



Hungry Caterpillar Day Nursery and Kidz Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY260202
Inspection date	31 August 2005
Inspector	Christine Bonnett
Setting Address	Yeading Community Centre, Ditchfield Road, Hayes, Middlesex, UB4 9BH
Telephone number	020 8842 3003
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Registered person	Hungry Caterpillar Day Nurseries 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?

Hungry Caterpillar Day Nursery and Kidzs Club is one of three nurseries run by Hungry Caterpillar Ltd. It opened in 2003 and operates from several rooms in Yeading Community Centre in Yeading in the London Borough of Hillingdon. A maximum of 50 children may attend the nursery and Kidz Club at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07:30 to 18:00 for 50 weeks of the year. The kidz club is open from 08:00 to 18:00 during the school holiday at Easter and summer. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

The nursery currently has 30 children aged from 3 months to under 5 years on roll.

Children come from the local and wider community. The nursery and holiday scheme currently supports a number of children with special educational needs.

The nursery employs eight staff. Six of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is protected because they play in an environment that is clean and satisfactorily maintained. Babies crawl on carpeting that is dirt-free, and therefore prevents contamination. The risk of cross-infection between children is lessened because staff follow robust procedures when changing nappies

Children are learning good self-care skills as they independently wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. They know that germs can cause illness and that washing them away can prevent this happening. They talk with staff about the importance of staying fit and healthy. Good opportunities are available for them to enjoy physical exercise. For example, dancing, "fit and fun" sessions, which includes games, as well as twice daily outside play in the garden.

Children have little opportunity at teatime to enjoy a quiet social occasion with their key group. They spend time calling to others across the room, getting up to access water from the fountain, and talking above loud music. However, they enjoy nutritious and healthy meals. Menus are reviewed regularly and changes made to ensure that children benefit from wholesome organic foods and which incorporate any individual dietary needs. Through projects and themes, children learn about the value of healthy eating and the positive affects it can have to their bodies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children's welfare is safeguarded as safety is given high priority. Potential hazards within the nursery and garden are identified and reduced as quickly as possible. Security of the premises is good which also helps to protect children from possible harm. For example, closed circuit television monitors the outside of the building and a video entry phone system covers the front door.

Although the main corridor is gloomy and lacking in natural light, children generally benefit from spending most of their day in light bright rooms that are clean and welcoming. They see their artwork displayed on the walls and activities set out appealingly.

Children enjoy the wide range of toys and play resources available in each room. Many are stored in open shelving units, which allow them to develop their

independence by helping themselves. However, the majority of play equipment accessible in the baby room is constructed from plastic. Consequently, children do not benefit in their everyday play from experiencing natural resources and textures, such as wood and observing how light changes when reflected from diverse surfaces.

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Children's welfare is further secured because staff understand the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures for reporting and recording concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play enthusiastically with a good range of toys and resources that promote their learning in a variety of areas, such as writing and artwork. Their vocabulary is developing as staff ask questions to encourage them to think and respond appropriately. For example, "why is your dough bumpy, would a roller help?"

Children are happy and content in the care of the nursery. They laugh and have fun as they relate well to the staff. Children are able to express their needs and wishes because staff are caring and kind. This promotes children's confidence and self-esteem.

Young babies are nurtured in a comfortable environment. They are developing a sense of belonging and trust because of the affectionate and gentle care given by staff. Good eye-contact is given to babies and plenty of cuddles so that the children understand that they are valued by, and important to, their carer. Children benefit from the "Birth to three matters" framework used by the nursery to support children's learning in their earliest years.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children receive respect as individuals. Their needs, such as diet and sleep patterns are discussed with parents and the nursery effectively incorporate them in to the daily routine. Children experience consistent care, as staff work closely with parents and keep them well informed about how their child has spent their day.

Children have access to a good range of resources that enable them to develop a positive view of diversity within society and an understanding of others.

Children with special needs are welcome and appropriately included in the life of the nursery. They benefit from staffs knowledge of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the duties it imposes upon service providers.

Children are learning right from wrong through the staff's use of positive and age appropriate methods to manage behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the nursery keeps detailed and accurate records. The written policies and procedures practiced by staff also help ensure children's wellbeing and protection. However, the attendance registers often lacks the necessary detail.

Children benefit from being cared for in a well-organised environment with appropriately deployed staff. They profit from the skills and experience of the high number of suitably qualified staff looking-after them.

Children also benefit from the well organised daily routine, which includes quiet activities indoors, and physical exercise outdoors. This helps to ensure the children's overall developmental progress.

To promote the welfare of the children further, an action plan is currently being implemented to enhance the work of the nursery in the months to come. In addition, staff have regular training days to develop their knowledge and skills for use with the children.

The setting is meeting the needs of all the children for whom it provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the nursery was required to ensure that staff are deployed effectively throughout, and that appropriate adult to staff ratios were met at all times. The provider now has access to a bank of staff to call on to cover in the event of the absence of permanent staff. This ensures that good ratios are maintained and it also

helps to ensure the suitable deployment of staff.

Improvements needed to be made to safety standards. For example, risk assessments had to be carried out in all areas, and fire exits unobstructed. Safety checks are now carried out daily, a potentially dangerous shelf has been removed and all fire exits are clear to allow the quick evacuation of children and staff from the premises in an emergency.

Since the last inspection, measures have been put in place to prevent the possible spread of infection. These include the relocation of a nappy changing table from within the baby room to a more suitable area. In addition, child size, stainless steel cutlery has been introduced and new crockery, to enable children to eat their meals more easily.

At the last inspection, the nursery was required to develop staff's awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development. Some of the staff have attended training in this area, and are cascading their knowledge to all staff to enable them to work more effectively with difficult behaviour exhibited by children.

The nursery was also required to ensure that staff interact with children to promote their learning and provide activities appropriate to their needs and stage of development. This has been achieved as staff extend the children's play experiences by asking appropriate questions to encourage them to think and respond. Activities are planned to meet the needs of all children to promote their progress in all areas of development.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 there have been three complaints. A number of concerns were raised relating to the National Standards. Ofsted investigated all complaints, and raised two actions. One action related to National Standard 2; Organisation, the organisation and deployment of staff. The other action related to National Standard 6; Safety, ensuring fire exits are unobstructed. A recommendation was also made in relation to National Standard 7; Health, devising and implementing a policy and procedure to protect children from the sun. The provider has carried out both actions and the recommendation and remains qualified for registration.

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The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. 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):

- review the arrangements for teatime to ensure that children experience a social, calm occasion in which independence is encouraged
- enable children in the baby room to routinely experience a stimulating range of play equipment and resources that include clean and natural materials such as wood
- ensure the surnames of all children are recorded in the attendance register

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