



# The Belgravia Nursery School

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	135105
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Chris Banks
<b>Setting Address</b>	77-79 Kinnerton Street, London, SW1X 8ED
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<b>Registered person</b>	Marie-Laurence Edmonstone
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Sessional 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](http://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?

The Belgravia Nursery School for children aged between two and five years was registered in 1998. It is privately run and operates from premises in the SW1 area of Westminster. The setting is open during term time from 09:00 to 16:00. Morning sessions are from 09:00 - 12:00 and afternoon sessions operate between 13:00 to 16:00. The nursery is also open during some school holidays. It is registered to care for a maximum of 18 children at any one time. There are currently 20 children on roll most of whom are bi-lingual.

The setting employs a team of five staff, three of whom hold recognised qualifications in early years education or child care. Most staff speak French and English.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in bright, clean and welcoming surroundings. They are well protected from the risk of infection because staff have clear written procedures in place which are effectively put into practice in all areas. This includes hygienic arrangements for nappy changing and toileting. From an early age, children are encouraged to learn about good self care skills. They are familiar and comfortable with hygiene routines and receive sensitive support during toilet training.

Children benefit from the clear sickness policy of the nursery and staff act in their best interests if they become unwell. Parents and carers are quickly contacted and children warmly comforted until they arrive. Staff recognise when younger children are overtired and encourage them to rest.

Staff strongly encourage parents and carers to provide nutritious snacks for children and water is always made freely available. They are familiar with individual children's dietary needs and take suitable precautions to protect children with food allergies. Food sharing is discouraged and parents are advised to avoid snacks with nut traces.

Children have suitable opportunities to extend themselves physically. Although there is no outdoor play space, they regularly visit nearby private gardens. Children also enjoy some vigorous physical exercise at the Nursery as part of the regular planned activity programme.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are looked after in safe surroundings and benefit from being cared for by staff who have good safety awareness. Premises are secure and children vigilantly supervised. Arrangements for the collection of children are well managed because those nominated to collect on behalf of the parent must first be introduced and their identity confirmed.

Children are protected by the good overall safety precautions taken by staff. This includes carrying out daily checks of the playroom before children arrive. The well maintained range of early years toys and equipment are also regularly checked for safety.

Outings to the nearby secured gardens are planned with care and staff follow strict supervision guidelines and road safety practice. In the unlikely event that a child becomes separated from the group, there is a clear procedure for staff to follow.

Children are further protected because staff are well informed about their role and responsibility in safeguarding their welfare. They are familiar with the process of monitoring, recording and reporting child protection concerns and are guided by up to date written procedures. The role of Ofsted is made clear and procedures also include action to take if any allegations are made against staff.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content because they are cared for by staff who are warm and attentive. Children look forward to coming to the nursery because they are greeted warmly and made to feel very welcome. The play room is well prepared in advance of their arrival and this helps create a sense of security for children who then quietly settle into activities. Staff quickly establish warm and trusting relationships with new children who are sensitively supported during the settling in period.

Children benefit from staff's growing understanding of the Birth to three matters framework. They plan activities well for children aged under three and have good systems in place to monitor and record their progress. Staff strongly encourage co-operative group activities for all age groups but younger children are always free to play independently if they wish to.

Circle times are very enjoyable occasions for all children who happily sing action songs and recite poems in both French and English. Group activities often have a theme which is explored in a range of ways with older children. For example, during the winter months children are exploring how arctic birds and animals survive in the wild and they enjoy creating collage images of polar bears and penguins which also form the basis for new songs and rhymes.

Children enjoy using an extensive range of good quality early learning toys and equipment but they are not made easily accessible. This inhibits their ability to make free and independent choices and self select alternative activities.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Effective partnership working and good communication with parents and carers helps ensure children benefit from a shared approach to their care. Comprehensive information is gathered and recorded for each child and is sensitively shared with staff who quickly become aware of children's individual needs and meet them well.

Parents receive well produced information about the service in French and English and the regulatory role of Ofsted is also clearly advertised in the play room. If parents are unhappy about any aspect of the service, there is a formal complaints procedure but it requires further development.

Children's progress is effectively monitored and well documented observation records form the basis of quarterly reports given to parents at the end of each term. All parents receive a warm welcome and new parents are encouraged to take an active part in the settling in process. In this way, separation is less painful for both parents and children. They are also closely consulted about their child's existing understanding and use of French and English.

A satisfactory range of anti-discriminatory toys and equipment help children learn about our diverse communities and their active involvement in celebrating other festivals also helps broadens their understanding of the wider world.

Children are happily settled and behave well because staff promote positive behaviour in a way that is age appropriate and sensitive to the individual circumstances of each child. Children are actively encouraged to be gentle and kind towards one another and staff are good role models.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by a well qualified and motivated staff team who are clear about their roles and responsibilities. They work very well together to create a happy and relaxed atmosphere for children who appreciate their kind and gentle approach.

Clear and comprehensive written policies and procedures relating to children's health and safety are effectively put into practice by staff who receive a good induction into the work practices of the nursery.

Space in the main hall is well organised and children are able to explore their surroundings in safety. They benefit from having somewhere cosy and comfortable to rest or relax if they become tired or unwell. Furniture and equipment is of good quality but the absence of any low level storage means children are unable to help themselves to any of the resources.

Documentation is well organised and stored confidentially. Systems are also in place to ensure policies are reviewed and updated where necessary. 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 the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action 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):

- further develop the complaints procedure and ensure a log is kept which parents can see on request
- further promote children's independence by ensuring early learning toys and equipment are made more easily accessible.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)