



Sallywags Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY332371
Inspection date	23 January 2007
Inspector	Ann Coggin
Setting Address	Warrior Drive, Warrior Park, Seaton Carew, TS25 1EZ
Telephone number	01429 235 351
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Registered person	Sallywags Child's Play 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?

Sallywags Day Nursery was registered in March 2006 and is part of Sallywags Child's Play Limited which operates several facilities throughout Hartlepool. The nursery operates from a purpose built ground floor building in the Warrior Park area of Seaton Carew. There are five activity rooms and children have access to an outdoor play area. The nursery provides a wraparound service and opens each weekday from 07:30 to 18:00 for 52 weeks of the year, excluding bank holidays.

Sallywags Day Nursery is registered to care for 62 children at any one time and there are currently 75 children on roll. Procedures are in place to support children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

There are eight full time and two part time members of staff working directly with the children, all of whom hold a childcare qualification. A cook is also employed.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a warm, clean environment. Staff implement effective and clearly defined procedures to ensure children remain healthy. For example, staff wear aprons and gloves for nappy changing and changing mats are wiped with antibacterial spray after each use. Children are helped to understand the importance of good hygiene practices as they are reminded to wash their hands before snacks and meals. Each child has their own mug and toothbrush and they are encouraged to clean their teeth after lunch. Arrangements for first aid and administering medication meet requirements and all consents are in place. The nursery's procedures also minimise the risk of infection to children as the sick children's policy is shared with parents.

Children have their individual dietary needs met because staff use information from parents effectively. A list is held in the dining room as well as in the kitchen ensuring dietary requirements and preferences are adhered to at all times. Children are provided with a range of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks which include fresh fruit and vegetables, which are freshly prepared on the premises by the cook. Children are able to access fresh drinking water throughout the day, however, they are not able to serve themselves at snack or meal times.

Children enjoy daily physical activities, which contribute to their overall good health. The outdoor play area allows children to develop their physical skills, as they enjoy riding bikes and jumping on the trampoline. They develop coordination and control of their bodies as they use large climbing equipment with care. Babies are given opportunities to develop their mobility as they learn to crawl, push the wheeled toys and take their first few unaided steps. Children rest according to their needs and are encouraged to rest when they are tired. Soft music is played to babies and comforters offered, allowing children to settle and feel secure.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in welcoming premises, which are secure and monitored by closed circuit television. Staff show a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. Children are protected from potential hazards, as staff check the premises and outside area daily and take appropriate steps to minimise risks. Fire safety requirements are adhered to with fire evacuation procedures displayed, however, in the toddler room the procedure is not clearly displayed. Emergency evacuations are practised with the children so that they know how to get out of the building in an emergency and where to go to keep themselves safe.

Visitors sign in and everyone is accounted for on the premises at all times. Children are only allowed to leave with those persons known to staff and authorised by parents. Alternative arrangements include procedures, such as a password so that children remain safe. Arrangements for the collection of children from local nursery schools are well organised ensuring children are kept safe. Staff are fully aware of supervising children at all times, especially when they are sleeping. A member of staff remains in the sleep room at all times. There are effective procedures

in place for outings ensuring children's experiences when outdoors enhance learning opportunities safely.

Staff are proactive in helping children to learn the necessary skills to keep themselves safe. They talk to children in simple terms about playing safely, not running indoors and not throwing snowballs at each other. They also know to be careful when going down the step to access the outdoor play area, especially when it is wet. Children have access to sufficient safe space to allow them to enjoy a wide range of activities. Their risk of accidental injury is minimised in the setting due to the well organised space and equipment. Children move around freely while using a good range of safe, good quality, well maintained, developmentally appropriate furniture and equipment.

