



Just Learning Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY292282
Inspection date	30 June 2005
Inspector	Paula Fretwell
Setting Address	Red Hall Court, Paragon Business Village, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 2UN
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Registered person	Just Learning Ltd
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Just Learning Nursery has been registered since 2004. It is situated on the Paragon Business Park, just off junction 41 of the M1 motorway, close to Wakefield city centre.

Children are cared for in 10 rooms and they have safely enclosed outside areas. There are 96 children on roll, none of whom are in receipt of nursery education funding. The setting welcomes children with special educational needs (SEN) and those for whom English is not the first language.

There are 16 staff, all of whom have a recognised childcare qualification.

The nursery receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy in the setting and demonstrate a good awareness of their own needs, such as when they are thirsty or tired. Practitioners follow many vigilant hygiene procedures to ensure children's good health: They use colour coded cleaning cloths; they ensure hygienic nappy changing routines are followed, and they regularly clean all areas. However, children do not gain a good enough understanding of personal hygiene as this is not reinforced sufficiently within their routine.

Children enjoy a good variety of fresh food in good quantities for their needs, and details of menus are displayed for parents. Staff are observant of children's food intake and know their individual dietary requirements and preferences. Children are aware of their own restrictions. For example, a child who could not eat garlic bread at lunchtime told everybody he couldn't have it. Babies' dietary needs are well met, within a routine that closely matches their own at home; they enjoy one to one attention whilst being held during bottle feeding and their developing independence is encouraged with high levels of support from staff.

Children enthusiastically join in with a wide range of activities that promote their physical development; they are keen to run, climb, balance and ride, and they enjoy opportunities which challenge all their skills appropriately, indoors and outside. Babies develop their rapidly increasing physical skills through a wide range of activities, and the provision supports their development well. For example areas are utilised indoors when outdoor play is not suitable.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play safely in a clean, well maintained environment which is free from hazards. Their risk of accidents is minimised through robust safety measures. Such as thorough risk assessments; very regular fire drills; staff's knowledge of health and safety and regular checks of toys and equipment. Children feel safe and confidently move around the nursery, and they have access to a wide range of good quality resources. Children understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, when playing in the sun they know that they need to wear hats and sun cream 'so we don't get burned', and when shoelaces need tying 'so I don't trip over'.

Babies safety and security is mostly given high priority and they explore their environment under careful staff supervision. Appropriate, safe, stimulating toys are within easy reach of curious babies although the current arrangement of cots does

not fully promote their comfort or security.

Children's welfare is protected because staff have a clear understanding of child protection issues and guidance in line with local Area Child Protection Committee procedures. All required documentation to support children's welfare is accurately kept and confidentially stored.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident, settled and happy and they engage in purposeful play within a calm and relaxed environment. They are secure in the routine because relationships with staff are trusting and supportive. Staff know each child very well and this enables them to respond to their individual needs. Children relate well to each other and they seek each other out for chatter and fun. There is a stimulating and interesting programme of activities that promotes children's learning, and they become engrossed in self chosen challenges, selecting from a range of well maintained equipment. They enjoy pretend situations and use their imaginations well, for example to choose a holiday in the travel agents.

The staff make use of their developing knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework to provide an interesting range of activities for younger children, although written planning for babies does not clearly show what is intended. Babies receive high levels of support and enjoy positive interaction, cuddles and attention from staff and their developing independence is fostered well. They are encouraged to learn through all their senses. Activities in the sensory room enable them to experience a range of exciting sights, sounds and textures. For example, exploring shredded paper in a paddling pool.

Older children benefit from planned activities that are appropriate to their development and increase their intellectual knowledge. For example, during a small group activity, children were able to identify shapes and colours. Staff encourage children's language and thinking through skilled questioning and conversation and children have good vocabulary. For example, one child talked about going to France on the Eurostar and another described how a level crossing works.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and their needs are well met through a shared understanding with parents, which helps to ensure they are happy, settled and making good progress. Parents share in their child's time at nursery and know they can approach staff to discuss their child's progress. There are good communication systems to ensure effective partnerships are in place and this enhances the quality of care the children receive.

Children's behaviour is very good and their self esteem is boosted through meaningful praise and encouragement given consistently by staff. A positive behaviour management strategy together with a stimulating range of experiences, encourages children to behave well and so they make good progress in the setting. They understand when something is not acceptable. For example, a very young child pointed out that one of the wooden trains had some pen marks on it, and used animated facial expression and speech sounds to indicate he was not pleased. Sensitive support from staff enables children to learn to take turns and share with each other. Babies' confidence is enhanced because the staff effectively respond to their gestures and early language sounds. Opportunities for one to one interaction between staff and all children ensure they feel valued and important.

Children have a good sense of belonging and this is reinforced through group discussion. For example, they made and presented a card containing their photographs to a child on her last day. Children's individual sleeping arrangements further promotes this sense of belonging within the setting. Staff respect each of their particular preferences and give them their special object from home, such as 'sid the dog' or a soft label, or special dummy. Children experience pleasant and gentle waking up routines according to their individual needs.

Children's awareness of their similarities and differences is supported through the provision of toys and resources which depict positive images. However, children's knowledge and understanding of diversity is not sufficiently encouraged. For example, there are few positive images displayed around the nursery and planned activities do not enable children to learn about other cultures.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children's individual needs are very well met because the environment is organised according to their development. Babies are progressively grouped in order of their development; non-mobile babies have safe space to play whilst babies on the move can do so with children at similar stages. Older children play in large or small groups and take part in activities that appropriately challenge them. All age groups have separate outdoor play areas to enable them to practise their physical skills with equipment that is suitable for their needs.

All staff are enthusiastic and clear about their roles and responsibilities, which has a positive motivating impact on the provision for the children.

A good range of comprehensive policies and procedures are used to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. These are prominently displayed in the entrance along with a detailed notice board and are effectively shared with parents to keep them informed about the service. Verbal and written information regularly informs parents of the child's day, routine and achievements. For example, daily diaries are available for parents of younger children, and these contain special incidental and key information.

Documentation is very well stored and up to date, and all staff have a high regard for

confidentiality of information.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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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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):

- Raise children's awareness and ensure consistency with good hygiene procedures regarding handwashing.
- Conduct a risk assessment in relation to the position of cots, to ensure babies' comfort and security when sleeping.
- Improve planning for babies, for example through the use of the Birth to three framework
- Develop children's awareness of diversity within activities and displays.

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