to learn about healthy living as this is included as a topic in the activity planning. Children have their health and dietary needs met because staff work well with parents to obtain written information about individual requirements. These are also displayed in the kitchen and all staff are aware of individual requirements. However, persons preparing and handling food have not yet had access to relevant training, so are not fully aware of regulations relating to food safety. Training is planned for the near future.

Children have appropriate opportunities to enjoy physical activity. They share access to an enclosed outdoor play area, however, good use was not being made of the outdoor area at the time of the inspection. Children rest and sleep according to their needs and individual routines, which staff are aware of.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Some appropriate steps are taken to ensure that children are cared for in a safe environment. For example, the premises are kept secure, a record of visitors is maintained, daily checklists are conducted and suitable risks assessments have been undertaken. However, antibacterial cleaning spray, which is stored on top of the water container, is accessible to children and poses a safety hazard. Children learn to keep themselves safe when involved in fire drills, which are recorded.

Appropriate steps are taken to ensure that children are kept safe when playing outdoors and when on outings. For example, suitable car safety seats are used if children are collected from schools in a vehicle, written outings procedures are in place and risk assessments in relation to school pick-ups have been conducted.

The environment is warm and welcoming for the children with a varied range of toys, furniture and equipment easily accessible for them. Staff ensure that resources are safe and suitable for children's use with regular checking and cleaning routines.

Children are appropriately protected because staff understand their role in relation to child protection and are able to put local procedures into practice when necessary. Staff interviewed demonstrate a good understanding of the different areas of abuse and of possible signs.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are involved in a good range of activities that cover all areas of development. For example, older children enjoy gluing, playing with sand and play dough, they participate in threading activities and drawing with chalks. They also enjoy playing with water and small world figures and participate well in role play activities in the home corner area. Children aged two to three years enjoy playing with a wooden train track, shaving foam, listening to stories and singing. Babies have access to appropriate and varied resources, such as activity and musical toys, push along toys, rattles and stacking toys. Children attending after school have opportunities at the beginning of the week to decide what activities they want to play with for the rest of the week. Set activities are also made available for them, such as a craft night, a cooking night and a movie night.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem when being praised and encouraged by staff for their efforts. They show interest in what they do and enjoy the activities available. Older children have opportunities to be independent and use their initiative, for example, when deciding what to play with and when helping themselves to food and water. Children respond to challenge and concentrate well when involved in various activities, such as when making marks in shaving foam, when playing with wet sand and when gluing pictures.

Children have some opportunities to learn about wider society and begin to appreciate their own culture and the cultural traditions of others. For example, older children have been involved in activities relating to Diwali and younger children have been involved in activities relating to Chinese New Year. All children have access to some resources which positively reflect wider society, such as posters and books, they also participate in activities relating to their own cultural background, such as Easter and Christmas celebrations.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Equal opportunities is appropriately promoted as all children are included and involved, their individual needs are being met. Appropriate written procedures are in place for the identification and assessment of children with learning difficulties or disabilities. The nursery currently supports a small number of children with additional needs, there are currently no children attending who speak English as a second language.

Children enjoy being in the nursery and enjoy the activities available, they are settled and happy and make positive relationships with adults and peers. Children are well behaved and behaviour is appropriately managed by most staff. However, positive behaviour is not always effectively promoted in the two to three's room.

The setting works well in partnership with parents and carers. Parents are kept informed of their child's development and progress through regular discussions with staff. An open day has been provided for parents to allow them time on a weekend to visit the nursery and discuss their child's development and progress with staff. Parents receive useful written information about the provision and the regulator's details are clearly displayed in the entrance area, along with the previous inspection report and a complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Recruitment, vetting and induction procedures are in place to ensure that children are protected and cared for by staff with relevant experience, knowledge and skills. These are not always consistently applied as vetting details for a member of supply staff are not currently available. However, supervision procedures are in place for students and new staff who have not yet completed the vetting process.

At the time of the inspection there was only the nursery manager with an appropriate first aid qualification. However, first aid training is planned for all staff members for two evenings this week. Staffs training needs are assessed at six-monthly appraisals and they have appropriate access to suitable training courses, usually through Playgroup Network. Staff have had access to training and development courses since the last inspection, for example, safeguarding children, special educational needs and an introduction to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). An additional 20 week training course is also planned for staff regarding the EYFS.

Staff have high regard for the well-being of all children and as a result, children receive appropriate adult support and attention. Attendance records and observation indicate that adult-to-child ratios are effectively maintained throughout the day. The manager and the owner are not always included in ratios so that they can collect children from school.

All records and documents required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available and up to date. Policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the provider was asked to ensure that suitable contingency arrangements are in place to cover emergencies and unexpected staff absences and to ensure that all accident records are signed by parents. The organisation of the provision has improved as some additional staff are on duty at certain times and are not included in ratios, so that they are able to undertake additional tasks, such as collecting children from other primary schools, whilst ensuring that ratios within the nursery are effectively maintained. Accident records are signed by parents.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that persons preparing and handling food are fully aware of, and comply with regulations relating to food safety and hygiene
- promote children's health by ensuring they have regular opportunities for outdoor, physical play
- ensure that cleaning fluids are inaccessible to children
- ensure that positive behaviour is effectively promoted by all staff
- ensure that recruitment and vetting procedures are consistently applied
- ensure that there is always at least one member of staff on duty or on outings with an appropriate first aid qualification.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk