



Brown Bear at St Bernadette's

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY295787

Inspection date 15 June 2006

Inspector Jeanne Lesley Walsh

Setting Address St. Bernadette's RC Primary School, Foliage Road Brinnington, Stockport, SK5 8AL

Telephone number 0161 483 7369

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Registered person Brown Bear Childcare 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?

Brown Bear at St. Bernadette's was registered in 2004. It is one of three nurseries run by Brown Bear, under the Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative in Stockport, which operates with corporate policies and offer in-house training facilities. It provides wrap-around care for children who attend the local authority nursery. It operates in a purpose built annexe of the school with access to an enclosed outdoor play area. A maximum of 28 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08.00 until 18.00 for 51 weeks per year. There are currently 33 children on-roll.

The nursery employs nine members of staff. Of these, more than half hold suitable childcare qualifications. The remainder are working towards a qualification. The nursery is a member of the National Day Nurseries Association, Stockport Pre School Providers and the Local Authority Cluster Groups for continuous professional development. They also work closely with the Young Peoples Unit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing an understanding about good personal care in order to keep themselves healthy. They routinely wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before meals, using individual colour coded hand towels. They stay healthy because they are cared for in a setting that is maintained to a high standard of cleanliness. Staff follow the stringent health and hygiene guidelines, which protect children from cross infection. They help children to understand about good personal care; for example, when a child has a minor accident they help it to hold a cold compress on the bump. The child is intrigued to watch itself through the mirror and knows that the compress makes it feel better.

Good procedures are in place for administering medication and recording accidents. Most members of staff are suitably qualified to administer first aid, which ensures children's well-being in the event of an accident. Staff take good care of children who are unwell and they follow the sick children policy to ensure that children who become ill during the session are cared for appropriately.

They show concern for the children, check temperatures, cuddling and soothing them until their parents arrive to take them home.

All children enjoy regular exercise both inside and outside. The nursery has a safe enclosed outdoor play area where children can enjoy a range of activities. They also have access to a large school playing field where they can run around, play more organised games or where they can just go for walks collecting leaves and picking flowers to make daisy chains. They are starting to become aware of how activity affects their body as they freely and independently help themselves to drinks of water to quench their thirst.

Children are provided with regular snacks, which consist of a choice of fruits and toast. Snack time is a relaxed occasion where children develop social skills through conversation with their peers and adults. However, lunchtime is not so well organised and children are restless and noisy. They are not developing routines that enhance their social skills and table manners. Children's understanding of good nutrition, healthy eating and healthy lifestyles is also not routinely promoted.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright, safe and airy environment. They are welcomed with their parents by enthusiastic staff who immediately help them to settle. Parents happily chat to the staff and the children confidently join in the activities that have already been prepared for them. They quickly become absorbed in the daily routine.

The children play safely and freely in the spacious, designated play areas. They benefit from the use of a good range of toys and equipment, which supports their play and learning in all areas of their development. The equipment is stimulating, safe and in good condition. This means that children are motivated and move around with confidence. They are also developing a good awareness of keeping their environment, themselves and others safe by helping to tidy up after activities.

Children are protected because staff efficiently monitor their safe arrival and departure and they ensure that children are unable to leave the premises without supervision. Effective fire safety routines are in place as staff carry out and record regular fire drills. Fire instructions posted around the building inform both staff and parents. Outside and indoors regular risk assessments ensure the overall safety of play areas. The staff all work directly with the children and they are vigilant at all times.

The nursery has clear policies and procedures in place to protect children. The majority of staff have completed child protection training and all staff have a good awareness and understanding of child protection issues. They are aware of possible signs and symptoms of abuse and a designated member of staff takes responsibility for liaising with child protection agencies. This means that children are well protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy in a relaxed environment in the care of a good staff team. The small setting allows the staff and children to build strong and secure relationships, which contributes to children's self-esteem and sense of belonging. Children's independence skills are well fostered as they are encouraged to use their initiative and select their own resources and activities. All children access a broad range of activities that interest them and stimulate their developmental needs effectively.

The staff are clearly aware of how the different activities link to different areas of learning. They skilfully plan and prepare activities according to the children's individual needs and their ages and stages of development. The plans link into the Birth to three matters framework and the early learning goals, and they are informed by the individual child development records kept by key-workers. All the planning is informative and is displayed so that everyone knows what is happening and what the aims and objectives are.

Children play happily and busily both inside and outside. They enjoy exploring the variety of tools in the sand and water so they can pour, sieve, dig and make shapes. They paint boldly coloured pictures at the easel and they make chalk pictures on the patio. Staff are on hand to help even the youngest children achieve and enjoy their

play. Babies join in making cards and they are happy as staff take them for a walk in their buggies. The children are spending their time purposefully employed in a wide range of good activities and experiences, which enhance and challenge their development.

Children are developing good language and communication skills through positive interaction with staff. Their communication is valued as staff consistently talk to the children, ask questions, listen and respond to them. They are encouraged to make choices and think for themselves, helping them to develop independence and confidence. They are challenged and can make progress because they are happy, secure and well motivated.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern and they are respected as individuals. Discussions with parents provide staff with relevant information so that they can provide continuity of care and ensure that children's individual needs are met. The staff know the children well and they help them to achieve and to understand their differences, enabling them to take a full and active part in the setting. Children enjoy daily access to a good range of resources that reflect positive images of culture, religion, gender and disability. They are starting to learn about the wider world and their local community as they enjoy trips out to the local library to change the books. They complete a creative activity about 'Where we live', which shows different types of housing, shops, trees and buses. Children also love to take Barnaby Bear home or on holiday and they proudly share his experiences with the other children when they bring him back. Photographs help them to remember when Barnaby came to their house, reinforcing the link between home and nursery.

Children enjoy a positive environment where staff have high expectations of good behaviour. They act as positive role models for the children and they are firm, but they show patience, understanding and consideration. Children are learning to be kind to each other and to consider each others feelings by saying sorry. They are becoming aware of what acceptable behaviour is and what is right and wrong. The staff help the children to deal with their behaviour and they manage any minor disputes quickly and skilfully. Effective relationships developed with parents help to ensure that children receive a consistent approach to behaviour management. Children are positively supported and praised and their achievements are celebrated.

Children benefit from the good relationships between staff and parents. Daily discussion and written information sheets keep parents informed of their child's progress. The notice-board offers them a wide range of information and they are encouraged to be involved through parent questionnaires, newsletters and regular discussion. Parents confirm that the staff are very approachable and supportive and they always keep them well informed. They state that staff know the children very well and overall they are extremely happy with the care provided for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children enjoy a warm, welcoming and stimulating environment. They benefit from the care provided by a consistent and well organised staff team who are clear about their role. Staff complete good induction procedures and are enthusiastic and committed to further developing their own knowledge and skills. They do this through ongoing training courses and through the in-house training provided by the company. A good operational plan ensures that the provision is flexible enough to meet the individual needs of the children. It also ensures that the staff are well supported and have the appropriate tools and skills to manage their work efficiently. This results in children being well supported in their play and development.

The staff are clearly aware of the requirements of the National Standards and they review these regularly to ensure that regulations are being met. The policies and procedures support the efficient and safe management of the provision, and discussion with staff confirms that they know them well. Documentation is comprehensive and is kept in good working order. Good recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that children are well protected and cared for by staff that are experienced and suitably qualified. Robust procedures are also in place to make sure that all staff are suitably vetted, which ensures that children are continually protected.

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 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.

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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):

- ensure that children develop awareness of healthy eating and develop routines that enhance their social skills and table manners at meal times

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