



La Maternelle - Pear Tree

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY299672
Inspection date 19 June 2006
Inspector Joan Isabel Madden

Setting Address Pear Tree Primary School, Pear Tree Field, Stapeley, Cheshire,
CW5 7GZ
Telephone number 01270 619 300
E-mail
Registered person La Maternelle Ltd
Type of inspection Childcare
Type of 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?

La Maternelle Out of School Club is one of five out of school clubs, and one nursery run by La Maternelle Ltd. It opened in 2005 and operates from the school hall and one classroom in Pear Tree Primary School, Nantwich. The club serves the children from the school and those from other schools in the surrounding areas. A maximum of 26 children may attend the club at any one time. There are currently 70 children on roll from four years to 11 years. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The club opens five days a week. The sessions are from 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.10 to 18.00 during term time and from 08.00 to 18.00 during the school holidays. A total of

18 part-time staff work with the children of whom seven hold appropriate qualifications and five are working towards a qualification. The setting receives support from the out of school development officer.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from illness and infection because staff follow current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines, policies and procedures. Staff who prepare food have an appropriate food hygiene certificate. The premises are clean and there are sensible hygiene routines in place. Staff wipe down tables before snacks are served and then they are covered with a clean table cloth. Children routinely follow simple health and hygiene practices. They wash their hands before handling food in facilities, that are suitably equipped with soap and towels. Children are treated appropriately for minor injuries, as staff are qualified in first aid and there is a fully stocked first aid box. Documentation relating to accidents and medication is correctly maintained, helping to underpin sensible procedures that are followed in the event of an incident.

Nutritious food contributes towards promoting the children's health. Attractive menus demonstrate that the children receive a variety of balanced snacks over the week. In the main, drinking water is available to the children throughout the session helping them to learn the importance of remaining hydrated with healthy drinks. The system for ensuring staff are aware of children's dietary needs is not rigorous enough; the requirements of children new to the club are not promptly recorded onto the list referred to by the staff.

Daily routines include activities to help children develop physical skills, widen their boundaries, and develop a healthy lifestyle. At set times throughout the session the children enjoy playing outside with a wide range of outdoor equipment. They have opportunities to practise their balancing skills on beams, chains and ropes in the adventure playground. They make use of the big open field where they run vigorously and play ball games. With positive encouragement from the staff, the children take part in a football game and become quite competitive. The staff praise the children for their dribbling and tackling and remind them to play in a sportsmanship way. Other children learn hockey skills on the asphalt.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff work hard to make children feel welcome in the clean and bright premises that are maintained at a comfortable temperature. However, limited display areas prevent the staff from displaying the children's work and helping them to feel a sense of belonging. There is plenty of space both indoors and outdoors to enable the children to move around easily and play freely. Children are able to take part in physical

development activities in the hall alongside other activities. However, there are inadequate facilities for children who wish to relax or rest.

The club is sufficiently equipped to provide suitable activities for the children. The resources are safe, clean and well-maintained. Children enjoy choosing from a wide range of games on the mobile trolleys and there is a reasonable range of materials for craft activities. Role play and dressing up clothes help the children to gain a wider view of the world. The children dress in Chinese clothes and enjoy setting the table with Chinese bowls, utensils and food. Limited storage facilities prevent a wider range of resources being available to children.

There are sensible processes in place to keep children safe. Safety risk assessments are regularly completed to minimise risks to children. Children are cared for by adults who are vetted and have relevant experience, knowledge and skills. The children understand that the reasonable rules help to keep them safe. The premises are secure and staff monitor who enters the building. Visitors sign in and parents sign their children out. Staff ensure that new parents are made aware of the routine of signing out. Safety notices are displayed to remind staff and children of how to keep safe. Correct fire procedures are in place and the children take part in regular fire drills to ensure they know the routine in the event of an emergency. In the main, children are protected because staff understand their role in safeguarding children and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. However, the aspect of the procedure relating to an allegation being made against a member of staff is incorrect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are happy, confident and settled. They are polite and motivated and able to settle to tasks well. There are positive relationships throughout the provision. Staff support the children well in their chosen activities. A group of children enjoy playing 'Twister' and 'Scooby Doo' with a member of staff who helps them determine the rules and the aim of the games. Another group of children prepare for the opening of a 'Café'. They become engrossed as they write menus, design signs and displays. This helps to promote their creative and literacy skills. Children's independence skills and self-care skills are not sufficiently promoted during snack time as they do not make choices, serve or prepare the food. This limits their decision making and self-help skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are made to feel welcome and all are included in the life of the setting. This helps to promote their self-esteem and confidence. Staff demonstrate a reasonable awareness of equal opportunities. They are worthy role models and promote positive attitudes. Staff cater well for the wide range of children's individual needs and interests. Where appropriate staff are able to offer children one to one support.

The behaviour policy successfully underpins the positive, consistent strategies used by the staff. The children are well behaved and understand responsible behaviour. Children get on well and respect one another. The children are valued and encouraged.

Staff have built up good relationships with parents and create a welcoming atmosphere. Parents have access to all the policies and procedures that relate to the provision. They speak well of the setting and find the staff approachable. The staff record the appropriate information on the children and generally the parent's wishes are respected.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff have a secure understanding of the conditions of their registration and how to meet the standards. The adult and child ratio positively supports the children's care, learning and play. Following the recent revisions to the standards the registered person has developed an effective system to vet staff to ensure that children are well protected. Staff are well deployed; they are clear about their roles and work well as a team. Children follow a sensible routine that includes free-play, snack, adult-led activities and outdoor play.

In the main, policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. Staff are aware of the latest revisions relating to complaints and have procedures in place to appropriately log, investigate and respond to complaints. 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

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 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):

- provide an area for children who wish to play quietly or rest, equipped with appropriate furniture
- improve documentation so that the child protection procedure includes the correct process to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff and ensure that the children's dietary requirements are recorded onto the appropriate list, that staff refer to, and that it is updated as necessary.

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