



Goldilocks Nursery/Creche III

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	127206
Inspection date	08 January 2007
Inspector	Mary Van De Peer
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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Goldilocks Nursery III is one of three nurseries run by this provider. It operates from a purpose-built building. It is situated in Ashford, Kent. A maximum of 58 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08.00 to 18.00 throughout the year. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 71 children aged from birth to under eight years on roll. Of these, 26 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment area. The nursery currently supports two children with special educational needs. It also has experience of supporting children who speak English as an additional language. The nursery is able to provide meals for children.

The nursery employs 14 staff who work directly with the children. There are 12 staff who hold a recognised early years qualification and four of these are working towards a further qualification. There are also two staff training for their child care qualification. The nursery receives support from the Local Authority and are members of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to learn the importance of effective personal hygiene skills through activities and routines. They wash their hands before eating their snack and after using the toilet. The children are protected from infection because the staff are kept informed about their health care matters. Accident, incident and medication administration paperwork is in place. The majority of staff hold first aid certificates which are regularly updated. This means that if children sustain a minor injury, they can be treated effectively. The children's meals and snacks are prepared on the premises. Although there are a few healthy options on the menu, some meals contain processed foods and fruit is not always provided. This means that children are unable to improve their knowledge about good nutrition and a healthy diet. The weekly menu is displayed and takes account of the wishes of parents. Older children are able to help themselves to drinking water.

Children enjoy a range of energetic physical activities that help contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They are developing self confidence in their physical skills as they are able to play with different indoor and outdoor toys and equipment. All children are encouraged to rest and be active according to their needs. Physical development is satisfactorily promoted by the staff.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are able to play within a safe environment. For example, there are socket covers and stair gates to help ensure children's safety. Children can move freely between the different rooms downstairs. Child sized tables, chairs, a comfortable settee and areas to display their creations help provide a child friendly environment. Staff carry out written risk assessments on the premises and the outdoor area at regular intervals. This means that any new hazards are identified and possible dangers for children are avoided. The toys and equipment that the children use are appropriate to their ages. They are safe, checked regularly for hygiene and cleaned when necessary. The children are able to help themselves to a reasonable selection of toys and resources as some are kept in storage units and boxes. An emergency evacuation plan is displayed and the children practise it every other month. The drills are assessed and recorded. Children are able to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

Several staff have had recent training on protecting children. The nursery has policies and procedures to help safeguard children. However, they require some updating. The lost and uncollected child policy is clear. Emergency contact persons are recorded. Parents inform staff of any changes in who is collecting their child from the nursery. Staff ensure that children are only collected by appropriate adults. Children's well being is promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children enjoy their time at the nursery. Children smile, laugh and interact well with each other and adults, voluntarily offering them cuddles. Some of the walls are decorated with children's creations, as well as brightly coloured hanging mobiles in the baby area. This helps to make the atmosphere homely, friendly and welcoming. Children settle well each morning. There are many appropriate resources made available for all the children to play with. These cover the relevant areas of development, such as the role play area for imaginary play and the creative space where they can experiment with various craft mediums. There is also a quiet area where the children can relax and read books. Children choose the areas where they want to play but are limited in the actual choice of activity as these are often adult directed. In the birth to three play room, there are large cushions and a ball-pond which the younger children thoroughly enjoy playing in. Large, colourful activity toys encourage the babies and toddlers to develop their physical skills and hand and eye co-ordination.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. The activities and experiences provided are covering the areas of learning and mostly meet the needs of individual children. However, teaching is not particularly innovative and has some minor weaknesses. Many of the planned activities do not provide further challenges for the older children. For example, a sticking activity had shapes already cut out by staff, limiting the opportunities for children to be more individually creative and skilful. Children are being encouraged to become more independent in some areas, such as construction and personal hygiene. However, snack time is an adult led activity, with children's choices and self-service not apparent. This occasionally leads to older, more able children becoming bored as they have nothing to keep them occupied. Children's speech is clear and developing well. Staff constantly talk to the children and involve them in discussions. However, opportunities to make children think are missed as staff do not use open ended questioning effectively. Staff manage children and their behaviour well. They provide a secure environment which reflects the background of many children and the wider community in which they live. Children show a sense of belonging as they play and learn together. They are confident and friendly and show care and patience for others, for example, towards a child with additional needs. Staff make satisfactory use of their time and resources to support children's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about equal opportunities and people with special needs through a good range of activities and resources. They occasionally benefit from visits from different people giving talks on their cultures or skills, for example playing a musical instrument. Children also have access to a range of books showing positive images of equality. These images are available on a daily basis and serve as reminders. Children are beginning to understand that all people are different. They are developing a positive attitude to others. Children with special educational needs receive individual attention when they need it. The nursery has a trained co-ordinator who assesses a child's needs, sets individual play plans and contacts other organisations for support. Disabled access is possible. Children's individual needs are met. Children behave well.

They are learning to understand right and wrong, using consistent boundaries, praise and the age appropriate methods staff follow to manage behaviour. Contact books and Foundation Stage booklets on each child are completed by staff and parents can read these regularly, making their own comments if they wish to. Younger children's daily routine, including sleep times are also recorded and the information shared with parents.

The partnership with parents is good. Parents report that the children receive very good care and education at the nursery. Parents also feel they themselves receive good support from the staff. They have good feedback of how their children are developing and progressing from the daily verbal exchanges with staff. Termly newsletters advise parents of the activities the children participate in and other nursery information. Wherever possible, parents are encouraged to join in. They are also invited to attend open and information evenings, for example on the early learning goals. Children benefit from continuity of care. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The nursery have their registration certificate on display for parents and visitors to see. The provider has a robust recruitment and checking procedure to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. They have been appropriately vetted and hold Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) disclosures. Staff are regularly monitored and supervised. The nursery's organisational plan is currently being reviewed and adjusted so that it continues to meet the needs of the children and staff. For example, taking into account the new Safeguarding Children procedures. There are some areas and space in the nursery which are not used effectively for the benefit of the children. The manager and supervisors all hold appropriate childcare qualifications. There are other members of staff who are working towards additional child care qualifications. A current paediatric first aid course certificate is held by almost all staff. Children and staff records are stored confidentially in a lockable filing cabinet. All Children Act Regulations are met and all required documentation and paperwork is in place. A keyworker system is in place. Parents are aware of who their child's keyworker is and they are very knowledgeable about the children in their group. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Nursery Education

Leadership and management is satisfactory. The registered person has had several years of nursery ownership. The manager in charge of the day to day running of the nursery has lots of experience, enthusiasm and commitment, this in turn motivates staff. The current supervisor is on maternity leave. The deputy has taken over and is confident in her role. The manager and supervisors are continually looking for effective ways to develop and improve the nursery in all areas. However, this seems to be a very gradual process. There are play plans in place, which staff have been able to contribute their ideas to. Staff training has high priority, although it is some time since Foundation Stage training has been undertaken.

Improvements since the last inspection

The provider has followed the previous recommendations to improve the nursery provision.

The first recommendation was for the nursery to develop and implement procedures to be followed in the event of a parent failing to collect a child. A new policy is in place and is shared with staff and parents. Parents inform staff of any changes in the person collecting their child. Children's welfare is protected.

A second recommendation was for the nursery to develop and make available to parents, the written statement on special needs which is consistent with current legislation and guidance. Also to ensure that this is understood and implemented by all staff. Several staff have now been trained in caring for children with special educational needs (SEN). There is appropriate involvement with outside agencies where needed and contact and progress is recorded. Children benefit from positive care and involvement from the nursery.

A third recommendation was for the nursery to develop rigorous systems for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the nursery practice. There is now a new self evaluation system being implemented so that the views and input of all staff is heard and valued. Staff are more involved in the curriculum planning. Children benefit from the additional input and attention from staff into the day to day operation of the nursery.

Another recommendation was for the nursery to develop the routine so that children are able to freely play in all areas. The staff now have free-flow play for all children. However, the staff are still working towards a totally free play environment and more child led activities. This will provide children with more opportunities to be independent and have more choice in their play.

A recommendation was for the nursery to develop toilet facilities so that children are afforded privacy. Some of the toilets now have doors or a curtain. This has enhanced children's privacy arrangements.

A further recommendation was for the management to ensure child protection procedures for the nursery comply with local Area Child Protection Committee procedures and that they are shared with parents and understood by staff. Several staff have attended Child Protection training as well as the new Safeguarding Children information and training sessions. A new policy and procedure has been implemented. There are series of in-house training given to staff on new procedures. This helps ensure children are properly safeguarded.

Another recommendation is for staff to ensure that children have an appropriate range of resources that reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability. There are new books, role play equipment and other resources as well as posters, which have been purchased and are available for all children to play with. The manager's check list now includes her regularly checking these resources so they can be replaced and updated as required.

A recommendation was for management to ensure that there are effective systems in place to check storage of food and medicine. Medical consents, record book and procedures are in place. All medications are returned to parents when children go home. This means that children are administered their medication within safe guidelines and using appropriate recording methods.

The final recommendation was for management to ensure the record of attendance shows accurately when staff are present and that entries cannot be erased. There is a staff register

in place and staff sign themselves in and out daily. This is written in pen. This means it is clear who is present in the nursery at any given time. This further safeguards children.

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.

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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):

- consider providing more nutritious options on the children's menu, to help promote children's healthy eating
- ensure all activities and play areas are used effectively at all times, to further benefit all children

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):

- ensure more opportunities are provided for children to make their own choices in their play
- provide children with appropriate challenges and extend their play opportunities, enabling them to continue to progress further in their learning and development

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