



Thorney Island Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113670
Inspection date	05 July 2005
Inspector	Christine Clint
Setting Address	Baker Barracks, Thorney Island, Emsworth, Hampshire, PO10 8DH
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Registered person	Thorney Island Nursery
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Thorney Island Nursery opened in January 2004 having previously operated as a crèche since 1987. The nursery is committee run and mainly serves army personnel and the local community.

There are currently 35 children under 3 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports children who speak English as an additional language and is able to support children with special needs.

The group opens 5 days a week, 50 weeks a year. Opening times are from 07:30

until 18:00 daily.

There are 7 staff who work a variety of morning and afternoon sessions with the children. Most staff hold, or are working towards an early years qualification of National Vocational Qualification level 2 or 3 and some staff are currently updating their early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children and babies learn to follow very good health and hygiene routines because staff ensure that babies hands are effectively and regularly cleaned. Older children learn to wash their own hands and they are becoming independent in toileting skills because they are well supervised. At mealtimes children have clean cloths on the table or hygienically clean surfaces, staff ensure all surfaces are cleaned thoroughly before and after use. Children's nappies are changed regularly, staff competently use organised changing units in both rooms available to the younger children. There are daily systems for ensuring that the nursery premises are cleaned, but staff do not change or remove their shoes before entering the soft indoor, baby play area.

Children's health and safety is supported by the high level of first aid trained staff, who follow well established procedures for recording accidents and medication; these are effectively shared with parents. Children's individual needs for food and sleep are competently recognised by staff and these routines are well organised in advance with parents. Most children show a lively interest in the fruit at snack time, which the nursery encourages parents to provide. All children's food is labelled and hygienically stored. There are organised systems for naming and changing bed linen. Children with specific medical needs are gently reassured by staff, who use quiet explanation when carrying out children's routines.

Children's emotional well being is fostered because staff show affection and warmth towards children, they are aware of how babies express their feelings and they consistently respond. There is support for each child through the key worker system in place and in the arrangements with individual parents for their children's needs.

Children show enthusiasm and excitement for outside play, they climb and slide actively on the plastic apparatus, they push cars and ride on small wheel toys. Younger, less mobile children have regular opportunities for fresh air because staff take them for daily walks in the locality.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children happily attend the nursery because staff ensure that there is a well organised and welcoming environment for all children and parents. The building is light, with good ventilation and most areas are organised to provide dedicated care

and ample space for children of certain ages. For example the baby area has a permanent barrier to ensure children's safety and to allow staff to move freely and organise children's snack and meal times.

Babies have some access to very suitable toys and equipment, they can choose to play with items from the treasure baskets when they are waiting for their snacks and drinks and there is flexibility and variety for babies to be moved to different rooms at times during the day.

Small children learn to progress to sitting in low chairs without the use of harnesses, they eat well at a low cardboard table, with special low chairs.

Children are secure because there are well practised systems for entering and leaving the premises, for recording visitors and for taking children for walks in the locality. The nursery includes very regular fire drills which are recorded and evaluated. Children's safety is competently managed by staff because there are thorough procedures in place and staff reliably inform each other of their movements to ensure the smooth running of the nursery.

Children are well protected because staff have a good level of understanding regarding child protection. Staff show a strong awareness of maintaining confidentiality and key worker staff are encouraged to liaise with parents to share any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Babies are developing their curiosity because they can choose natural items from the treasure baskets whilst they sit in their high chairs. They are generally happy in the soft play section of the baby room, they safely crawl and play with a selection of toys. Some babies have amusing moments of recognising and responding to each other and staff encourage their communicating skills. Babies make connections with staff during their play because staff offer affection and encourage them to form attachments, but there is less encouragement for babies to be creative or imaginative, or to introduce meaning to their play. Staff do not plan for activities to encourage their development.

Older children play sufficiently with selected activities in the toddler room for short intervals, they listen to stories and join excitedly with singing. They learn to make marks and are beginning to understand representation. However, children have few opportunities to develop their imaginative or creative play because there is less staff involvement to extend ideas and develop purpose or challenge in activities. Some staff interact adequately and engage children in activities during free play, but there is often less spontaneity regarding activities and no planning for play. At times staff are content to fill in time with daily routines, instead of developing and extending children's play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children and families have good, flexible support to meet their individual needs because staff show a strong initiative in organising and adapting nursery routines. Children and babies see many posters and pictures, displayed at a low level, to show the diversity in society and to represent the different cultures of the children and families attending. Children have special attention when their particular needs are being met because staff offer sensitivity and respect.

Children's behaviour is generally well managed by staff who show an understanding of the behaviour management policy in place. Babies needs are immediately identified and responded to when they show signs of distress, staff are very used to recognising their symptoms and offering distraction or meeting their needs.

Children have frequent praise from staff when they show care and understanding for each other during their play and staff use good explanation to prevent older toddlers from throwing or misusing toys when they are excited, although staff do not always recognise when children need further stimulation or challenge.

Children's well being is positively reinforced through the strong relationship with parents. Parents are well informed and very happy with the provision, they show a high level of confidence in the nursery. They have daily diaries which show all nappy changing, feeding routines and some briefly recorded activities. Parents have daily opportunities to talk to key worker staff or the manager, they can enter the nursery regularly to collect their children or participate in their daily routines. As a result, children are well cared for according to their needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The nursery has an operational plan and sufficient levels of documentation are in place to support the daily organisation. Many new staff are employed and they are beginning their training or updating existing training. The manager encourages all staff to compile their own portfolio of qualifications and experience. The nursery offers fair and flexible systems to enable staff to manage their own children within the provision. Staff appraisals are beginning to be developed and there is an adequate induction system in place for all new staff. Children's routines are managed soundly because staff work together and liaise appropriately, they organise children and are generally aware at all times. Although risk assessments to identify hazards within the provision have not been updated. The nursery meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Many recent changes within the running of the facility are taking time to establish and not all staff have the knowledge and understanding of the need to be fully involved with children's play and activities.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last Children Act inspection asked the nursery to improve facilities for babies by providing suitable equipment to enable all babies to be taken out on a daily basis. Babies are now taken for regular walks because the nursery have two triple buggies and a double buggy. Staff are able to walk children at all times of the year because the triple buggies have plastic covers for rainy weather.

The nursery has made significant improvements to the procedures and daily routines. Staff maintain children's safety by ensuring that the attendance register is accurate and that all parents sign when they collect children and when there are recorded accidents or medication records. Staff use harnesses which are available for every high chair and all babies are securely strapped.

Children are encouraged to recognise the diversity in the wider world through the pictures, posters and photographs which are displayed in most areas.

Complaints since the last inspection

In December 2004 a concern was raised under standard 6: safety, regarding fire procedures and fire safety within the setting.

We made an unannounced visit and required the nursery to provide a copy of the fire officer's report, to update the written fire evacuation document to reflect the agreed procedures and to ensure that the procedures are regularly practiced and evaluated.

These were found to be acceptable and the provider remains registered.

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):

- review the practice of staff wearing shoes in the soft play baby area, to ensure that levels of hygiene are maintained
- ensure that the written risk assessment is updated to reflect any changes in the provision
- increase staff knowledge and understanding of the importance of play, for example, through the Birth to three framework, and provide opportunities for

staff to plan activities and enable children to independently select meaningful resources.

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