



Country Cottage Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY298180
Inspection date	18 July 2005
Inspector	Virginia Cooper
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Registered person	Claire Ruth Dolley
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?

Country Cottage Day Nursery is established provision and first opened in 1994. The management of the nursery changed in 2004. The group operates from domestic premises in the village of Mereworth, near Maidstone.

A maximum of 15 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The pre-school is open each weekday from 08.00 to 18:00 all year round except one week in August and one week at Christmas. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 37 children aged from six months to under 5 years on roll. The nursery currently supports some children with special educational needs, and children who are bi-lingual or who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs five staff . Four of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children and babies enjoy a close relationship with the staff. They are confident and able to express how they are feeling; they talk about their likes and dislikes. They are familiar with the daily routine and consequently know what to expect and feel secure.

Babies' nappies are changed regularly to keep them comfortable. The staff work closely with parents; they ensure children are ready physically and emotionally before starting potty training.

The staff prevent cross infection by adopting sensible hygiene procedures. They clean regularly and keep the premises hygienic. Babies sleep comfortably in a wooden cot or travel cot; the staff supervises them closely and records the regular checks while they sleep to ensure they are safe.

Babies cruise safely around in a room that is prepared especially for this age group whilst they are learning to walk independently. They can safely crawl and explore their environment.

Children wash their hands before eating, and after using the toilet and touching the pets. They are learning the importance of good hand washing procedures.

The staff supervise children closely when they handle the pet guinea pigs to ensure they learn how to treat animals kindly. They are becoming aware of animal behaviour.

Children independently use the toilet; they are not always afforded privacy if other children are waiting to use the toilet.

The staff have good procedures in place for the administration of medication to ensure parents are well informed and children are not given anything that is unsuitable. They do not care for children who are contagious ensuring children are not at risk of cross-infection. Children who become poorly whilst attending the nursery are comforted and made comfortable until their parents are able to collect them. All staff hold a current first aid qualification; they are able to administer first aid to children in the event of an accident or emergency. There is a first aid kit that a member of staff checks and replenishes as necessary.

The staff record any accidents and any first aid that is administered whilst the children are in their care. This ensures parents are well informed about what has happened to their child.

Children always have access to drinks; they recognise their own cups and these are re-filled regularly to prevent them being thirsty. The staff offers children a drink if it is hot or they have undertaken physical exercise to ensure they are not dehydrated.

Children sit to the table, and learn good table manners. They eat a cooked healthy and nutritious meal that is provided for them taking into account any particular dietary needs they have. They particularly enjoy meal times; staff encourage them to try new foods. The babies eat sitting in a high chair that staff clean thoroughly after each use. Sometimes children eat snacks that they have grown themselves for example strawberries. They eat fresh fruit regularly; they know this is healthy food. They learn which foods are bad for their teeth.

Children often play outside in the fresh air; they regularly play in the garden. They use a range of outdoor play equipment that encourages their physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a clean and well-ordered environment allowing them to move around easily and safely. They cannot access areas that are hazardous, keeping them safe. The garden is secure and fully enclosed and children cannot escape or wander off.

The manager displays the nursery registration certificate, resulting in parents knowing the conditions of her registration.

The children regularly practice fire drills to prepare them for an emergency.

Children enjoy a good range of age appropriate toys and equipment. They use child-sized furniture; this enables them to manage tasks more easily. Positive images are available of people of all races, cultures and abilities, developing children's empathic skills. The staff check equipment regularly to ensure it is well maintained and safe.

The manager regularly carries out a risk assessment of the premises. The potential hazards and risks are identified and safety equipment is in place to prevent accidents. She carries out a visual check of the premises each day to maintain the safety standards.

The staff supervise children with sensitivity; they can explore and undertake tasks independently but are kept safe.

The staff understand their role in the protection of children. They understand the signs and symptoms of abuse and know the procedures to follow if there are concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, relaxed and confident. The staff are warm and affectionate making children feel comfortable and valued. The children are learning important social skills and enjoy the interaction especially at meal times. Children show good levels of independence, they make choices about the activities they become involved in and the toys they wish to play with. They are equally happy playing alone or in small groups. The staff encourage children to do things for themselves and gives good support when children are learning new skills for example throwing and catching balls.

Children are creative and like to construct things using a variety of materials.

They are imaginative and role-play helps them make sense of the world about them. Stimulating toys encourage children to count and learn their colours.

Children develop a healthy interest in books and enjoy stories; they like to share what they are reading and tell others the story.

Staff nurture the youngest children. They enjoy a strong relationship with their key worker. They explore and experiment with different materials and textures; their play is often very tactile. They communicate successfully with peers and staff and are confident enough to make their preferences known.

Children enjoy music lessons with a peripatetic teacher who visits the nursery. They experiment using different instruments and learn about tone, rhythm and pitch.

They enjoy active play and tumble tots sessions are arranged for children over two years old, they learn how to move their body in different ways and what they can achieve physically. The outdoor play equipment is interesting and fun, they often play in the garden.

Children explore various topics through a range of activities for example they learn about people who help them and a police officer visited the nursery. The children sat in the police car.

Key workers adapt the activities to address children's individual learning requirements. Staff record children's progress and this information is shared with parents. Staff sometimes undertake tasks that children can manage alone, for example pouring their own drinks.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children talk about things that are important to them, for example their home and family, their likes and dislikes. They are confident when expressing their opinion to the staff. They show real interest in what the children have to say and extend their

thinking using open-ended questions.

Children's moods are taken into account and they are not rushed to take part in any activity until they are ready. They can take their time and join in when they feel secure.

Children enjoy a sense of community; the police visit the nursery and children role-play their experiences. When they are all together at registration time, they remember children and their families who are not present.

Parents are encouraged to take an active role in their children's learning and visit whenever they wish. Parents often ring staff to ask how their child is and staff always re-assure them.

Children celebrate their success and achievements. This gives them a sense of pride and develops positive self-esteem. Children's individual needs are considered and children with special needs are included in all activities.

Staff manage children's behaviour effectively. They use strategies that are age appropriate. They never raise their voices. Children understand why they can and cannot do certain things and take notice of the staff. Children understand what is fair. Staff help children learn to share and negotiate with one another. Positive behaviour is encouraged. Children play co-operatively with one another. They invite children to join them in games and understand that rules are sometimes necessary and taking turns is fair. They successfully make friends.

The staff have a good understanding of equality of opportunity and has a positive attitude towards diversity. Children are treated with respect and made to feel good about themselves.

Children are learning about taking responsibility for example helping to tidy up after they have played.

The staff work closely with parents, they are provided with a detailed account of their child's time at nursery in a contact book so they can have meaningful conversations with their children about what they have done and achieved.

Parents are encouraged to add to these records to aid consistency of care between home and the nursery. Most parents make comments and share information about their child.

Children bring special comforters and are able to keep hold of them until they feel secure enough to leave them at home.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All staff are vetted and suitable to care for children. They work well as a team, and

collaborate on the plans to ensure they include activities to cover their key children's next steps in learning. They are all aware of their responsibilities towards the children and therefore the children's welfare is always the priority. They usually work on a high adult to child ratio that gives children more attention that is individual.

Comprehensive policies are written and are supported by a staff handbook that details the procedures to follow to ensure the nursery's aims are achieved. These procedures ensure good care of the children by clarifying to staff and parents the standard of care that is expected.

Staff update their knowledge but have experienced difficulty arranging SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) training.

All required records are in place and kept confidentially. Clear written procedures for uncollected children are required; however, staff know the procedure they will take in these circumstances. The nursery's complaints procedure does not make it clear that Ofsted is the regulatory body and that they can complain to Ofsted if they cannot get satisfaction from the group.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The manager has written new procedures for the administration of medication and these are included in the staff handbook.

The manager is still trying to access SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) training.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints since the last inspection.

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):

- ensure Ofsted details are included in your complaints procedure
- ensure clear procedures are added to the uncollected child policy
- access SENCO training
- consider children's privacy when they use the toilet.

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