



Baby Barns Kindergarten

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY101659
Inspection date	11 May 2006
Inspector	Lynn Amelia Hartigan
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Registered person	Anita Claire Huckle
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Baby Barns Kindergarten opened in 2002. It operates from a converted barn in Ardleigh, Essex. Baby Barns is an annexe to a larger day nursery, Orchard Barns, situated close by. The kindergarten serves the local area and surrounding towns and villages. There are currently 25 children on roll aged from 8 months to 2 years.

The nursery is open each weekday from 08.00 to 18.00 all year, with the exception of bank holidays and one week at Christmas. Children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

Five members of staff work with the children. Over half the staff currently have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. One member of staff is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The nursery is a member of National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) and has NDNA accreditation. They are also members of the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PSLA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are becoming aware of good personal hygiene. They learn about keeping themselves healthy as the staff positively encourage children to wash their hands before snack, meals and if they have played in the garden. Children are also protected through excellent hygiene procedures when their nappies are being changed. Children's well being is a priority and the nursery has a robust written emergency policy and procedure in place, and appropriate parental consents.

The nursery provides excellent opportunities for communication with parents ensures children are protected with regard to illness and medication. A detailed health and sickness policy is in place which is followed and reviewed regularly. Appropriate well stocked first aid kits are available and most staff have completed a first aid course.

Children's routines are respected and exceptionally well catered for. Young babies are able to sleep in a dedicated cot in a quiet cosy sleep area just above the playroom. Clean sheets and blankets are supplied. All equipment is of excellent quality. Robust procedures for checking sleeping children are adhered to.

Children's health is promoted exceptionally well. They enjoy fresh air and exercise daily as they are encouraged to play outdoors in the garden as part of their daily routine. Children are able to develop their physical skills as access to very good resources outdoors are easily available. Young children enjoy playing with large chalks and chalk board, water painting and having tea parties with their dolls. Children have fun and enjoy music and movement, such as, 'shake out' sessions, having fun dancing to music and shaking silky scarves. The very good layout of the rooms enables younger, less mobile children to crawl, pull themselves up and roll around independently.

Excellent care is taken to ensure the children enjoy healthy nutritious snacks and meals. A daily menu is displayed for parents. Snacks, meals and babies' bottles are prepared and stored in a very clean, highly organised kitchen. The freshly cooked meals are transported from the sister nursery which is close by. Staff have an excellent understanding of food preparation and several hold a food hygiene certificate. Excellent procedures to ensure that food is stored appropriately are in place. The nursery have recently been awarded the 'NHS snack attack' award.

Children's individual dietary needs are catered for exceptionally well. For example,

sleeping babies and toddlers are offered their meal when they wake. Babies enjoy cuddles and close contact when having their milk. Very good communication with parents ensures that the babies' routines are consistent with those at home.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The staff's commitment to welcome children and their parents is outstanding. Playrooms are brightly decorated with the children's own work and posters. Individual coat pegs with the children's photographs, storage baskets for personal belongings and shoe storage enables children to feel a sense of belonging. Security of the premises and safety of the children is paramount. Visitors are requested to sign in and wear badges, locked entrance doors and good vision of approaching visitors ensures the children are protected.

Children's individual needs are met as appropriate, very well-maintained resources and equipment are provided. The exceptionally good selection of toys both indoors and outdoors and their accessibility, ensures the children can make choices and self select.

Children play in a very clean, extremely safe environment as the staff consistently give priority to protect children. The nursery is risked assessed daily and the premises meet with all requirements. This includes fire safety. A detailed fire evacuation plan and policy is in place. Fire evacuation drills are practised regularly.

The well-being of the children is protected exceptionally well as the staff have a very good understanding of child protection issues. A comprehensive written policy is in place for parents. Staff attend child protection training whenever possible to ensure they are up to date with current practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children have excellent opportunities for a wide range of play experiences. An exceptional selection of quality toys and resources are available to them within the playrooms and garden, this enables them to have fun and learn. The staff have made excellent use of the space available and the nursery is impressively well designed, welcoming and child friendly.

Children feel very comfortable and secure, they are able to select toys with ease and confidence as they are impressively organised and accessible. Child sized furniture and cosy areas for the younger child to play, create a very welcoming environment.

The staff's thorough understanding of children's development ensures activities and toys are appropriate for their developmental stage. For example, treasure baskets and colour sacks, containing everyday objects have been developed for the younger child. Large chunky chinks, crayons and low level tables and easels ensure the young children can join in all activities with ease.

Children receive excellent support as the staff have a sound knowledge and have completed training with regard to the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Activities are theme based and take into account the children's individual stage of development and understanding. For example, themes such as animals and farms are enjoyed by all. Hiding farm animals in peat causes great excitement when found. Printing with Wellington boots is enjoyed. Children's favourite nursery rhymes and songs are quietly played, musical instruments are well used. Young children particularly enjoy 'shake out' sessions dancing to music with silky scarves.

Excellent opportunities for creative play are available as these are planned within the daily routine. Activities such as; digging in peat, potting seeds, painting, dough, gloop and dressing up are thoroughly enjoyed.

Very good observations of the children's development is recorded within their individual file, samples of their work are kept. This enables the staff to plan appropriate activities and provides the parents with a good record of their child's achievements.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise daily as outdoor play is positively encouraged in the exceptionally well resourced, child friendly garden. Toys such as a sand tray, ride on toys, large chalk board, wind chimes, and mobiles are well maintained safe and of excellent quality. Children have great fun organising a tea party using home corner equipment and using their imagination, for example, improvising with the play bark for food.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very well cared for as the staff are committed in getting to know them and their family backgrounds. Staff positively encourage parents to share information with them so that they can best meet and support the children's individual needs. Detailed and exceptionally well written equal opportunities and special needs policies are in place and are regularly reviewed, these support and ensure the inclusion of all children.

Children's knowledge and understanding of a wider world is encouraged mainly through conversation and work around planned themes. There are excellent resources available to the children that reflect diversity such as, an impressive selection of books, small world figures, dolls, play food, musical instruments and posters.

Children feel valued and respected as the staff are calm and are excellent role models. They praise the children continuously for their efforts. Completion of easy tasks such as helping to tidy away or potting seeds are praised. A very good behaviour management policy is in place for parents, excellent communication with the parents ensures there is a consistent approach to managing behaviour and promotes their well being. Children appear confident and reassured. Gentle reminders not to 'push our friends' are sufficient and very young children are caring towards each other, for example, spontaneously patting or hugging each other when

they bump into one another.

A strong emphasis is put in welcoming the parents into the nursery. This promotes a good working relationship. Exchange of useful information ensures the staff are fully informed to develop and support the children's individual needs. For example, care plans are discussed and recorded with new parents so that babies routine is consistent with that of home. As a result new babies and toddlers settle well.

Providing parents with appropriate information is successfully achieved as the nursery have created a robust information file that supports their expert practice. This is offered to parents and provides copies of the settings individual policies and procedures, which are also displayed within the entrance hall.

A superb relationship between the staff and the parents ensure they are fully informed about their children's activities and their working practices, for example, daily diaries are well maintained and give the parents general information regarding their children's day. Well documented observation files, play plans and child development profiles are available. Planning such as the 'Birth to three' matters, is displayed for parents. Parents are also invited to attend open evenings and regularly complete questionnaires regarding the nursery's practice.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The nursery is exceptionally welcoming and effectively organised to support children's play and learning. The play space indoors and outdoors enables children to explore, play safely and have fun. The children benefit from being cared for by motivated, qualified and experienced practitioners. The staff are committed to training, are reflective and strive for excellence. Ensuring the staff team are up to date with current childcare practice means children receive high quality care.

Children's care is significantly enhanced as managers and staff ensure the children's day is varied and exceptionally well organised. The staff are able to effectively support and meet the needs of all the children in their care as a result. Effective, informative and well maintained documents and information regarding the children, enables the nursery to support children's individual needs.

Overall, the needs of the children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents which they can see on

request. The complaint 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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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