



# Kilburn Grange Children's Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY313122
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 July 2006
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<b>Registered person</b>	Camden Council
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day care, Sessional 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](http://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?

Kilburn Grange Children's Centre opened in 2006 to serve the Kilburn Priory locality. It is the core site of three children's centres run by the London Borough of Camden. Acol Nursery Centre in NW6 and Langtry Children's Centre in NW8 are linked settings and parents at these two settings are sign posted to the facilities at the core site.

Kilburn Grange Children's Centre comprises of a day nursery, which is open each weekday for 48 weeks of the year from 08:00 to 18:00; a parents' room, with access to a computer; a training room; a creche to support parents and carers attending the

centre; and a variety of courses and drop-in support groups for parents, carers and their families. It has facilities for those with special needs, including wheelchair facilities.

All services are housed in a purpose-built building with outdoor play areas for the children. There are currently 16 children aged from seven months up to five years on roll in the day nursery. The creche offers a maximum of 20 places and operates as required to support various adult groups that meet in the centre. Children who attend the creche are mostly under four years of age. Children who attend the setting represent the cultural diversity from families living within the community.

The day to day running of the centre is managed by the Centre Head for Childcare, who is responsible for the childcare facilities, and by the Children's Centre Services Manager, who is responsible for the additional services. They are supported by the Deputy Nursery Manager, the Deputy Manager for Community Involvement and the Deputy Manager for Health.

There are ten staff who work with the children in the day nursery. Eight staff have early years qualifications to level 2 or 3. Additional staff work when the creche is operating.

This inspection was a children's centre inspection. It was carried out for Ofsted's Early Years Directorate by a team which included a senior childcare inspector and a childcare inspector.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted as the premises are maintained to a high standard of cleanliness. Staff follow very good procedures to prevent the spread of infection to protect children. For example, staff wear disposable gloves and aprons when changing nappies, and anti-bacterial spray is used to wipe the changing mat after each use. Children are developing good self-care skills, and are encouraged to make lots of bubbles with the soap when they wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. The suitably equipped bathroom allows children to maintain good hygiene practices. Children are very familiar with the need to protect themselves from the sun. They understand that they need to wear their hat and apply sun cream before going outside to play. Effective policies and procedures are in place to manage accidents, first aid and administer medication. Staff have current first aid training to ensure children's well being.

A cook, on the premises, prepares fresh food for the children. Children benefit from nutritious, healthy and well planned meals, including basil tomato sauce with pasta, peas and sweet corn, lentil curry and rice and cod fish pie and green beans. Babies are given a variety of fresh pureed foods, for example, sweet potato, parsnip and potato and apple and mango purees. Children's individual dietary needs are known and followed by the cook and staff as detailed information is clearly recorded. Each

child's particular dietary needs and preferences are accommodated well. Children are beginning to have an understanding of healthy eating as they are offered a good selection of fresh fruit at snack time, with water or milk to drink. Drinking water is also set out for children to help themselves to throughout the day. Children enjoy the independence of being able to pour drinks for themselves. Babies are regularly offered drinks to ensure none remain thirsty. Children and staff sit in small groups for snack and lunch times, creating a relaxed and social atmosphere in which social skills and good manners are promoted.

Children have excellent opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise everyday, as they have free access to the outside play area. They are able to independently choose between playing inside and outside, as all areas are set up daily with a wide selection of activities. Children are able to make good progress in their physical development as they participate in balancing, running and jumping.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the very welcoming surroundings as staff greet them and their parents warmly, which helps to ensure children feel secure. The building is bright and stimulating to help create a positive learning environment for children. Parents say that the building is well designed and user friendly, with space to manoeuvre double buggies as well as having a buggy park. The rooms give good amounts of natural light. Children benefit from the way in which staff make very good use of the space. They move confidently around the environment, both indoors and outdoors. Children have access to a wide range of good quality toys, which are appropriate for their age and stage of development. Babies are able to sleep and eat in comfort and safety as appropriate furniture and equipment is available. Babies snuggle up to staff on the rocking chair and are rocked off to sleep. Children have good opportunities to exercise their independence by being able to self-select toys for themselves. Toys and activities are set up, inviting and enticing children to play. For example, babies crawl around enthused by the toys that are displayed on the floor. They eagerly play with the excellent range of activities and toys offered.

