



Kids Unlimited Nurseries Campus Kids

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY331522 |
| Inspection date | 20 October 2006 |
| Inspector | Jacqui Lloyd |
| Setting Address | Campus Kids Day Nursery, University of Surrey, Egerton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7XU |
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| Registered person | Kidsunlimited Nurseries |
| 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?

Kids Unlimited Nurseries Campus Kids is one of sixty nurseries run by Kids Unlimited Nurseries. It is a work place nursery for The University of Surrey. It opened in 2006 and operates from four rooms in a purpose-built building. It is situated on the university campus on the outskirts of Guildford. A maximum of 60 children aged from birth to five years may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08:00 to 18:30 all year round excluding bank holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. There are currently 65 children on roll, and of these nine receive funding for nursery education.

The nursery provides support for children with special educational needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

The staff team consists of 12 childcare staff and a full-time cook. Of these, eight staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well protected from sickness and the spread of infection as staff maintain a scrupulously clean and hygienic environment. There are very clear and effective procedures in place with regards to nappy changing and these are followed and implemented by all staff. For example staff wear disposable gloves and aprons and ensure surfaces are always cleaned and disinfected between use. This protects children from cross infection.

Staff fully understand how to promote good health and hygiene. For example, there are clear procedures in place for staff to follow to ensure that babies and children do not share bedding.

Staff take many positive steps to promote the children's good health throughout the nursery, such as providing very well ventilated play areas and regular opportunities for rigorous outdoor play and exercise in the fresh air. Children also enjoy Yoga and massage as part of their core curriculum activities which also contributes towards their healthy development and well-being.

There is a strong focus on the importance of healthy eating and children thoroughly enjoy freshly prepared meals and snacks. The menus have been devised in line with advice and recommendations from a nutritionist and include a very healthy, interesting and varied range of meals.

Menus are clearly displayed for parents and careful consideration is given to meeting individual dietary needs. Staff are extremely aware of children's allergies and parent's preferences and always ensure alternative meals and snacks are offered. Children in the pre-school also discuss this and are learning about each others needs. For example when preparing for meal times, children are quick to tell staff about their friends likes, dislikes or dietary needs.

Children access drinks and healthy snacks throughout the day as these are readily available to them.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The premises are extremely welcoming to children and parents. The tranquil mood music and scented oil burner in the reception area help to create a very calm and serene atmosphere. A great deal of consideration is given to the presentation and organisation of the premises, to meet the children's needs.

The environment is very child centred and innovatively designed, with the needs of the children as the paramount consideration. All rooms used by children have door handles out of reach from the children, preventing them from opening doors unsupervised. Glass panels next to the

doors enable babies and children to see who is entering the room and view their friends in other rooms.

The secure outdoor play area, with a variety of surfaces, such artificial grass, soft impact safety surface and natural grass presents a safe and interesting environment for children to play in and explore. The meticulous attention to detail is extended to this area and the provision of equipment such as the permanently fixed multi-surface easels ensure children have a wealth of opportunities both indoors and out.

Children play with a very good range of high quality toys and superb play materials which are interesting and challenging. Equipment is maintained in very good condition and supports children's care and learning. Babies and younger children enjoy seeing what is available and actively make choices about what to play with. They access toys easily as these are stored at low level, enabling them develop decision making skills and independence.

Staff have an extremely high regard for the children's safety and take extensive steps to ensure all risks are minimised and children can move around freely and safely. Staff are very pro-active with regards to issues of health and safety. They attend training in this area and demonstrate a thorough understanding of how to keep children safe. Children and staff undertake monthly emergency evacuation practice. It is always carried out at different times of the day. This helps to ensure all staff and children are totally familiar with the procedure and able to respond quickly in an emergency.

There are comprehensive written risk assessments in place which are used regularly and frequently reviewed.

Children also learn about how to play safely as staff provide gentle reminders and clear explanations to children. For example, children are reminded to use their 'walking feet' when playing indoors and encouraged not climb on chairs or furniture 'in case you bump your head'. This helps children to develop an awareness of danger and learn to take responsibility for themselves.

Staff maintain accurate and comprehensive accident records, which are collated and reviewed by the manager and health and safety officer to ensure further accidents are prevented.

All staff have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities regarding child protection as they all undertake training in this area. This enables them to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse and implement appropriate procedures, if they have any concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children of all ages are thriving within the nursery and thoroughly enjoying the exciting and stimulating experiences presented to them. They benefit enormously from the consistent and positive approach of staff. Children are extremely happy and content. They receive very high levels of attention and enjoy exceptionally secure and close relationships with staff. For example

babies and children giggle and smile as they receive lots of cuddles and one to one interaction with familiar carers. The care provision, specifically for the under two's has been thoughtfully and carefully planned.

Staff have an excellent understanding of the Birth to three matters framework and use this very effectively to plan interesting and worthwhile play experiences. They monitor the younger children's developmental progress closely. Staff skilfully provide opportunities for each individual child to play, learn and explore at their own pace and consequently realise their individual potential.

Younger children are experiencing a highly stimulating routine, with endless opportunities to explore using their senses and first hand experiences. They are extremely interested in their surroundings, each other and the high quality resources available to them. Children are encouraged to look, smell, touch and describe during all activities. Babies particularly enjoy exploring the contents of treasure baskets, sensory play with pasta, corn flour, rice, custard and playing in the 'mirror dome'. All of these innovative activities give babies the skills and incentive to make sense of and understand the world around them.

Children are given opportunities to take part in the nursery's 'core curriculum' activities in addition to the extensive play and learning opportunities available. These include baby signing, breakfast club, gardening and cooking club, yoga and massage, SoccerTots and Sanslimites (French programme for pre-school age children).

All of these provide purposeful, fun and exciting experiences, which contribute towards the children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual development.

NURSERY EDUCATION

The quality of teaching and learning is good.

Children are making good progress in all areas of learning and thoroughly enjoying their time in the pre-school. They are presented with an interesting and well-planned range of activities that encourage children's natural curiosity, imagination and all round development.

There are effective systems in place to enable staff to monitor and record children's progress towards the early learning goals. Staff carry out regular observations on the children to assess their skills, knowledge and achievement. This information is used well to clearly identify children's further learning needs and inform future planning.

Children receive excellent levels of support, which enables them to settle well and participate fully in all aspects of the nursery provision. They are very motivated and enjoy new challenges. Children concentrate very well and spend considerable amounts of time at self chosen activities. Children's independence is fostered appropriately in many ways, such as in respect of personal care and at lunch time, when children serve themselves. However the current layout of the room and accessibility of resources does not fully enable children to play independently or follow their own ideas.

Children communicate effectively and confidently and enjoy expressing themselves. They listen carefully to staff and are able to follow instructions. Children are very interested in books and particularly enjoy looking at their photo albums with their friends and talking about previous activities and past experiences. Children enjoy a range of activities that help to develop their early writing skills and freely access mark making materials. There are some examples of print and text displayed in the room and children do attempt to write for themselves during play. Children are constantly developing their language skills as staff introduce new words during activities. For example, whilst exploring and identifying different vegetables, staff talk to the children about the broccoli 'florets' and children are keen to repeat the words. During Sanslimites (The French learning programme) children are learning simple words and are keen to attempt to pronounce the new words. Staff recognise their efforts and praise all children for trying. This helps to build confidence and self-esteem and encourages children to 'have a go'.

Children use resources for matching, sorting and weighing enabling them to gain practical experience of some mathematical skills. They enjoy practical opportunities to develop an understanding of capacity and volume, such as sand and water play. However, there are few examples of numbers displayed in the pre-school and those available, are limited to one to ten. Children do not regularly learn about calculation or hear staff use mathematical language during play and daily routines. This restricts children's understanding of numbers and mathematical concepts.

Children are developing a thorough knowledge and understanding of their environment and the wider world. Interesting and practical activities make learning appealing and exciting for children. They particularly enjoyed building a 'wormery', using a tank with sand and different types of soil, then observing the worm and making model mini-beasts using clay.

Children really enjoy opportunities to observe, explore and investigate. Gardening club has helped children to learn about how things grow, whilst cooking club presents opportunities to taste and use their senses. Children enjoy technology and skilfully use the computer on a regular basis.

