



Squirrels Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	119242
Inspection date	06 December 2006
Inspector	Hazel Farrant
Setting Address	Broadmoor Hospital, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 7EG
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Registered person	Bright Horizons Family Solutions Ltd.
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Squirrels Day Nursery opened in 1990. It is part of a chain of nurseries operated by Bright Horizons Family Solutions Limited.

Squirrels Day Nursery operates from a building within the grounds of Broadmoor hospital. There are three main rooms used by the children and an enclosed outside area for play. The nursery is within walking distance of Crowthorne village with easy access to the surrounding local area and motorways. The nursery primarily serves employees of the hospital but is also open to other families.

The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round, except bank holidays. Hours of opening are 08.00 to 18.00 with specially extended hours as required by hospital employees.

There are currently 82 children on roll. This includes 24 three- and four-year-olds who are in receipt of funding. The group supports children with learning disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

There are nine full time and eight part time staff who work with the children, twelve staff have early year's qualifications. The setting receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted effectively by most staff who demonstrate a good knowledge of the procedures for promoting health and hygiene. Staff have a sound awareness of children's individual needs and older children are able to be independent in their personal care. Children actively contribute to the development of the health and care routines such as tidying up and preparing themselves and the rooms for snack and meal times. Good procedures, such as staff wearing disposable gloves and aprons for nappy changing, sustain high levels of hygiene and help prevent the spread of infection. Staff ensure that children's noses are wiped clean but do not always wash their hands consistently afterwards. Toys and resources in the baby room are washed and sterilised regularly. This good practice maintains the cleanliness of the equipment ensuring the children play in a clean environment. An outside contractor maintains extractor and ventilation fans, some appear to be unclean, particularly in the baby sleep room and the kitchen. Children are protected well through the staff's good understanding of the correct procedures to be followed if accidents occur or children require medication. Accidents are dealt with quickly and are accurately recorded by staff to promote children's good health. A high percentage of staff hold current first aid certificates.

Children's healthy growth and development is promoted as staff show a good understanding of their individual dietary requirements. Many staff hold current food hygiene certificates, this ensures children's snacks and meals are prepared to a high standard. Older children help themselves to fresh water throughout the day from individually named sports bottles. Staff acknowledge when young babies may be thirsty and regularly offer them drinks. Children begin to understand the principles of a healthy diet through planned activities such as making their own fruit salad and by discussion. The older children show confidence and independence as they serve themselves their own dinner and pour out their own drinks. Babies and young children enjoy the one to one adult contact at meal times and are given time to taste, enjoy and finish their food in a relaxed and calm environment. Children learn how to keep themselves healthy, knowing they must wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet.

Children benefit from fresh air and regular exercise, making good use of the indoor and outdoor environment. They move freely and confidently around the setting demonstrating good spatial awareness. For example, manoeuvring trikes to ensure they steer around one another. Children enjoy using the extensive range of outside equipment where they can climb, slide and balance. They throw balls into the basketball net and learn to catch and bounce the balls to each other. Children benefit from trees and a gazebo providing protection from the sun during the hot weather. They develop good physical skills, demonstrating their dexterity as they draw and

write with pens and pencils. They skilfully use scissors and glue spatulas and are confident with the mouse when using the computer.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment that is warm and welcoming. Children and parents are greeted individually on arrival. The individual welcome helps children feel secure and encourages them to settle at the start of the session. Children use a varied range of safe and developmentally appropriate resources, including everyday household items that are good quality and safe. The resources and play equipment support, stimulate and challenge the children's individual development needs appropriately. Equipment and resources are kept clean and in a good state of repair and are checked regularly for safety. Children are kept safe at the nursery because staff identify most risks to children. However, not all low electric sockets and adult size scissors are made inaccessible to children.

The indoor and outdoor play spaces are organised effectively. Staff create a child friendly environment which enables the children to explore whilst being appropriately supervised. Staff continually monitor children's movements so that they know who is in each area. Young children sleep safely and comfortably and are frequently monitored. The baby room is divided into two areas to promote the safety of non-mobile babies. An attractive and robust wooden barrier is used; it also provides additional low storage space. This allows young children lots of opportunity for self-selection. There is a good ratio of staff who are deployed effectively ensuring children are safe in their surroundings. Staff-child ratios ensure that sufficient staff are on duty to meet the individual needs of the children throughout the day.

The nursery premises are secure and there are good arrangements for the safe arrival and departure of children. Children's, staff's and visitors' arrivals and departures are promptly recorded so that in an emergency there is an accurate record of who is in the building. Parents use a computerised keypad system which is linked directly to the office computer. This system, along with regular head counts and hard copy registers in each area, ensures children remain safe.

Children are protected well by staff who demonstrate a sound understanding of the child protection policies and procedures. All staff have recently attended child protection training. Non-vetted persons receive clear information regarding the duties they are prohibited to perform, this further safeguards children. There are clear and robust procedures to ensure children are collected only by authorised people.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident, relaxed and settled in the setting. They enter the nursery happily. Children in the baby and toddler rooms develop good close relationships with the staff who know them well. Staff are developing the 'Birth to three matters' framework well to provide a good and stimulating range of play experiences for babies and children under three-years-old.

Children access a variety of activities, which staff thoughtfully plan and prepare to encourage them to develop skills and have fun. Comprehensive records are kept for every child, which includes photographs of the activities they have taken part in.

Children have warm relationships with staff that are very caring. They benefit from the one to one care and the key worker system, receiving individual attention. Babies enjoy varied activities to encourage their development. Activities such as cooked spaghetti play and treasure baskets provide good opportunities for young children to stimulate their senses.

Children in the toddlers' room have access to a good range of activities. They explore the texture of paint with their fingers and make sand castle out of damp sand. They enjoy using the well-resourced home corner, which is currently set up as a hairdressing salon. Children access stimulating resources and enjoy role-play activities. Some children pretend they are clients whilst their peers brush and set their hair in curlers. Children learn to listen to stories and join in enthusiastically when singing simple songs.

Nursery Education.

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the setting having fun as they learn through play. They enter the nursery confidently and know the daily routines. Children often concentrate at one activity for long periods of time because they enjoy what they do. This is particularly evident with a small group of children playing on the craft table. Children draw around stencils and expertly spread glue with spatulas. They choose what materials to use and said that the white glitter looks like 'snow'. Children enjoy using musical instruments and use glove puppets in the theatre entertaining one another.

Children's personal independence is developing well. They confidently attempt to put their coats on for outside play. Children enjoy playing the part of daily helper as they help prepare for dinner. For example, they call children's names out to take their place at the meal table. Staff utilise the opportunities to develop the children's independence further, for example, as they pour their own drinks and serve their own meals. They follow clear guidelines and are aware of expectations such as tidying toys and resources away. Children develop a good awareness of their own needs and a respect for the needs of others. They are patient and kind with younger children. For example, they wait for the younger children to walk through the room before they access the bathroom area. Children are sensitive to the needs of others, they readily share toys and resources and many children co-operate with each other.

Children have a good range of vocabulary. They use language confidently when talking to their peers and with staff. This has a positive effect on their growing social skills and self-assurance. Some children confidently recognise their own names and those of others on their table mats used at meal times. They self register for the activity they wish to take part in by hanging their nametag on the appropriate hook. Some children demonstrate good handwriting skills and confidently write their own names on pieces of work and attempt to write for a purpose. For example, when they are role-playing with mobile phones, children take messages and write in a diary.

Children enjoy listening to stories and enthusiastically join in with the 'Three Little Pigs' story. Children offer ideas to the story and are well supported in learning new vocabulary by staff who know how to engage children's interest. Children have good opportunities to develop their mathematical skills through everyday routines. For example, they count how many children are present at circle time and help to set the table with the correct number of plates and cutlery.

Staff plan and provide a good range of exciting activities that promote children's learning. They are well qualified and demonstrate a clear understanding of the Foundation Stage. Staff use this knowledge to plan a broad range of exciting experiences for all children. As a result, the children are progressing well as independent learners. Curriculum planning covers all areas of learning and indicates the children's intended learning outcomes. However, plans do not clearly show extensions to activities for more able children. Staff evaluate the activities but do not record information meaningfully to inform future planning. Staff use observations of children's progress to complete assessment records which are updated regularly.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have their work and photographs displayed in the setting and this gives them a sense of ownership and pride in their environment. They take a responsibility for their environment and help to tidy away when they are asked by staff. They show a good understanding of the needs of others as they share resources such as the computer. Staff treat all children with concern and sensitively support them to help them progress. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered and children are happy and relaxed within the nursery where they have positive relationships with others. They develop an understanding of diversity through a variety of multicultural resources and learn about different festivals such as Divali. Staff work with parents to support children with English as an additional language.

Children with learning disabilities are well supported by staff who work in close partnership with parents and outside agencies, as appropriate, to ensure their needs are met. Children are learning how to 'sign' and have built up a wide range of vocabulary which they enjoy using. All children within the nursery behave very well as they purposefully occupy themselves and receive good levels of support. They play harmoniously together and chat as they work alongside each other at the various activities. They respond well to staff who praise positive behaviour and gold stars are awarded for a job well done.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. Parents provide appropriate and relevant information about their child to staff to ensure continuity of care. Parents are involved in some aspects of shared learning, but this is limited. Parents receive regular, detailed information about the nursery, via newsletters, verbal exchanges and information displayed. Staff keep them well informed about their child's progress through daily informal discussion and via formal meetings held regularly. A parents' liaison committee organises social events and helps to fund raise for extra equipment for the nursery.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The highly committed staff provide good levels of care to enhance children's experience and well-being. Leadership and management is good. The nursery is very well organised and has a good leadership team with a shared vision. It is managed extremely effectively, with good systems and structures in place to ensure all staff are appropriately supported and trained.

The premises are beginning to look 'tired', however, staff work hard to ensure that the rooms are well-organised and attractive to maximise play opportunities for children. The manager has identified areas of improvement, the outside play area now benefits from an exciting climbing frame and playhouse.

All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and regularly reviewed. Staff have been vetted to make sure they are suitable to work with children. Procedures are in place to ensure their on-going suitability. Staffing ratios are met conscientiously. Staff are well qualified and benefit from ongoing opportunities to develop their knowledge through regular training courses. There is a good appraisal system based on ongoing supervision of staff to develop their strengths. An induction process ensures all new staff know the procedures of the nursery. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection children's care now benefits from staff ratios being maintained to ensure safety of children. The bathroom area is well-maintained and safe for children to use.

Children benefit from daily opportunities to further enhance their awareness of numbers and simple calculations within daily routines. The recording of extension activities for more able children on the planning sheets is still to be completely addressed.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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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The quality and standards of the care are good. 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 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 hygiene procedures are consistently followed throughout the nursery
- ensure children are protected from low level electrical sockets and adult size scissors.

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):

- further develop planning records to clearly show extension to activities and evaluate meaningfully so that the planning cycle is fully effective in respect of children's learning
- maximise children's opportunities of learning by further involving parents in their child's learning experience.

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