Children are kept safe as effective systems for addressing safety issues are in place. For example, staff conduct regular risk assessments and checks to ensure that children can enjoy an environment and equipment that is well maintained. There are excellent and effective security precautions in place to ensure children are safe, including an intercom system at the entrance gate and key pads positioned at the entrance to the nursery and crèche. Staff monitor all visitors to the centre. Children are effectively supervised as correct ratios are maintained and staff are effectively deployed for children's safety. Priority is also given to fire safety. For example, there are well-signed fire exits and fire fighting equipment in place. There is also an emergency escape plan. However, this has yet to be practiced with the children, which would safeguard them further.

Children's well-being is also well protected because staff have a clear understanding of their role in relation to child protection issues. They know the indicators of abuse

and the procedure to be followed for reporting concerns. The manager ensures that procedures are up-to-date and that staff understand their responsibilities and attend regular training.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is outstanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the nursery and show that they are extremely comfortable and familiar with routines and all staff members. They are very happy when they arrive and quickly settle into the routine as they make their own choices about their play. Children receive lots of attention and have a strong bond with the staff, which increases their sense of wellbeing. This interaction, and the implementation of a successful key worker system, helps to secure relationships between children and staff, thus developing a strong sense of trust.

The deputy manager has worked very closely with the staff to implement the Birth to three matters framework. They make excellent use of the Birth to three to plan a varied range of activities and experiences. A well organised planning system has been devised which is clearly linked to Birth to three matters framework. Children's enjoyment and learning is fostered effectively by the planning and observations made. They keep exceptional records about the development of each child and use this to plan the next steps in children's development and learning. Staff recognise the value of play in children's development and they introduce a excellent range of experiences both indoors and outdoors.

Activities are age appropriate and skilfully supported by the staff, to ensure each child is challenged and their learning extended. Younger children are becoming competent learners, as they self-select activities such as sticking and cutting, which helps to increase their manipulative skills. They have a wonderful time filling their buckets with water and then using large paint brushes to paint the walls in the garden. Children are becoming skilful communicators as they learn new vocabulary and use descriptive languages to express their feelings. They laugh and have fun as they energetically join in action songs and enjoy singing with their friends. Children also enjoy opportunities to express themselves through imaginative play in the home corner. They are so excited at story time as they have chosen the story for themselves; they eagerly wait for the 'Hungry Caterpillar' story to begin. They listen attentively and with enjoyment, encouraged by the staff presentation of the story to gain children's interest. They have excellent opportunities to care for plants and are learning about how things grow. For example, children have planted mint and strawberries in the garden, and are excited as they watch them grow and eagerly pick the strawberries to eat.

Children are developing very good social skills as they enjoy being in each other's company and demonstrate this by playing co-operatively together. They are learning about taking turns and giving each other time to talk. They are confident in following simple instructions, such as staff asking the children to help with tidying up and setting the tables for lunch.

Babies enjoy the warmth and gentle handling of staff and are encouraged by the

enthusiasm staff show when they see babies achieve new skills. Staff clap their hands when a baby begins to move independently towards a toy; the baby smiles with a great sense of achievement. Good eye contact is given by the staff and plenty of cuddles so that the children understand that they are valued by, and important to, their carers. Babies are beginning to explore their senses and have great fun playing with natural materials, such as corn flour, sand and water play. Babies are beginning to develop early communication skills as they attract the attention of staff who responds enthusiastically to their sounds during play. They use gestures and babble, imitating sounds as they begin to find their voice.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for by staff that have an excellent understanding of individual children's needs. Parents are asked to complete an information form detailing the needs of the family. They can choose if they wish for a member of the home visiting team to visit them at home, in order to discuss any additional needs the family might have, as well as finding out about children's individual needs and interests. This has a positive impact on the children as their individual routines are well known to the staff when they start at the nursery. Parents praise the comprehensive settling in process, which is extremely effective. Children display their happiness as their individual needs are effectively met within the setting. Staff follow babies' individual feed and rest times and, as a result, babies are clearly settled.

