



Kids 1st Day Nurseries - Quorum

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY332755
Inspection date	01 November 2006
Inspector	Jim Bostock
Setting Address	Quorum Business Park, Benton Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE12 8EE
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Registered person	Kids 1st Day Nurseries
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?

Kids 1st Day Nursery - Quorum is situated in Quorum section of the Balliol Business Park, Newcastle. The nursery is close to local transport systems, making it easily accessible. It is registered to provide care for 108 children aged under five years, 48 of whom can be under two years. It is open from 07.30 to 18.00, Monday to Friday, for 52 weeks, except for Bank Holidays. Children have access to seven nursery rooms which are organised according to age, from babies under one to children aged three to five years. There are enclosed outdoor areas, attached to each room, for outdoor play. The staff team consists of a manager, two senior staff, four nursery nurses and four nursery assistants, a cook and handyman. At the time of inspection there were 50 children on the register.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a healthy diet which includes freshly prepared food, fresh fruit and vegetables and much organic produce. Older children enjoy the positive experience at meal times as they sit together and chat to each other while staff sit with them to model good manners and help their discussions. Staff have a clear understanding of children's special dietary requirements which helps them to remain healthy. Children confidently choose what they want to eat and know what is good for them. For instance, two year old children choose cheese sandwiches and toddlers hold their own spoons while they eat. There are very good records for parents to show what children have had to eat during the day.

Children play in an extremely clean and hygienic environment. They have a good awareness of hygiene routines, for example, hand washing before meals, which is fostered by very good photos in the toilet areas, depicting what they should do. Babies are very well protected by excellent nappy changing procedures which minimises the risk of cross infection. Children's health is well protected by the staff's good understanding of their specific requirements. Older children learn to brush their teeth as staff help them to understand why this is important. All staff hold a first aid certificate, ensuring the physical safety of children.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities both indoors and outdoors. They have access to large play equipment, such as tunnels, climbing frames, wheeled toys and space hoppers, and have outdoor play every day. All children learn to manage their bodies well by going through and over equipment. For instance, babies play happily in the ball pool where they practise picking up, dropping, rolling and throwing balls. During outdoor play, older children excitedly play on trikes and with push and ride toys, while staff organise games to help them learn to stop and start, turn left and right and go faster or slower. Children are able to rest and relax according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very safe, extremely secure and welcoming environment. For example, the nursery has installed a fingerprint identifying system so that parents can enter the nursery to collect their children, but any other visitor has to be admitted by staff. Posters, children's artwork and photographs are displayed well, helping to provide a sense of ownership of their environment. The good implementation of procedures, use of safety equipment, staff knowledge of safety and vigilance throughout the setting ensures that children's welfare and safety is monitored very well. Staff give a high priority to children's safety and have a good understanding of how to achieve a balance between moving freely and setting safe limits. Fire drills and a fully enclosed outdoor play area enhances the safe practice. However, written risk assessments are not fully developed and staff understanding of them is limited. Staff skilfully explain safety procedures to children and use activities to help children learn about staying safe. For instance, they practise road safety while the children ride their trikes. This helps children learn to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe. Children access all of the age appropriate toys and

equipment easily and confidently. Their toys and equipment are excellent with many being made of natural materials for heuristic play. Children meet visitors, such as police and fire officers, who help them learn about safety.

Children are very well protected from possible abuse or neglect. Staff have attended training and show a good understanding of the procedures to follow with any concerns. They are fully aware of the types of abuse and signs to look for. In addition, the nursery has a "whistle blowing" policy to support their safeguarding children policy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and settled in their environment and with the care of the staff. They benefit from responsive, kind, gentle and affectionate staff, who give lots of reassurance, cuddles and warm, natural interaction. Well planned activities are linked to the different developmental stages of young children. Children enjoy making choices about their activities which are supported by staff. They are enthusiastic and purposeful in their play. They are motivated and interested in a broad range of developmentally appropriate activities which provide good levels of challenge for their age and stage of development. For example, they use construction toys to make vehicles and are able to name them. They sing songs and know the words for "the farmer and his wife". One year old children join in the song "row the boat" and enjoy copying the staff actions and clapping their hands to show their enjoyment and achievement. Older children are proud of their achievements, confidently talking about what they have been doing. Their regular use of a wide range of creative materials, such as paint, glue and pencils, encourages them to represent their experiences, feelings and ideas in a variety of ways.

Staff plan activities very well using the "Birth to three matters" framework which contributes significantly to children's progress. Parents have excellent information about day to day activities which helps them to know what children are doing and recreate those activities and experiences at home to reinforce children's learning and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals. They develop a positive attitude to others and their understanding of the wider world is enhanced through the use of visitors, celebrating festivals, and playing with a wide variety of toys which show positive images of difference. For instance, children celebrate Divali, the Chinese Kite Festival and Halloween and they have posters, books, dolls and dressing up related to diversity and difference. This helps them develop their awareness and positive attitude to difference.

Staff are calm and model good behaviour to help children develop their understanding of positive behaviour. This is reinforced by praise and encouragement. As a result, children's behaviour is very good. They say hello to each other and cooperate well. Older children help serve food at mealtimes to develop their sense of responsibility and care for others. This is very

well supported in role play in the home corner where children care for dolls and play at serving pretend food and drinks to each other. Younger children are well supervised to ensure they begin to learn right from wrong and how to be kind to each other.

Partnership with parents is very good and parents speak about the excellent care of their children and information provided by staff. Very good information is available to parents. Information packs, written policies and procedures, notice-boards, regular news letters, verbal discussions and the impressive and informative daily diaries keep parents well informed about the setting, what their children are doing and how they can be involved. There are development files for each child, but some parents are not aware that they exist and they are not easily accessed by parents. Thorough consultation with parents is undertaken so that children can be cared for in accordance with their wishes and the nursery fully respects parents' requests about the care of their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The staff form an effective team, working well together with defined roles and offer a very good range of well resourced activities which capture children's interest. They provide a happy, caring environment for children. All the rooms are organised extremely well to meet children's needs and provide activities for their enjoyment. The provider and the staff demonstrate their commitment to the ongoing development of the setting by regularly reviewing their service. Staff are experienced and qualified, or working towards qualification, which ensures that children are cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. There is induction for new staff and regular ongoing training in a variety of short courses to help staff meet children's needs in a safe setting. Appropriate checks are carried out by the provider to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children.

The organisation of the nursery is sound which means the sessions flow well. Close monitoring of the group sizes and staff deployment contributes to children's safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to take part in the setting. Clear procedures and policies support staff in working successfully in partnership with parents. All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and wellbeing is in place. However, the register of children and staff does not clearly record attendance.

Overall the provision 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 the 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):

- continue to develop the risk assessments and staff understanding of them
- keep a clear record of attendance of staff and children.

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