



Childcare4U

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY333381
Inspection date	04 December 2006
Inspector	Helen Ann Woods
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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?

Childcare 4 U opened in 2006 and is located in Beaconsfield New Town, a short walk from the High Street and Railway Station. It is set in a residential building with eight rooms on two floors that include a designated sleep room, sensory room and several messy creative rooms. A maximum of 52 children may attend the nursery at any one time of whom no more than 24 may be under two years. The nursery is open each weekday from 07.30 to 18.30 for 51 weeks of the year and closed between Christmas and New Year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The setting has procedures in place to support children with learning difficulties/ or disabilities and for whom English is an additional language. Children attending come from the surrounding areas. There are currently 43 children on roll attending between three and five full days a week. The nursery employs 12 staff of whom eight hold appropriate early years qualifications. There are three students studying for NVQ level 2. The early years manager and the owner are supernumerary and qualified to NVQ level 4 and above. Over half of the staff hold a current paediatric first aid certificate.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive as a result of highly effective procedures and practices which meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs. The premises are warm, very well maintained and there is a very high standard of cleanliness throughout. Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene and staff provide sensitive support when needed. Children are encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly with antibacterial foam soap from brightly coloured animal dispensers placed on all the sinks in each bathroom.

A varied programme of activities has been developed for use inside the nursery that makes physical exercise a fun every day activity. Children enthusiastically stretch their bodies and make themselves as small as possible so they can crawl through a tunnel. They jump and skip in time to music. They wave shakers and learn to keep their balance on small circle mats. Children have regular access to both indoor and outdoor activities. Even when the weather is chilly, children learn to dress warmly and put on their coats, hats and boots. Babies also get out in the fresh air to crawl on specially placed mats on the decking patio. Children develop a range of small physical skills as they competently use a variety of construction equipment developing hand eye coordination and finger control. Large physical activities are very well provided for and as a result children's physical skills and abilities are developing well.

Staff have a keen knowledge of Birth to three matters. Children's emotional well being is promoted by the key worker system which especially helps the youngest children to quickly settle into the nursery. Babies are lovingly cared for by staff who offer lots of smiles and cuddles during their play in cosy surroundings.

Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks and meals, which are provided to meet their individual dietary requirements. The ingredients are fresh, cooked on the premises every day by a professional chef and parents can access menu's each week on the nursery website. The chef ensures the meals are nutritionally balanced and cater for any special requirements. Strict procedures are in place to ensure that children do not eat incorrect foods. They are able to access drinking water independently at any time ensuring that they do not get thirsty and have a choice of milk or water at snack time. Children sit and eat comfortably at child-size tables and chairs and enjoy sociable meal times with each other.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The nursery premises are well maintained, clean, warm and welcoming. The nursery is spacious and allows the children to move between the activities with ease. Children develop a very good understanding of how to keep themselves safe such as not running in the rooms and washing their hands before dinner to prevent germs making them sick.

Access to the nursery is protected by a keypad and intercom system that is linked to all the nursery rooms.

Implementation of effective systems, such as the collection of children, recording of visitors, formal and informal risk assessments, contribute to ensuring children's safety. Children learn to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe such as not running in the rooms and pushing their chairs under the table when they have finished snack time. Babies are protected when sleeping because there is good staff coverage as well as a listening device placed in the baby room.

Children are well protected because practitioners have a clear understanding of their role with regard to child protection issues and are familiar with local guidelines and procedures to be followed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are very happy in the nursery and are settled with their key workers. They move around the highly attractive, stimulating environment freely and actively enjoy their time within their key groups. Throughout the day the children are purposefully involved in creative activities. For example, sponge painting with large shaped sponges dipped in bright coloured paints, pouring dry silver sand through sieves into different size containers and through their fingers pretending that it is raining. Children go to make tea and toast at the play cooker however the uniform layout of the 'home play' furniture does not capture the children's imagination to continue the role play.

The well equipped darkened sensory room with its colourful fibre optics and bubble lamps offers an enthralling experience for all the children especially children that may be anxious. Children are getting excited with the preparations for their Christmas carol concert. They practice singing and acting out 'When Santa Got Stuck Up The Chimney' and 'Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer' and are already remembering the words.

The youngest children receive plenty of good support and encouragement. For example a new child is easily upset when children begin to put their coats on to go out into the garden. Her key worker talks to her gently offering lots of reassurance making sure she has her comforter as they go into the garden. Comfortable areas with rugs and cushions encourage the children to look at a very comprehensive selection of books. Practitioners continually talk to children to offer reassurance, reinforce success, good behaviour and manners.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from excellent relationships between practitioners and parents, which are enhanced by the implementation of an effective key worker system. Parents are given very helpful information in the prospectus and can also visit the regularly 'up dated' website for current news and information. A highly effective settling in programme ensures the children settle well.

Children are encouraged to develop independence by pouring their own drinks, serving out snacks and putting on their outdoor clothes before going outside. Children are able to access

a very wide range of resources and activities that reflect positive images of gender, culture and disability. Well planned activities encourage the children to learn about other cultures and countries. For example, learning to speak another language such as Spanish and French. They develop an understanding of diversity through play and planned topic work.

Staff have experience of supporting children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and work in close partnership with parents and outside agencies to meet individual needs. Children's behaviour is excellent and staff use highly appropriate management strategies such as positive reinforcement when children are kind and helpful towards each other.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Management and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities and work well together to ensure the nursery runs smoothly. They are vigilant to children's needs and ensure they are well supervised and ratios met. Staff are efficient, professional and organise a stimulating environment in which children focus on learning through well supported, purposeful play.

They have a good understanding of how children learn and update their skills by regularly attending external and internal training. Documentation to support all areas of practice is well maintained. Policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement to make a positive contribution.

Children develop a secure sense of belonging because the nursery is well organised and practitioners work with parents to ensure they have a good knowledge of children's individual home and family circumstances. The staff are supported by management through regular meetings, appraisals and training opportunities. The nursery meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

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):

- enhance opportunities for imaginative role play.

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