



Little Monkey's Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY316456
Inspection date	03 May 2006
Inspector	Kerryn Matthews
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Registered person	Little Monkeys Nursery Ltd.
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little Monkeys Nursery is operated by Little Monkeys Ltd, a family run business. It was registered in 2005 and operates from a premises close to Windsor town centre in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. A maximum of 35 children aged from 0 - 5 years may attend the nursery at any one time, no more than 15 of these may be under 2 years. There are currently 62 children aged from 6 months to 4 years on roll. The nursery is open all year round from 08:00 to 18:00 each day.

The nursery consists of two baby rooms, a development room for children aged approximately 16 months to 2 years and two pre school rooms for children aged over

2 years. There is no garden for outdoor play, however the nursery make use of the local park situated across the road. The nursery offers support to children with special educational needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 10 staff, of these, 9, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. There is 1 staff member working towards a further qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's well-being is protected and supported by the very clear and comprehensive written policies and procedures which are in place and carried out by staff. Children are learning thorough hygiene practices as staff maintain high levels of hygiene throughout the nursery. Good procedures are in place for accidents and medication administration and most staff hold first aid certificates. All staff are booked on first aid training.

Children enjoy relaxed and sociable snack and mealtimes. High quality organic fresh produce provides the basis of the extremely well balanced and nutritious meals provided such as, chicken and vegetable pie with a fresh fruit selection for desert. Babies and young children have their milk feeds warmed and prepared by staff. The cook purees and mashes meals for weaning babies ensuring that the consistency meets the child's current needs. Flexible mealtimes are in place for the babies and younger children who are able to have their meal or feed provided at a time that they require, effectively meeting their needs regarding sleep times and respecting their home routine. All children sit comfortably to eat at good quality low level tables and chairs. Different seating is available for younger children to meet their individual needs for example high chairs and Bumbo seats. Staff use their extensive skills to extend the children's learning during meal and snack times by encouraging interesting discussions about the foods on offer for example, talking about where the foods are grown, counting pieces of fruit and numbers of children. The cook provides a very popular take away service for parents on their request, providing a main meal for them to take home and reheat in the evening. This enables the parents to spend more quality time with their child after work. Clear reheating instructions are given with each meal to ensure that the meals are heated adequately, taking into account good food hygiene practices.

All children thoroughly enjoy fresh air and exercise. They are able to make significant progress in their physical development as staff provide a wide range of good quality activities in and outdoors. For example, older children enjoy planting in containers in the courtyard area whilst babies and younger children have fun in the ball pools in their playrooms. They are able to run, jump, balance and climb on regular trips to the local park. Children's outdoor experiences are further enhanced by local walks to feed the ducks and to watch the changing of the guard at Windsor castle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are made to feel welcome in this child friendly environment which enables them to move around freely and play safely within their age related playrooms. The children's individual needs are met effectively because there is a good range of furniture, toys and equipment which is well maintained. Many of the toys are made of natural materials such as wood and treasure baskets are available for the younger children. All children enjoy their time in their bright and attractive playrooms. Babies and toddlers are cared for in a warm and homely environment for example, there are soft furnishings and lots of interactive toys that are easily accessible. They are well supervised as staff sit close to them on the floor and encourage them to move and explore materials and equipment safely.

Children enjoy their play in a safe and secure environment as risk assessments are carried out regularly and any potential hazards reduced for example, the park used for outdoor play is checked by staff prior to taking any children there. Children and staff practise the emergency evacuation procedure regularly, helping the children become familiar with the routine in the event of a fire and enabling staff to assist with the safe evacuation of the babies and toddlers. There are good procedures in place for the safe arrival and departure of the children. An intercom system ensures that all persons entering the premises are greeted by staff, thus reducing the risk of unknown people coming into contact with the children.

