



## Little Willows Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY251433
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 March 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Hilary Guy
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<b>Registered person</b>	Countryside Nurseries
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](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?

Little Willows Day Nursery is one of six nurseries run by Countryside Nurseries. It registered in 1999 and operates from three rooms attached to Carrington Infant School, Flackwell Heath, Buckinghamshire.

A maximum of 33 children may attend the nursery at any one time. It is open all year round and serves the local community. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 33 children aged from birth to under three years on roll. The group currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language and can support children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

The nursery employs 13 staff, of these 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications and one person is working towards a qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children remain healthy and well care for throughout the nursery as staff are aware of current health and safety guidelines. Sound procedures for nappy changing and potty training ensure there is no cross infection and respect parental wishes. Children do not always wash their hands before food and wash their faces after snack, although provision is available. Suitable written procedures ensure appropriate action is taken for children who are unwell. Good sleep routines, according to the needs of the children, ensure they have sufficient monitored rest throughout the day.

Children greatly benefit from the nutritious and varied menu offered, all freshly cooked on the premises and prepared to the correct consistency according to the age of the child. Meals include plenty of varied fruit and vegetables each day. The needs of children with special dietary requirements are well met. Regular drinks are given to the children throughout the day and are readily available at all times. The soft furnishings in the baby room enable staff to sit with the children in a comfortable and relaxed manner, especially when bottle feeding. Both the baby and toddler room positively promote the health and well being of the children.

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

The provision is good.

The warm secure, child-friendly environment ensures all children are safe and well looked after throughout the day. The premises, although currently undergoing refurbishment, are very safe and well organised, giving all children sufficient space to play both inside and outside the building. All toys are pre selected by staff and very suitable for the age of the children, enabling them to remain fully occupied throughout the day. Toys and equipment are checked for safety before they are put out and a clear sterilising routine ensures they remain clean and safe for use.

Children's safety is paramount and staff ensure all possible risks are minimised. Regular fire practices and a clear procedure when children are taken off the premises for a walk, ensures they remain safe at all times. Children are well protected. All the staff have a clear understanding of the policy and procedures for safeguarding children and understand the importance of their role.

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

The provision is good.

All children show interest in the activities offered, as they develop their skills in all areas. Independence is encouraged from as early an age as possible, with staff on hand to support. Children enjoyed putting on and taking off their boots after playing in the garden. Laminated pictures in both rooms, were a particular favourite item for play and discussion. Children were looking at pictures of themselves and their siblings, together with every day objects. The older children were engaged in conversation by staff about the pictures they had found. A variety

of experiences in both rooms enable children to use different objects and textures. The babies had dried pasta, saucepans and spoons to play with. Some enjoyed making a noise with these whilst others discovered how to put pasta into the pans and then take it out again. The slightly older children were exploring with assorted paper, glue and glitter.

Children greatly benefit from the positive interaction they have from all the staff, stimulating and developing their skills, especially their language skills. Photographs showed images of the children exploring with a wide variety of substances, including jelly and corn-flour. Very good observational records are kept that clearly show the next steps of learning for the child, and these are used in future planning.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children begin to develop an understanding and appreciation for other cultures and religions from meeting with the other children in the nursery and from the equipment and books available. They are assisted in decision making supported by a staff team that know them well and treat them as individuals. Children's behaviour is generally very good, as they begin to understand the basic rules of the nursery. Support is available for any children requiring additional help.

Children greatly benefit from the very good relationship the staff, and particularly the key workers, have with the parents and carers, together with the excellent daily communication sheets keeping parents fully informed about their child's time in the nursery. This ensures consistent and supportive care for the children at all times. All children have sufficient space to move around independently and all form good relationships with their key workers.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are well supported by a staff team which give very high regard to their welfare. The manager and deputy oversee the nursery to ensure consistency of care throughout. Children are cared for in age appropriate groups with staffing to the correct ratio. The clear attendance register shows times of arrival and departure for all children. The comprehensive policies and procedures underpin the care offered and ensure children's safety and well being at all times.

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection the nursery have met all the recommendations given. A clear registration system is in place for visitors to the nursery. The health and safety policy shows all serious accidents and injuries will be reported, although there have been none since the last inspection.

A good selection of toys and books show positive images that reflect the diverse society in which we live.

### **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 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):

- ensure standards of personal hygiene for the children are maintained at meal times

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)