



Cotelands Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY333376
Inspection date	20 November 2006
Inspector	Denys Rasmussen
Setting Address	Cotelands PRU, John Ruskin Sixth Form College, Selsdon Park Road, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 8JJ
Telephone number	020 325 22020
E-mail	cotelands.croydon@lgfl.net
Registered person	Cotelands 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Cotelands Education Centre nursery have been operating since 1987. They moved to new premises in 2006 and now operate from Cotelands Pupil Referral Unit which is situated in a modern purpose built accommodation within the grounds of John Ruskin College in South Croydon. There are two nursery rooms, staff room, kitchen, laundry room, buggy store and offices for nursery use within the pupil referral unit. There is a fully enclosed outdoor area for outdoor play. They are registered for 28 children from birth to three years. There are currently 12 children on roll aged from two weeks to 30 months. The opening hours are 08.00 to 17.00 Monday to Friday, term time only. There are four staff who work with the children, all of whom have an appropriate early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a purpose built, hygienically clean, bright and airy environment. There are good procedures in place for nappy changing such as wearing disposable gloves and aprons. Staff wash their hands appropriately and the use of liquid soap and paper towels help prevent the risk of cross-contamination, as does the no-shoe policy in the nursery rooms. The effective sick child policy and periods of exclusion after having an infectious disease promote good infection control. Excellent records are kept of children's individual care and home routines which means their individual needs are well met.

Most staff are trained in first aid ensuring accidents are dealt with appropriately. The staff receive specialised training to care for children's specific needs. For example, how to deal with anaphylaxis and in the use of Epi-pens. This ensures children's health is promoted. Accidents and incidents are recorded well and confidentiality is maintained. Medication is only given with written parental consent and when administered it is recorded appropriately, ensuring parents are kept fully informed.

The children are offered a healthy and nutritious diet with their individual stages of weaning catered for. Babies are offered milk according to their needs and mothers are warmly welcomed when they arrive from class to breastfeed. The babies eat well and enjoy the food, alternatives are provided for babies with specific requirements, which may be because of allergies, religion or choice. Babies are cuddled often and have a close bond with the staff that care for them. This increases their sense of well-being

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are welcoming, filled with natural light and colourful displays. Because the premises are purpose built it is self contained and has everything needed to make it safe, secure and suitable for its purpose. Safety measures are in place: for example, gates to restrict children's access to the kitchen, covers on electrical sockets and soft surface in the outdoor play area. This ensures accidents are minimised. Good child protection procedures and experienced staff ensure children are protected. All staff have attended training in child protection which means their practice is up-to-date.

The nursery is very secure. Visitors enter through a main reception which has a digital lock, they are asked to sign in and are escorted to where they need to be. There are good fire safety precautions in place and fire evacuation is practised on a regular basis. This means staff can get the children out quickly and calmly with the use of evacuation cots. Good arrival and departure systems ensure children are always accounted for. Comprehensive risk assessments are carried out because the manager has attended training in this area.

The nursery has well designed, good quality equipment for children aged under three. There is a good variety of age appropriate and safe play resources to ensure the environment is

stimulating. The baby changing table is ergonomically designed, which protects staff's backs and keeps children safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Staff provide stimulating and age appropriate play that encompasses the 'birth to three matters' framework. The children are happy and enjoy their time at nursery because the staff understand their individual needs and join in with their play. Children are given choice in play and are developing independence. For example, a baby crawls over to a box and concentrates her efforts to pull it out. She then takes out some of the toys and shakes them about in glee looking for approval. A member of staff praises her efforts and sits down next to her to play. The baby is laughing at the member of staff who is playing peek-a-boo with a toy the baby has chosen. Staff maintain observational achievement records which are used to track children's progress and to provide appropriate activities for their stage of development.

Children are encouraged in their sensory exploration with activities such as sand, corn flour, water play and play dough. They explore in a box of cereal to find the toys hiding there and crawl all around the nursery room stopping occasionally to play with something that interests them. The staff interact with the children in a positive, warm and supportive manner. They often sit with children on their laps reading a story or singing nursery rhymes. Staff encourage children's language by repeating what they say and letting them know they are understood. Children's physical development is promoted well. For example, lots of space to roll and crawl around, play steps to learn to go up and down stairs safely, and equipment for children to pull themselves up onto. This ensures children are confident in exploring and trying out new skills, helping them to progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The staff are very warm and caring and their manner is supportive. They accentuate the positives in children's behaviour and use distraction to avoid potential conflict. Children are cuddled and reassured when hurt and are helped to understand each others' feelings. Staff have a good understanding of how young children learn and so provide stimulating activities meeting children's needs so they do not become distracted or bored; helping them to behave well. The staff have good partnerships with parents and carers and are committed to meeting the families' individual needs. Children benefit from the trusting relationships their parents have with the staff which are sometimes promoted through home visits. Parents are given useful information about the service provided through an informative parent pack. This includes the nursery's policies and procedures. The outings policy is not yet available to parents in a written format but the staff explain it verbally. The settling in procedure is parent led and parents are encouraged to visit their children at any time. The nursery holds record of achievement evenings and parents are given a record of their child's progress which includes anecdotal observations and photographs. This helps parents to be involved in their child's learning.

The nursery promotes an inclusive environment where all children and parents are equally valued.

The nursery takes detailed information about the children which includes details of their physical care and home routines. This helps them to know the child and meet their individual needs. Children are introduced to their local community when they go on nursery outings to local parks, library and shops. Positive imagery within play resources and on displays helps children to have a healthy attitude towards each other. The nursery positively welcomes children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. It adapts the environment to meet children's individual needs and has supportive links to outside agencies.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The nursery is well organised and provides an environment where children can play, rest and eat in comfort. There is a wide range of suitable resources to provide a varied and challenging curriculum. The staff team is experienced and appropriately qualified. Systems are in place to ensure all appropriate checks are made to ensure staff's suitability to work with children. There are often above the minimum adult to child ratios in place which ensures children's individual needs are well met. All the required documentation is in place to ensure the safe management of the nursery. Security is good which protects the children. Parents are involved in their child's learning and are kept well informed. The manager has sound knowledge and understanding of the National Standards and good childcare practice which ensures outcomes for children are good. The staff team work well together because of strong leadership. 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

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):

- improve information for parents by adding the outings policy to policies and procedures available for parents' information.

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