



Friends At Brook Acre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY269371
Inspection date	02 March 2006
Inspector	Julie Firth
Setting Address	Brook Acre Primary School, Hilden Road, Padgate, Warrington, Cheshire, WA2 0JP
Telephone number	01925 880058
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Registered person	Birchgrove Day Nursery Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care, Out of School 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?

Friends at Brook Acre opened in 2003. It is run by Birch Grove Day Nursery Ltd. The nursery and out of school club operate from a purpose built building in the grounds of Brook Acre Primary School in the area of Padgate, Warrington. There is a fully enclosed area for outdoor play. Both facilities serve the local area.

The nursery is open from 08.00 to 18.00 Monday to Friday, 52 weeks of the year, closing only on Bank Holidays. An out of school club is available every weekday during term time from 08.00 to 09.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00. A holiday club operates during school holidays from 08.00 to 18.00. There are currently 49 children

on roll.

The setting currently employs a qualified manager and six members of staff of whom five hold a NVQ level 3 qualification and one is working towards a level 3. The setting receives support from the early years childcare development officer in Warrington.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because practitioners are active in following current and appropriate environmental guidelines. The nursery is clean and staff regularly wipe down surfaces with anti-bacterial spray. However, a bin without a lid is accessible to children and poses a risk to their health. Effective policies are in place and a number of staff hold first aid qualifications to meet children's needs in the event of an accident or an emergency. Children who are ill are cared for sensitively and closely supervised until their parents come to collect them. Individual care needs are met as babies' nappies are changed regularly where good hygiene routines are followed. Babies enjoy close warm relationships with staff members as they are gently reassured and chatted-to during personal care routines. The health of babies and toddlers is promoted as staff follow their routines with regard to meal and sleep times, providing an environment which is consistent with home. Children confidently carry out good hygiene procedures such as washing hands at appropriate times of the day. Posters displayed in the bathrooms reinforce their understanding of toileting routines.

Children's health and dietary needs are met as staff work with parents to gather and record relevant information. Weekly menus are carefully devised to provide a nutritious and healthy diet for children. Menus are clearly displayed on notice boards to inform parents, providing good continuity of care. Snack and meal times are relaxed social occasions where staff and children sit together and chat about their day, however children are not provided with plates to put their apples and raisins on at snack times. Children are well hydrated as they are offered drinks with their food, however they are unable to quench their thirst at other times of the day as drinks are not readily available.

All children have regular opportunities to engage in physical play. Whilst playing outdoors they have fun as they play games such as hopscotch and ride on bikes. Staff interact well with children as they encourage them to hop and support toddlers as they practice their balancing skills on the grass. Such opportunities allow children to develop their physical skills and gain control of their bodies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled in the warm and friendly nursery. Parents are welcomed into a bright reception area where they are greeted by staff. Colourful wall displays of children's independent art work and tactile materials enhance the attractive

environment and create a sense of belonging for young children. Areas are well organised and activities well planned to enable children to move about freely and confidently and help themselves from the wide choice of play materials and resources. Toys and equipment are safe, clean and in good condition. There are suitable resources for different ages and abilities to promote children's individual development. Large cushions and soft play materials create a safe area for babies who are learning to grasp and explore their immediate area. A sensory room is available which creates a calm and sensual experience for children.

Children's safety is assessed and managed well through regular risk assessments which cover all areas of the nursery. There are clear procedures in place for the safe collection of children and a security system is in place which prevents unknown persons entering the nursery. Children are learning to keep themselves safe as they take part in regular emergency evacuation and learn to follow outlined procedures to protect everyone involved. However, fire fighting equipment is not serviced on a regular basis and this poses a risk to children's safety.

Children are well protected through staff good knowledge of child protection issues and procedures. A comprehensive child protection policy is in place and accessible to parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children smile happily when they arrive at the nursery. Staff greet children and encourage them to say goodbye to their parents which contributes towards developing secure, trusting three way relationships. They relate to both staff and each other. The Birth to three matters framework is being used effectively to inform planning and extend current good practise to improve the quality of children's learning. However, assessments are not used to predict the next stages of children's learning and development. Consequently the links between planning, observations and assessments are not yet fully complete.

Young children freely explore and investigate their environment as they learn to grasp, make noises with musical instruments or play with the coloured balls in the ball pool. Babies receive lots of hugs and cuddles from staff which helps them form a strong bond with their carers. Early communication skills are developed as staff respond to babies' babblings and facial gestures. Heuristic play is well promoted for all children throughout the nursery. Children have fun exploring different sensory opportunities available in the treasure baskets, and babies giggle happily as they feel the texture of cooked pasta. Toddlers are provided with appropriate opportunities to make marks, and with the help of staff are beginning to recognise shapes and numbers. Children are beginning to understand that they are separate from others as they look at themselves in the toy mirror, make hand prints from clay and happily point to their body parts as they sing songs. Young children gradually learn to cooperate and interact with others in play situations as they play house and build models with the building blocks. Creative opportunities allow children to express themselves imaginatively and develop their fine motor skills. A range of appropriate

activities is provided for the children who attend after school.

Children are beginning to learn right from wrong as staff gently explain to a child why he should not throw a ball around the room. Staff interact with children at every opportunity and children clearly enjoy the high level of attention they receive.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are included in activities and their individual needs are well met. They enjoy each others company as they play harmoniously in the relaxed and happy nursery atmosphere. Children enjoy learning about different countries and cultures, and benefit from staff's positive role models and attitudes. Meaningful experiences such as celebrating Buddhism, food tasting from other countries and accessing resources that reflect equality of opportunity allow children to appreciate the diverse society in which they live. Outings in the local community allow children to experience different environments. They are starting to develop a caring attitude for others as an older child help a toddler get onto a bicycle outside. They are encouraged to take turns, to be kind and respectful, and young children have made their own ground rules.

Children well behaved. Staff give lots of praise to support their efforts and achievements. They treat all children with individual care and respect. Staff effectively manage their behaviour using strategies that are appropriate to the age and development of the child, and minor altercations are dealt with in a calm and sensitive manner. Staff gently explain to two young children when they become impatient to go outside and distract them by saying other children are taking a bit longer to put on their coats.

The partnership with parents is good, which contributes to consistency and security within children's lives. Parents are warmly welcomed into the nursery at the end and beginning of the day. They receive a booklet which contains information about the setting and information on birth to three matters. Notice boards help to keep parents up to date with their children's activities and events happening within the nursery. They are informed of what activities and topics their child is taking place in to enable them to become involved. Informal discussions at the end of the day, newsletters, planned parents' evenings and daily written sheets keep parents informed of their children's progress. Parents expressed a high degree of satisfaction, "they are happy" and state "the provision allows their child to be involved in lots of activities." A written complaints procedure is in place and all complaints are reported and dealt with appropriately.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are protected because staff are appointed through effective employment

procedures. A good induction procedure and probationary period forms a firm basis for staff development. Staff are qualified and new members are keen to become part of the team. Annual appraisal systems are being implemented, from which training needs can be identified by the manager and owner. The manager recognises her commitment to support staff and develop their roles within the nursery. She is aware of areas for future development. Staffing levels are organised to ensure that children have good levels of support at all times. They are grouped according to their age and stage of development and space is organised to provide them with a balanced range of activities.

Most policies, information and documentation relating to the continuity of care for children are in place, however there are some omissions; written parental consent to transport children in the mini bus is not in place. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the first nursery inspection. On the previous out of school inspection the provider was asked to forward documentation of the new nursery to Ofsted. This has been sent to ensure a safe environment for children. To provide children with an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality and to reflect this in the recruitment and training of staff. Children now have access to a range of activities and resources that reflect equality. To ensure that the child protection procedure for the nursery complies with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures, and to include procedures if allegations are made against a member of staff. The child protection policy does follow the Area Child Protection Committee and includes allegations made against a member of staff to ensure children's safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

Complaints for Birch Grove Day nursery.

Since April 2004 Ofsted has received three complaints relating to national Standard 1: Suitable Person, National Standard 2: Organisation, National Standard 7: Health, National standard 11: Behaviour and National Standard 12: Working in partnership with parents and carers.

The first complaint relates to National Standard 7: Health and National Standard 11: Behaviour, and concerns the cleanliness of the toilets and methods used by staff to manage children's behaviour. A child care inspector visited the premises on 31/10/2005 and found that Standard 7 and Standard 11 were being met. However, it was noted that an incident book to record significant behaviour incidents was not being kept. An action was raised and satisfactorily met by the registered provider.

The second complaint relates to National standard 1: Suitable Person, National Standard 2: Organisation and National Standard 12: Working in Partnership with parents and carers. Concerns were raised that a member of staff was verbally abusive to another adult in the school playground, that staffing ratios were not being,

that unqualified staff were being left alone with children and that parents were not being fully informed about incidents involving their children. A child care inspector visited the premises on 06/12/2005. It was found that although staff ratios were being met, the deployment of staff was an issue. It was also found that parents were not being informed of every incident in which their child was involved. There was no evidence to support the allegation of a member of staff being verbally abusive in the school playground. Two actions were raised to ensure that staff are deployed effectively throughout the day and to make sure that there is a system in place for the regular exchange of information between parents and staff. Both actions were satisfactorily met by the registered provider.

The third complaint relates to National Standard 1: Suitable Person, and concerns a member of staff who has not had CRB clearance being left alone with the children. The compliance Investigation and Enforcement team contacted the provision and asked them to carry out an investigation to the concerns raised. Ofsted are satisfied with the response received.

As a result of responses received the provider remains qualified for registration.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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 children have regular access to drinks, provide children with plates at snack time and ensure the bin in the art area is inaccessible to children
- ensure that fire extinguishers are serviced on a regular basis
- further develop the planning of the Birth to three matters framework by ensuring that assessments are used to plan the next stages of learning and development for individual children
- provide parental written permission to transport children in the mini bus.

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