Children are cared for by staff who have a sound knowledge of their responsibility to protect children. They have a clear understanding of the nursery's procedures for recording and reporting any concerns relating to child protection. However, the Local Safeguarding Children Board's guidance is not available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children arrive happily at the nursery, they settle quickly and enjoy their time there. This is due to the staff's emphasis on providing a happy, relaxed environment for all children. Babies settle well, they have good bonds with all staff and this has a positive impact on their sense of security. Close and caring relationships increase the children's sense of trust and foster their self-esteem. Communication skills with children are well supported through good adult-to-child interactions. The babies beam with pride as they are praised for making their own sounds and they have great fun repeating themselves. Babies enjoy exploring the sensory bottles, treasure baskets and musical toys and gurgle purposefully as they look at their reflection in the mirror. Babies and toddlers join in with their favourite songs, such as "twinkle twinkle little star" and "row, row, row your boat".

All children independently select activities and are confident to make choices about their play. They explore activities freely, such as small world, construction and dressing up, and they use their imagination well to develop shared games. Exploratory and creative play, such as sand, crafts and painting is part of their everyday environment, allowing children to experiment and develop their own ideas. The children are excited when they put on their hats and coats and are able to play outside in the snow. They talk about making footprints in the snow and are enthusiastic about building a snowman. Staff wrap the babies up and some experience touching snow for the first time, smiling and shivering at the same time.

Warm interactions enable children to play happily. Babies enjoy lots of cuddles and physical closeness and staff respond well to children's wishes in both verbal and non verbal communications. Children's language is promoted as staff talk to the children, listen to them and wait for responses. Some children are very confident communicators, and happily share their own ideas and experiences, for example, talking about the car skidding on the way to nursery, and hold a conversation for extended periods of time. They use language well to describe, recall and explain.

Systems for planning, observations and assessments of development are linked to the 'Birth to three matters' framework ensuring children make good progress. Key workers take main responsibility for a group of children so that their care and learning needs are consistently met.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff know the children well, resulting in children being respected as individuals and having their specific needs well met. Staff work closely with parents to find out what is important to each child and home routines are followed wherever possible. Staff offer support and reassurance, so children feel secure and content in the nursery. All children are treated with dignity and respect. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world, as staff plan some activities to raise their awareness of other cultures. For example, they find out about festivals, such as Divali and Chinese New Year and access resources which promote positive images of diversity. They go on regular outings which help to raise children's awareness of their local community and nearby environment. For example, children enjoy trips to the beach and to the nearby duck pond.

Children behave well and are developing an understanding of the nursery's rules. Staff talk to children in a calm and sensitive manner, asking children to take turns and share, with less favourable behaviour dealt with sensitively and appropriate to the children's stage of development. Praise and encouragement promotes children's self-esteem and good behaviour results in a pleasant and happy atmosphere for all.

Staff work well with parents. Parents receive an information pack when they visit the nursery. Parents complete a booklet 'all about me' when their child starts nursery to inform staff of their child's routine, likes, dislikes and interests. Parents are confident in approaching staff to raise any concerns and regular questionnaires are circulated to gain parents views about the nursery. Written daily feedback sheets are used to share the child's day with parents. There is a parents notice board which keeps parents well informed about activities, meals and some policies. The complaints procedure is displayed for parents, giving details of the regulator. A complaints log is in place, however, this does not respect confidentiality.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All children are happy and settled in the nursery environment. Daily routines are flexible and staff are deployed appropriately to respond to children's varying needs. Rooms are used well and organised so children have free movement and maximum opportunities to play and learn.

Staff work well as a team to provide a warm and caring environment for children. There are recruitment and vetting procedures in place to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Induction for staff is thorough and staff sign to say they have read and understood all the nursery's policies and procedures. Children benefit from staff who attend regular courses and workshops to improve their childcare practice.

Documentation is organised, maintained and stored to ensure confidentiality. For example, children's records hold relevant information ensuring staff meet individual needs. The register records arrival and departure times of children and staff and accident and medication records are clear and signed by parents.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 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):

- revise the complaints log to ensure confidentiality is maintained
- further promote children's independence during snack and meal times
- obtain a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's guidance.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk