



# Wishing Willow Children's Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY321503
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 September 2006
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<b>Setting Address</b>	1 The Drive, Banstead, Surrey, SM7 1DE
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<b>Registered person</b>	Casterbridge Nurseries Ltd
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Wishing Willow Children's Day Nursery has been registered since 2006. It is owned and managed by the Casterbridge Care and Education Group, who also manage a number of other nurseries within South East England. The nursery operates from within purpose-designed premises, in a residential area of Banstead, Surrey. Children are grouped according to age. The nursery is registered for children from three months and offers day care and out of school care for children aged up to eight years. A maximum of 133 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open from 08.00 to 18.00 each week day, throughout the year. An extended day can be provided from 07:30 to 18:30 by prior arrangement. Both full time and part time sessions are available. There is also provision for an after school club and holiday play scheme for older children. The nursery is arranged on two levels. Babies and toddlers are located on the lower levels and older children use the first floor. There is a designated sensory room and art studio and a fully enclosed, all-weather outside play area, suitable for all age groups.

There are currently 62 children, aged from six months to four years, on roll. Of these, five children receive funding for nursery education. The nursery supports children who speak English as an additional language and children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

A team of 11 staff work with the children. Of these, eight hold recognised early years qualifications. Two staff members are currently undertaking training.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health and welfare needs are met extremely well, as staff are vigilant in maintaining a consistently healthy environment. All areas of the nursery are scrupulously clean and in immaculate condition. All nursery rooms have plenty of natural light and ventilation, creating a healthy and hygienic environment. There is excellent protection for children against infection. Staff ensure that thorough procedures are in place to ensure that all babies' and children's toys and feeding resources are frequently sterilised and cleaned.

Children develop an excellent understanding of how to keep themselves healthy, as staff implement stringent personal care routines. For example, children brush their teeth after meals and clearly understand the importance of washing their hands to protect them from illness and germs. Staff promote hand washing as a fun activity, engaging children's interests and encouraging their strong co-operation. Innovative designs and brightly coloured appealing soap dispensers, which are clearly visible, accessible and attractive to children, contribute towards making the personal care routine exciting and enticing. This helps children to take an active part in learning how to keep themselves healthy.

Staff implement comprehensive written health and safety policies and fully understand how to promote children's welfare. For example, there are clear procedures in place for staff to follow to ensure that babies and children do not share bedding. All staff are vigilant in ensuring that babies and children are frequently checked whilst sleeping to ensure their safety and welfare. Staff maintain accurate and comprehensive accident records, which are collated and reviewed by the health and safety team to ensure further accidents are prevented.

There are excellent opportunities for all babies and children to develop their physical skills and movement. Babies use numerous resources enabling them to sit up, roll over, crawl, stand and develop mobility. Staff encourage this well, by offering babies supporting resources, such as push along toys, which encourage children to develop their walking skills. Older children enjoy extensive opportunities to develop their muscle control and movement skills. For example, they confidently negotiate the steps to the Sunflower Room on the first floor. They play in the garden and use a wide range of apparatus, such as a climbing frame, balancing resources and wheeled toys. This enables children to move in a variety of ways. In addition to this, children also participate in commercial fitness and physical activities to develop their muscle control. This contributes towards promoting children's healthy development.

Babies and children benefit from an excellent healthy eating programme. There is a newly-employed chef who is highly-experienced in cooking meals for children. The nursery menu incorporates wholesome, well-balanced and nutritious meals and snacks, using fresh and organic produce which is purchased from local suppliers. The nursery chef is dedicated to offering parents support in providing a healthy, well-balanced diet for their children and introducing children to a diverse range of food types. Staff and parents work closely together to improve children's understanding of the importance of healthy eating. There are sample menus and recipe books available for parents. This reflects the strong commitment shown by the nursery chef in working with parents to encourage children to eat healthily.

Children's individual feeding needs and food preferences are made clearly known to staff. Extensive information is obtained from parents regarding each child's dietary needs. This enables the staff and nursery chef to work closely together to address each child's personal needs.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is outstanding.

The nursery premises are extremely welcoming and inviting to children. Meticulous detail has been paid to the innovative and inspiring design of the nursery to ensure the highest standards of safety for children. For example, a low-level hand rail is in place to assist children in using the stairs. Access to the premises is closely monitored and the front doors are secure, preventing unauthorised visitors from gaining access. All doors have handles out of children's reach and glass panels to ensure that anyone entering a room can see if a child is positioned behind the door. This also helps to create a highly visual environment for babies and children and allows plenty of natural light to flood the premises. All nursery rooms are designed around the safety of children. For example, the toilets, hand washing areas, nappy change and milk kitchens are all fully integrated into the group rooms. This ensures that staff can fully supervise children at all times to ensure their constant safety. Calming, tranquil music plays in the entrance area of the nursery, creating an extremely peaceful ambience.

Children play with toys and resources of the highest quality. All materials are sourced from reputable suppliers and are designed for the age group of children using them. Most resources are made of natural materials and are checked frequently to ensure their constant safety for children. All furniture is of superb quality and is kept clean and in excellent condition.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe as staff consistently give children explanations and help them to recognise the importance of taking precautions. For example, older children understand they must hold the low level hand rail whilst negotiating the stairs. Children also recognise they must be careful whilst using scissors and not run inside. This contributes towards children learning how to keep themselves, and others, safe. There are comprehensive written risk assessments in place which are frequently reviewed and monitored by head office staff. This helps to ensure the constant safety of the premises to protect children from hazards. Some staff have completed training, to ensure they are familiar with health and safety legislation. This enables them to implement appropriate strategies in daily practice to contribute towards the safety and well-being of children.

All staff have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities regarding child protection. This enables staff to implement appropriate procedures, if they have any concerns about a child in their care. The nursery policy is shared with parents, informing them of the staff's responsibilities towards safeguarding children.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is outstanding.

All children are extremely happy and settled within the nursery. Staff are skilled in interacting positively with all babies and children. This results in extremely close and loving relationships between all children and staff. Babies are held closely for bottle feeding and all babies and children receive plenty of cuddles and physical affection. This reflects the very relaxed and homely environment, evident throughout the nursery.

Babies and children flourish within the nursery as staff offer an excellent selection of play activities to stimulate children's learning and development. Babies have extensive opportunities to explore using their senses. For example, they excitedly investigate treasure baskets and gaze at each item in turn. One baby was observed to be fascinated when a rounded-bottomed dish fell on the floor, making a clattering noise. The baby stared in wonder and amazement as the bowl rolled around. As the baby touched it, he was delighted to see that the bowl continued to roll and make a clattering noise. This demonstrates babies' first experiences of recognising 'cause and effect'.

Older babies and toddlers enjoy a wealth of activities to develop their sensory skills. They handle textures such as spaghetti, baby lotion, shaving foam and sand. This enables babies and toddlers to use their senses to explore. There are many photographs and pictures on display, reflecting how babies and toddlers use paints and other media to create their own pictures.

Toddlers enjoy activities, such as puzzles, shape sorters, small world play and garden play. They participate enthusiastically with songs and rhymes and join in with familiar actions, excitedly clapping at the end of each song. Toddlers use chunky chinks and crayons to make marks on low level easels, encouraging young children to develop pre-writing skills.

There is excellent interaction between staff and all children. Staff engage in play with children and extend their learning through purposeful activities. Staff have a thorough understanding of the Birth to three matters framework and use this effectively to plan suitable play experiences to monitor the younger children's developmental progress.

### **NURSERY EDUCATION**

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Children enjoy very close interaction with the staff and form very positive relationships with them. As a result, the learning environment is extremely relaxed, friendly and purposeful. There has been a recent change in the pre-school supervisor, yet the staff team is strong and supportive. Staff have a good understanding of the Foundation Stage curriculum and place strong emphasis on 'active learning'. This enables children to plan their own learning and develop their own skills through practical experience. Staff are skilled in using spontaneous and unplanned activities to extend children's learning.

For example, when children recently found a spider in the outside play area, staff encouraged children to explore the garden for other insects. Staff utilise these opportunities well by providing children with appropriate resources, such as magnifying glasses, for children to study the insects and learn more about the natural environment.

There are systems in place for staff to monitor and record children's progress towards the early learning goals. Staff carry out observations to assess children's developmental needs. However, the current written format for recording these assessments does not clearly identify children's further learning needs to inform future planning.

Children are very confident and sociable and independently take care of their own needs. They form good relationships with their peers and clearly enjoy each other's company. This is reflected in children's behaviour, as they are polite and courteous to one another and show respect for each other. Children have a clear sense of belonging within the nursery. They enjoy talking about their friends and happily look at photographs of their family and nursery friends.

Children's language skills are very well-developed. They enjoy conversations with staff and participate enthusiastically in group discussion. Children listen attentively to stories and concentrate well. There are good opportunities for children to develop their writing skills and some children confidently write their names on their own art work.

Children count confidently and show a good understanding of calculation. They have a clear understanding of number value and recognise the concept of 'more than' and 'less than'. This is particularly demonstrated well when children sing number rhymes and staff ask questions, such as 'how many are left now?' Children have many opportunities to explore mathematical concepts as part of their play. For example, they experiment with the concept of capacity as they play with water. They use resources competently for matching, sorting and weighing, enabling them to gain practical experience of mathematical skills.

Children have very good opportunities to explore and make discoveries. They show curiosity and are keen to investigate their environment and learn about the world around them. For example, they explore nature in the garden and use resources, such as cameras, to photograph the insects they find. Children use video cameras and competently operate tape recorders, as they listen to stories. Children experiment with patterns and learn about light and dark as they use light boxes to compare shapes, textures and shadows. As children are freely able to use these resources, they have a very good understanding of how machines work.

There are very good opportunities for children to develop their physical skills. They undertake a range of physical exercise on a daily basis and participate in commercial exercise programmes. This contributes towards children's good health and enables them to move in a variety of ways to develop their healthy bodies. Children competently use resources, such as writing materials and cutlery, to improve their dexterity and co-ordination. They undertake activities, such as threading and pouring drinks, which help to develop their manipulative skills.

Children enjoy a wealth of creative activities. There is a very well-equipped art studio which is available to the children, stocked with an excellent selection of resources and media. This enables children to express themselves creatively, using their own choice of materials and

textures. Children use their imagination in their play and reflect their creative ideas. For example, children use the role play resources to re-enact familiar scenarios.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is outstanding.

All children are treated equally and fairly. Staff offer children respect and value them as individuals. This enables children to feel good about themselves and develop a strong sense of belonging within the nursery. All areas of the nursery are fully accessible. For example, there is lift access to the first floor rooms. This reflects the nursery's commitment to providing a fully inclusive environment. Children learn about diversity within society as they play with many resources which reflect modern day society. Children see pictures, books and posters reflecting positive images of gender, disability and cultural diversity. This enables all children to respect differences and learn about the wider world. As a result of this, children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is fostered.

There is very good support in place for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Staff are skilled in supporting children's individual needs and working within the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. This ensures that all children are treated equally and fairly.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. All children treat one another with respect and courtesy and show kindness and respect for each other. Staff manage children's behaviour sensitively and use age-appropriate strategies, enabling all children to clearly differentiate between right and wrong. Younger children develop skills in sharing and co-operating as staff gently guide children's play and present themselves as good role models. There is a very strong emphasis throughout the nursery in offering a happy, positive and purposeful environment. Staff are wholly committed to focusing on positive behaviour and working consistently with parents to agree appropriate strategies for managing any unacceptable behaviour.

The partnership with parents and carers is outstanding. Parents receive a wealth of written information regarding all nursery policies and procedures. Staff in the Sunflower room ensure parents have an understanding of the Foundation Stage curriculum. Curriculum and activity plans are displayed, enabling parents to become more closely involved in children's learning and understand nursery topics. Staff demonstrate their commitment to working closely with parents by forming the Parent Nursery Association. This helps to build relationships between nursery staff and the children's families. As a result, children see their parents and nursery staff as equal partners in their learning.

Parents receive detailed, written information on a daily basis regarding their children's individual care routines. There are very good strategies in place for parents and staff to work closely together to support the children's needs. For example, staff offer parents cameras to take photographs of the children's extended family members. These are then created into individual, personalised photograph albums for the children to enjoy looking at and sharing with their friends. This is a highly effective strategy to enable children to see consistency between their homes and nursery.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The staff team consists of highly-motivated, dedicated and professional early years practitioners, all of whom are committed to providing the highest standards of care. This reflects the nursery's mission statement, demonstrating all the staff's commitment and dedication to offering high quality care.

The nursery manager is a dynamic leader who is fully supported by her highly experienced and dedicated deputy manager. Both managers offer full support to the staff team and have an active interest in the delivery of the Foundation Stage curriculum. There is strong support from the head office team as many staff, such as the Director of Childcare and Quality Advisors, visit regularly to ensure high standards of care and education. As a result, the leadership and management are good.

There are highly effective systems in place to ensure that the National Standards are adhered to at all times. Staff have a very good understanding of regulations and ensure that appropriate adult to child ratios are complied with. Staff recruitment procedures include all necessary vetting procedures to ensure that staff are safe to work with children.

Staff support one another extremely well and personal development is given high priority. As a result, staff have access to extensive further training enabling them to regularly update and refresh their knowledge and skills.

The effective induction programme ensures that all staff are totally familiar with the company's policies and procedures, equipping staff with the relevant skills to fulfil their roles. This contributes towards the highly-effective, smooth running of the nursery.

All regulatory documentation is maintained in full. The methodical and organised approach to record keeping ensures that all documentation is stored securely and confidentially.

The setting meets the needs of the range of 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 any 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 complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted

## **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION**

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### **WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?**

#### **The quality and standards of the care**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

#### **The quality and standards of the nursery education**

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- review the documentation for recording children's observations to 1) identify children's future learning needs and 2) inform curriculum planning

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)