Children are learning about the world in which they live as they have access to resources that promote positive images of different cultures and differing abilities. Children with special needs are welcome into the nursery as staff have a positive attitude towards this area of childcare. There is a special educational needs co-ordinator to support the needs of children and to act in the best interests of each child. Children's behaviour is very good because they are engaged in purposeful play. Staff use age-appropriate and positive strategies to manage any difficulties that may arise. For example, a large sand timer is used to help children understand that they have five minutes left to give up a toy to another child who is waiting. Therefore, children are learning the importance of sharing with their friends and taking turns. Children are learning to be kind and respectful towards each other because the staff are appropriate role models and set good examples. They talk to the children with respect and, in turn, children are seen to be kind and caring to each other. Staff give the children excellent praise when they have done something well, children are very proud of themselves when staff tell them 'I am so happy. That's really good listening.'. This helps to build and develop children's self-esteem, making them feel very good about themselves.

Children benefit from the close partnership developed between parents and staff, as well as the value staff place on gaining parents' input. Parents receive very good detailed information about the nursery and the service it provides; this includes the prospectus and information about the nursery's policies and procedures. Parents receive excellent information about their children's progress both on a daily basis and at parents' meetings. Staff prepare very detailed scrapbooks showing the activities

that children take part in, how it relates to Birth to three matters and what children have achieved. Parents are overjoyed about the care that is offered to their children. They say that the settling in procedure is excellent, which allows plenty of time for their children to settle well. The staff are very helpful and keen to learn about each child.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The centre is run by an experienced and very highly motivated manager and deputies. They are very committed to ensuring that the nursery provides excellent quality care for children, and these aims are clearly understood by staff. The staff work well together as a team. This is reflected in good practice which results in the children being very happy and contented in the nursery. Children receive exceptional support due to the high ratios and the attention of the staff. The centre is very well organised and very good communications mean that routines and practices flow smoothly. Regular staff and room meetings result in effective team work. High importance is placed on training and the manager gives excellent support and encouragement to staff to attend training, which enables them to promote positive outcomes for children.

The required documentation is in place. As a result, the children's care is enhanced by efficient and effective documentation. This is discussed with parents to ensure that children's individual care and developmental needs are met. Records are stored securely and confidentially. All policies and procedures are in place and work in practice to safeguard children's care and well being. Some of the policies are currently being reviewed to reflect the care provided at the nursery. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Additional Services**

Kilburn Grange Children's Centre is the first purpose-built Children's Centre in Camden, bringing together childcare with other Sure Start services. The Children's Centre Services Manager is responsible for the additional services and excellent use is made of the expertise of staff at the centre. Many parents and groups take advantage of the new facilities, which include a range of family support services, as well as a home visiting service. One parent says "I sometimes compare Sure Start to a department store. It's like having everything under one roof." There are good creche facilities for parents, enabling them to enrol on training courses and develop new skills to help them to return to work. The parents' room has computer facilities and parents receive support to type their curriculum vitae and apply for jobs. Parents have access to the Camden Childcare Support Fund to enable them to return to work following a period of absence, such as maternity leave. During this time their childcare costs are met by the fund. The services empower parents to help their children and, as a result, the services are well used and all members of the family benefit. A parent describes the baby yoga classes as "Fabulous" and says the facilities at the centre provide parents with a support network which helps them to be better parents.

There is an extensive range of additional activities running in the local community, including numerous drop-ins. Sure Start Kilburn Priory carries out comprehensive surveys and evaluations to find out how satisfied parents are with Sure Start services. Parents and providers are invited to partnership meetings in order to identify new services to be provided. New initiatives include a Somali drop-in and a baby café, where mothers can meet together and learn breast feeding techniques. Parents say it is wonderful to be able to go out and meet other parents and make friends in child friendly environments. All the services in the community are thriving.

### **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 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 fire drills are carried out periodically and a fire log book is maintained.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)