



Asquith Nursery - Heathrow

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY292775
Inspection date	12 December 2006
Inspector	Christine Bonnett
Setting Address	The Old Vicarage, High Street, Harmondsworth, West Drayton, Middlesex, UB7 0AQ
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Registered person	Asquith Court Nurseries Limited
Type of inspection	Integrated
Type of care	Full day care, Out of School 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 satisfactory.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Asquith Nursery Heathrow is one of over 100 nurseries run by Asquith Court Nurseries Ltd. It opened in 1992 and operates from a converted vicarage in Harmondsworth, in the London Borough of Hillingdon. A maximum of 104 children may attend the nursery at any one time. It is open each weekday from 08:00 to 18:00 for 51 weeks of the year. All children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 84 children aged from three months to under five years on roll. Of these, 13 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local and wider community. The nursery supports children with disabilities, and those who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 12 staff, of whom ten hold appropriate early years qualifications, and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted as the nursery rooms are clean, particularly the carpeting in the room used by the babies. This means that they can crawl and play on the floor with minimal risk to their health. The bathrooms are also maintained to a good standard of cleanliness, and fully equipped with soap and paper towels to enable children to develop good self-care skills. The children understand why it is important to wash their hands at appropriate times.

Children benefit from the provision of meals that are nutritionally balanced. The variety given includes chicken curry, jacket potatoes and tuna bake. Fresh fruit is regularly offered for mid-morning snacks. Individual dietary needs are known to staff, and adhered to with care. The older children's independence is fostered as each child in turn serves themselves from a central table at lunch time. However, they do not start to eat until everyone is seated with their meal. Consequently, some children have to wait a long time with their food getting cold in front of them before being permitted to start. Staff are good role models at lunch time as they sit and eat with the children. This also helps to create a positive social occasion.

Children's physical development is well promoted as they have daily access to a large garden. They enjoy running around and climbing on low-level apparatus. Indoor movement sessions also help to ensure children have plenty of opportunity for healthy physical exercise. The policies and procedures followed by staff ensure that accidents are managed effectively, and medication administered appropriately. Several staff members hold current first aid certificates.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children profit from a nursery that is bright and welcoming for them. Because their art work, and photographs of themselves playing are attractively displayed on the walls, a warm and friendly environment is created. Younger children are able to eat and sleep in comfort and safety, as full-size cots are used, and high and low feeding chairs. The wide range of play resources are well presented for the children to enjoy. Many items are stored on open-fronted shelving units to promote children's independence by allowing them to help themselves. Heuristic play resources, such as wood and natural materials, are used throughout the nursery to promote children's senses. They are particularly enjoyed in the room used by the youngest children.

Children's safety is given high priority. Stair gates are located across the doors of all the rooms used by children, and the staircases. Emergency evacuation plans are practised regularly to ensure children will be taken to safety quickly from both floors of the building, should the need arise. However, items are placed on radiators to dry. Security of the premises is good. An entry phone system and camera are in place to ensure all callers are observed and checked before

entering. Robust risk assessments are carried out on all areas of the building to further safeguard the children.

Children's wellbeing is protected because staff have a good knowledge and understanding of child protection matters. The signs and symptoms of abuse are recognised by staff, and the procedure to follow for reporting concerns is understood.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children of all ages benefit from the range of stimulating and fun activities provided for them. The wide range of resources is presented well by the staff, which encourages children to explore and broaden their play experiences. The use of books is well promoted for the benefit of all the children. Toddlers select books for pleasure; they settle down in a cosy corner and turn the pages while reading the story to themselves. Action songs and rhymes are routinely included and enjoyed in all the rooms throughout the day. Even the youngest children show pleasure as they recognise a familiar tune. In addition, children's vocabulary is developed as staff are skilled at asking open-ended questions, such as "what flies in the sky?"

Children are well-settled and content in the nursery. The warm and affectionate care given by staff enables children to form strong bonds with them. This promotes children's confidence and self-esteem. The Birth to three matters frame work is implemented well by staff. Consequently, babies enjoy appropriate cuddles, care and support. In addition, the good eye-contact and individual attention they frequently receive adds to their sense of security and wellbeing.

Nursery Education.

The quality of the teaching and learning is satisfactory. Although the Foundation Stage and the six areas of learning are understood by some staff, others are less knowledgeable and confident in its delivery. Activities are planned and carried out efficiently, but not developed or expanded to build upon the curiosity and understanding of the more able children. Children's individual progress is observed, although information gained from these assessments is not used to plan the next stages of their development, which impacts upon the challenges provided and the individual progress children make.

The pre-school room is well-resourced with appropriate materials to promote all areas of learning very well. For example, children have good opportunities to practise pre-writing skills, and help to copy labels to display. Physical development is promoted through routine play times out doors. However, there is no large garden apparatus to challenge and dare the older and more able children.

Children enjoy playing imaginative games in the home corner, and creating music by exploring the wide variety of good quality instruments available to them. Story times are as popular with the older children as the younger ones. They anticipate with pleasure what comes next when being read a favourite book, such as "The Gruffalo". In addition they are beginning to understand that books have different purposes, for example, looking-up snakes in a reference book to

discover what they can do. Mathematics is practised as children confidently sing "This old man", and recognise numbers displayed on the wall. Children have insufficient access to information and communication technology to enable them to develop their skills by discovering how it works, its uses.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have access to a satisfactory range of resources that promote a positive view of the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. This includes the acknowledgment of a number of world faith festivals, such as Diwali, Chinese New Year and Christmas. Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are well-supported at the nursery. Staff work closely with other professionals involved with the child to ensure his or her needs are met, and developmental progress made.

Children's behaviour is generally good as the variety of play opportunities available each day ensures they are kept busy and interested. Any difficulties that may arise are managed skilfully by staff as guidance and support from specialists has been sought to ensure strategies are appropriate and effective for the ages of the children looked after. However, the behaviour management policy does not include how instances of bullying are managed.

All children are respected and valued as individuals. Their needs, such as diet and sleep patterns are discussed with parents and incorporated effectively into the daily routine. Staff are kind and gentle when supporting children who are moving into a new room to enable them to settle comfortably. Children are learning how to share and take turns. In addition, the praise and encouragement given by staff promotes children's confidence and makes them feel good about themselves. This positive approach fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Children settle quickly into the nursery because of the effective partnership staff enjoy with parents. All relevant information is exchanged daily to ensure the child's needs are met. Parents are well informed about the routine of the day and the care given, as policies and procedures are available for them to consult. A wealth of information is displayed for them to read, including the complaints procedure and record. The partnership with parents of children who receive nursery education is good. Information evenings are held to explain the Foundation Stage and how it is implemented. They also have the opportunity to speak to their child's key worker at any time to discuss progress. Should a parent be concerned about their child's development, an action plan is devised with staff to promote an identified area.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a well-organised environment in which they become familiar with the routine and what is expected of them. This adds to their sense of security and well-being. Staff focus on the needs of the children, and understand their duties and

responsibilities towards them. They work well as a team, and their deployment around the nursery is good.

The leadership and management of the setting is good. The manager is committed to providing high quality care and education for children. She has a clear vision of how to develop the work of the nursery to improve the delivery of the Foundation Stage. An overview of the nursery is maintained and areas of weakness are addressed quickly and appropriately. Staff are encouraged to attend training courses and workshops to build upon their skills and regular support is also given. Children's safety is protected because the rigorous recruitment procedures followed by the nursery ensures that all staff are suitable to work with them.

Children's health, safety and well-being are also fostered as accurate and up-to-date records are maintained, and policies and procedures implemented effectively. In addition, the close partnership the nursery establishes with parents also has a positive impact upon the children. Consequently, 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 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 satisfactory.

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):

- review the lunch time routine in pre-school to ensure that children do not wait for an undue period of time before eating, while still promoting their independence
- ensure radiators remain uncovered at all times

- amend the behaviour management policy to include how instances of bullying are managed.

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):

- develop staff's knowledge and understanding of how to extend children's learning in all six areas of the curriculum
- ensure children have routine access to information and communication technology
- ensure children have access to large climbing apparatus to challenge and dare the older and more able 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