The staff are able to safeguard the children's welfare through their sound knowledge of child protection issues and a clearly written child protection policy. However, the policy does not include action to be taken if an allegation is made against a staff member. Many of the staff have completed child protection training. All staff are booked to attend further training in the near future, thus ensuring that they all have up to date knowledge in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enjoying their time at the nursery. Staff are competent and they have a sound understanding of their role and responsibilities. The key worker system enables staff to build good relationships with the children and as a result their care, welfare and learning needs are met effectively within the setting. The staff know the children well.

All children are enthused by the exciting activities provided and they are well motivated to explore and learn. Staff have the knowledge and understanding to plan effectively for the Birth to three matters framework and the Foundation Stage of learning, maintaining a record of the children's progress. They are making good progress in all areas of their learning; staff carry out regular observations and reviews of the children's development to highlight any areas to be focused on.

The children are happy, settled and confident. Children of all ages interacted with the

inspector at their own developmental level. Older children have lots of fun when joining in singing and movement sessions, they show their pleasure with smiles and laughter, they are also very keen to choose the next song. Children are developing good communication skills and they enjoy the staff's caring and warm interactions. Babies and toddlers are offered cuddles and comfort when tired, making them feel secure and meeting their emotional needs.

Children are encouraged to be independent for example, older children are able to help themselves to a drink from the water machine as they wish. All playrooms have toys stored on open shelving, enabling children of all ages to make choices from the age appropriate toys on display.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enjoy care that promotes their well-being and self-worth. They are learning to have respect for each other through their participation in appropriate activities and interactions with staff who are sensitive to their needs. The children learn about the world in which we live during relevant activities such as the acknowledgement of festivals and celebrations from a range of cultures and religions for example, Chinese New Year, Diwali and Christmas. Children are developing confidence and self-esteem as they receive lots of positive attention to encourage them to communicate. They have close and secure relationships with staff. All children are treated with equal concern and have their individual needs met by the skilled staff team.

Children respond well to the consistent praise and encouragement offered by staff. An effective behaviour management policy is in place however, there is not a separate policy regarding bullying. Older children are cooperative, well behaved and are beginning to take responsibility for their actions and learn right and wrong. Younger children are offered support and encouragement to interact with each other, begin to share and take turns. All children are actively involved in interesting activities, therefore their behaviour is good.

Children benefit from the strong relationships between parents and staff as information is shared to meet their needs effectively within the setting. For example, meeting babies individual routines and dietary requirements. Parents are kept well informed of their child's progress through monthly reports written by their child's key worker and regular parents evenings. Staff speak to the parents daily on collection of their child. Written daily sheets ensure that parents have all relevant information regarding their child's day at the nursery, including their food intake and activities that they have enjoyed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

All areas used by the children are well organised. Children's safety is maintained as

the provider has clear systems in place to ensure that staff are appropriately employed and vetted; all staff hold clear Criminal Records Bureau checks. Staff ratios allow a good level of supervision at all times, additional staff are available to cover for staff lunch breaks. Most of the staff have qualifications and experience in caring for young children. This enables the children to access appropriate care and learning experiences. The provider encourages staff to develop their skills and knowledge by attending various training courses for example, first aid and food hygiene training is arranged for all staff. Staff have a clear understanding of their role in supporting the children's learning and play, as a good induction programme is in place.

Policies and procedures are in place to ensure that the children are well cared for. This also supports the building of good relationships with parents. The staff have a sound knowledge of the needs of the children in their care through the detailed individual records kept and information gained from parents.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the first inspection since registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted received a concern on 22/02/06, regarding meeting a child's individual needs and working with parents. This concern related to National Standards 3: Care, learning and play and Standard 12: Working in partnership with parents. Ofsted carried out an unannounced visit on 06/03/06 to discuss this concern. By means of discussion, observation and a review of policies and procedures the inspector found no breaches of the National Standards and the provider remains qualified for registration.

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 good. 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 the child protection policy includes action to be taken if an allegation is made against a staff member
- devise a separate bullying policy

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk