



Wadacre Farm Private Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY330797
Inspection date	05 September 2006
Inspector	Ann Lee
Setting Address	Wadacre Farm Private Day Nursery, Chapel Lane, Melling, Liverpool, L31 1ED
Telephone number	0151 5472293
E-mail	wadacre@hotmail.com
Registered person	Wadacre 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?

Wadacre Farm Nursery opened in 2006 and operates from seven rooms in a large barn conversion. It is situated in a residential but rural area, close to schools and shops, in Melling, Merseyside. A maximum of 94 children may attend the nursery at any one time and it is open each weekday from 07.30 to 18.00 all year round. The provision offers full day care, before and after school and holiday care. All children share access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 12 children on roll. The nursery employs four members of staff and of these three hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working

towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment where staff take steps to protect them from infection and cross contamination. There are procedures in place which staff follow to help them to maintain good standards of hygiene when changing nappies and preparing food. Anti-bacterial spray is used to clean work surfaces, tables and changing mats and toys and equipment are regularly checked for cleanliness. Children learn about personal hygiene because staff encourage them to wash their hands appropriately, and there are colourful posters in the toilets which remind them to wash their hands. However, the shared towels in the toilets may lead to cross contamination.

All of the necessary documentation is in place to help staff to protect children in the event of accidental injury or illness. One member of staff holds a current first aid qualification, but when she is off duty there is no other member of staff who is qualified to deal with medical emergencies.

Children are provided with a varied, nutritious diet which contains fresh, organic, fruit and vegetables. The food is prepared on the premises and sugary foods and drinks are avoided so that children learn the importance of eating a healthy diet. Meal times are a social occasion where children learn to feed themselves and become more independent.

There are many opportunities for children to develop their physical skills. They play outside in all weathers because there is a canopy, attached to part of the building, which protects them from the worst effects of the weather. They enjoy riding wheeled toys, playing ball games and climbing on the climbing frame, and staff also take them on walks to the local park where they have more space to run about, climb, swing and slide. Indoors they exercise to music and practise their small motor skills as they dig in the sand, paint and manipulate dough, puzzles and construction materials.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in bright, airy and attractive premises where there is plenty of space for them to move around freely and explore their environment. The walls are decorated with photographs, colourful posters and art work which creates a welcoming and friendly environment for children. There is also a fully enclosed outside play area and children can enjoy walks to see the animals on the adjoining farm. There have been some problems with the new building and the planned security system is not yet in place. There is no bell for visitors and the front door is not always locked so that the premises are not fully secure.

There is a good variety of toys and equipment which is new, safe and suitable for all ages of children. The books, toys and puzzles are set out on child sized tables and low shelving so that children can choose what to play with and become more confident and independent.

There are policies and procedures in place which staff follow to help them to keep children safe both indoors and on outings. They complete daily risk assessments indoors and outside to identify hazards and to make sure that areas used by children are safe. The fire alarm is checked weekly, and children practise the fire evacuation procedure so that they learn how to keep themselves safe in an emergency. Sleeping children are closely monitored and they are supervised at all times to minimise the risk of accidental injury. On outings young children wear wrist straps when walking and staff teach them how to cross the road safely.

Staff are experienced and trained in child protection issues so that they can safeguard children in their care. All of the necessary policies and procedures are in place and staff have an understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel comfortable and at ease in the setting because staff are friendly and approachable, and they develop close affectionate relationships with them. Babies and toddlers are picked up and cuddled and staff spend time talking to them, singing songs and reading stories to develop their language and communication skills. Staff encourage children to help to clear away the toys so that they become helpful and cooperative. Meal times are a social occasion where children and staff sit together, talk and enjoy their meals. The children are encouraged to try different foods, learn how to use a knife and fork and become more independent.

Staff plan a range of activities which help children to make progress in all areas of development. For example, they enjoy being creative using paint, musical instruments or sand and water and they have many opportunities to use their imaginations during role play, and when building using different kinds of construction items. The children's paintings of hand and foot prints are displayed on the play room walls and this helps them to feel that their work is valued and develop a sense of belonging in the setting. Staff ensure that children can easily reach the toys and equipment so that they can become more independent as they choose their own activities.

Staff observe children closely and these observations are used to assist them in devising suitable activities which help them to move on to the next stage of development. They have begun to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to help them to improve the outcomes for children and they provide treasure baskets for the babies to introduce them to natural objects. Children learn about the wider world on regular outings into the community where they visit the local parks and shops and see the animals in the adjoining farm.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are made welcome in the group and staff obtain information from parents so that they can meet their individual needs. Staff have received training in learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and they consult with parents and other professionals when necessary to ensure that appropriate care is provided. The premises are new and purpose built so that disabled access and toilets are available.

The building is attractively decorated with colourful posters and pictures which provide positive images of different cultures, religions and disabilities. Children gain an awareness of the wider world through a good selection of resources, such as dolls, books and puzzles. Staff also plan a range of activities, such as cooking and arts and crafts which introduce children to different cultures and festivals from around the world.

Staff are friendly and approachable and they follow the behaviour management policy to help them to deal positively with children's behaviour. However, the policy does not have reference to bullying and how these issues are dealt with in the nursery. Staff use appropriate praise and encouragement to build children's self-esteem and help them to feel happy and valued in the group. Their art work is displayed and this increases their feelings of belonging in the group. Children learn to share and to take turns and they become more helpful and independent as they help to clear away the toys, learn to feed themselves and make choices about what to play with. This positive approach fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Relationships with parents are good and staff provide them with information about the setting and about the progress and development of their children. There is a notice board for parents where staff display information, such as the 'Birth to three matters' framework, details of infectious diseases and how they can make a complaint. Parents also receive a regular newsletter which keeps them informed about forthcoming events and changes in the nursery. Staff complete a daily diary for each child and they are also available to talk to parents each day so that they can work together to meet the individual needs of their children. Letters and cards from parents indicate that they are very pleased with the care provided for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are protected in the setting because staff ensure that they do not come into unsupervised contact with people who have not been vetted. There are recruitment and induction procedures in place for new staff and these help to verify that they are suitable to work with children. Most of the staff hold a recognised early years qualification and they are encouraged to access further training to improve their knowledge and understanding of child care. They receive advice and support from the Early Years development worker and are receiving training in the 'Birth to three matters' framework to help them to meet the learning needs of children.

The correct adult to child ratios are always maintained to ensure that children have the appropriate level of support and supervision. The nursery is large, bright and airy and staff organise the space satisfactorily to allow children freedom of movement and choice about what they do. Good consideration has been given to the suitability of furniture and toys to promote a stimulating and welcoming environment where children can learn and have fun. Toys and equipment are set out within easy reach of the children so that they have choice about what they do.

All of the necessary records, policies and procedures are in place for the efficient management of the provision and the welfare and care of children. The records are stored confidentially, regularly reviewed and made available to parents. Overall the provision meet 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 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 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):

- prevent the spread of infection and cross contamination by providing children and staff with suitable hand drying facilities
- protect children in the event of accidental injury by ensuring that there is always at least one member of staff on duty who has an up to date first aid certificate
- improve the safety of children by ensuring that the premises and outside play

area are secure so that children cannot leave them unsupervised and access can be monitored

- update the behaviour management policy to include a reference to how bullying is dealt with by staff.

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