



Ashford Play Nursery (Creche)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY284642
Inspection date	05 July 2005
Inspector	Cilla Rachel Mullane
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Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care, Crèche

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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Ashford Play Nursery (Crèche) opened in 2004. It operates from two ground floor rooms in a private house, in Ashford. The group serves the local area. The crèche is the baby unit for three other Ashford Play Nurseries, with the same ownership.

There are currently 23 children aged from 1 year up to 2 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting does not currently support children with

special needs. Children attend who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 08.00 to 18.00.

There are three staff who work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level II or III. There is one member of staff currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy good health and a healthy lifestyle. They play in a clean environment. Most procedures effectively prevent the spread of infection, such as the sensible and appropriate use of disposable gloves. However, sharing of bed linen may encourage the spread of infection. Large play equipment in the outdoor area gives children the opportunity to practise and develop physical skills. They play outside and extend their physical skills on a daily basis. The provision of nourishing food at meal times helps promote healthy eating from a young age. Staff find out children's sleep and rest routines, so that they can provide continuity of care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from harm and neglect. They can move around safely and freely in a safe environment, and are cared for by staff who are observant and vigilant, and who have assessed the risks. Children use a wide range of good quality, suitable and safe toys and resources appropriate to their age and stage of development. Staff help to ensure children's safety by using procedures for checking the premises and equipment consistently. There are good procedures in place to check the safety of the outdoor area before use, so children can play outside safely. Good security precautions reduce the likelihood of strangers entering the premises. Children are well protected from harm when attending the nursery, because staff understand their role in child protection. They are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. Adults living or working on the premises are vetted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are interested in a reasonable variety of activities which enable them to make choices, use their imaginations, and acquire new knowledge and skills. However, there is no planning of activities in advance. Children feel valued, and their confidence and self-esteem are encouraged due to staffs' effective interaction. Staff ask open questions, listen, praise and value children's contributions and achievements. Young children gain much from being together, and they are learning

to communicate and develop good affectionate and trusting relationships with their peers and staff. Most children are interested in the activities and make satisfactory progress. However, staff do not complete initial assessments of children's abilities, or use observations of children to record their development. As a result, there is no planning for children's next steps for play and learning, or for their individual needs. Some children may not be sufficiently challenged. Although there is a good range of toys and equipment, children do not always get the most from them due to their arrangement, for example, no cushions for looking at books, no role-play area.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enter the pre-school confidently and happily, and quickly settle into the routine. Their relationships with their peers and staff are good, partly due to the small size of the group, which promotes a sense of security. Staff's interaction with the children is warm, positive and supportive. Constant praise and encouragement make children feel valued, and raises their self esteem. Staff encourage all children to participate in the activities provided. This ensures children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential. Children's behaviour is good because they are in a small group, with staff who are vigilant, and who apply consistent behaviour management strategies. Opportunities for children to start to learn to act independently are sometimes limited. For example, there is no small toilet, children need to be lifted to use the wash basin, and clothes pegs are too high for them to use.

A good relationship with parents and carers contributes considerably to children's well-being while at the nursery. Contact books give parents information about children's sleeps and feeds, helping to ensure continuity of care. However, parents do not contribute an initial assessment of their children, so staff are not necessarily aware of individual developmental needs and achievements. Parents are not given formal information about how their child is progressing. They have access to the nurseries policies and procedures, but are not familiar with them.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's needs are met through generally effective organization. Children are cared for in a small group, which positively contributes to their good health, safety, enjoyment and ability to take an active part in the setting. Staff understand and generally follow the crèche's acceptable policies and procedures to take appropriate steps to protect children, promote their well-being and support their development. Staff work effectively as a team, and know what they need to do at any given time, which ensures the smooth running of the sessions, and continuity and security for the children. Vetting procedures help to ensure children are well protected. Staff are careful to ensure that minimum ratios are upheld. However, at times, there are insufficient qualified and experienced staff working with the children. Staff have a positive attitude to attending short courses in order to enhance their knowledge of

childcare issues, and will all undertake training about the Birth to three matters framework in the near future. When children are ready to move on to the main nursery, they are carefully supported during the transition.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 that laundering of bed linen effectively protects children from the spread of infection
- develop the staff's knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under three, for example through the use of the Birth to three framework, and use developmental records to plan for individual children's next steps
- provide children with opportunities to develop their independence
- ensure parents are involved in their children's learning and development, and are familiar with the nursery's policies and procedures
- ensure that there are always sufficient qualified and experienced staff working with the children.

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:
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