Children enjoy many opportunities to be physically active and develop their skills. They enjoy opportunities to play with hoops, balls and bean bags during organised activities, such as SoccerTots. They move with confidence and show good spatial awareness, carefully negotiating obstacles in the classroom and during outdoor play.

Children use a range of small tools such as scissors, pencils and threading materials which help them to develop their dexterity and hand-eye co-ordination.

There are many opportunities for children to use their senses to explore experiences such as smelling and tasting food, touching a range of textures and materials and listening to and playing music. Children express their imagination and creativity through a good selection of planned activities and child-initiated play. Children play imaginatively and enjoy becoming absorbed in role play. Staff provide a good range of resources to support imaginative play and a recent themed 'Hairdressers' was particularly popular with the children.

Children access a good range of art and craft materials and have freedom to express their own ideas. As a result, children's work on display clearly reflects their own ideas and utilises a wide range of media.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are treated fairly and equally by staff and respected as individuals. This helps children to develop high levels of self esteem and a strong sense of belonging. Staff are very respectful of the individual routines and care needs of the babies, and follow their personal sleep and eating patterns closely.

Careful consideration is given to the selection of toys and play materials to ensure they reflect positive images of diversity. This helps children to develop their own identity and learn to respect differences within our society. As a result children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is fostered.

Staff are using extremely effective strategies which are individual to each child to support those who speak English as an additional language. For example simple sign language and flash cards help children to understand routines and become fully integrated in the nursery.

Time is set aside during the day for siblings in the nursery to move into each other's room and spend time together. This is a sensitive and thoughtful way of helping children to enjoy each others company and develop their relationships.

Staff manage behaviour in a range of positive ways, taking into account the age and level of understanding of the child. This promotes their welfare and enables them to develop an understanding of right and wrong. Children constantly receive praise and recognition for their achievements and successes. For example, during a dispute in the pre-school, a member of staff praises a child by saying 'well done for using words to sort it out'. This encourages children to treat each other with kindness and courtesy and show respect for one another. The ethos within the nursery is extremely positive and evidently reinforced by all staff. The focus is on offering good quality care in a positive and purposeful environment.

The partnership with parents and carers is outstanding. Staff are totally committed to supporting parents and working closely with them, to offer the best possible care for the children. Parents and carers receive daily, verbal feedback from staff members regarding their children's progress and achievements. In addition to this, parents receive a 'Day in the life' daily record sheet, which details information about the babies and younger children's care routines.

Staff monitor children very closely and use records, observations and examples of children's work to compile the 'How's it going' report. This enables parents and carers to be fully informed and to share in their children's care and learning. As a result of these strategies, children benefit from strong links between the nursery and their home.

There is a wealth of written information available for parents and carers, informing them of all aspects of the nursery provision and Foundation Stage curriculum, This helps them to fully

understand their children's care and educational needs and support their children's learning at home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The staff are extremely motivated, enthusiastic and hard working. They are highly professional in their approach and clearly dedicated to providing high standards of care and education for children. Staff are very clear about their roles and responsibilities and demonstrate a clear commitment to the ongoing success the nursery.

The leadership and management are good.

The manager is very dynamic and leads by example. She presents an excellent role model to the staff and is actively involved in and oversees the provision of care in the rooms. She affects the smooth and effective running of the nursery and is keen to make continual progress. A highly effective staff development programme enables all staff to identify their own areas for personal development. Staff are pro-active in seeking appropriate training to enhance their existing knowledge and skills.

The organisation of the daily routine greatly enhances children's learning. Consistently effective staff deployment ensures all children receive excellent levels of support and attention.

Staff maintain clear and accurate records for most aspects of the nursery provision. However, the attendance register does not always accurately reflect the children's times of arrival and departure.

Clear and comprehensive policies are implemented fully by all staff and reflect the high standards of care and education. This contributes towards the effective organisation of the nursery.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides care.

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 then 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

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 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 the attendance register includes the children's times of arrival and departure and is maintained accurately at all times.

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):

- increase opportunities for children to see and learn about numbers, by providing more visual prompts and utilising all opportunities during the daily routine and planned activities to encourage children to count and calculate.
- review the organisation and layout of the pre-school; to ensure children can easily access a wider selection of play materials and therefore maximise learning opportunities and enable them to initiate play and follow their own ideas

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