

# Ashford Play Nursery (Willesborough)

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	126982
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 March 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Clare Stone
<b>Setting Address</b>	The Old Chapel, Red Year Court, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0NS
<b>Telephone number</b>	01233 639661
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<b>Registered person</b>	Valerie Webb
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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?

Ashford Play Nursery opened in 1995 and is one of a chain of three privately owned nurseries in Ashford. It operates from a converted chapel with one main room with its own cloakroom and kitchen and office area. The nursery serves the local area which includes a large hospital.

There are currently 44 children from two to five years on roll. Children attend a variety of sessions.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 09:00–15:30.

Four staff work with the children, three of whom hold Early Years qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about personal hygiene through the daily routine. For example, children automatically wash their hands before snack and after using the toilet. All staff have up-to-date first aid training and there is a well equipped first aid box in place. There is a clear medication and accident record. However, this is not kept confidential. Parent's permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment has been sought. This helps staff act in the best interest of a child should they require medical attention.

Snack times are generally well organised and children enjoy a selection of healthy snacks which include a range of choices; such as, toast, biscuits and fresh fruit. Details are obtained about children's dietary requirements so that staff can provide appropriate food for the children; this includes details of allergies and religious requirements. However, children do not have the opportunity to choose when they would like a snack or drink. Therefore, this does not promote self help skills and independence.

Physical play is included in the daily routine. Children receive opportunities to participate in activities that promote their well being both inside and outdoors. This includes vigorous physical play, which helps children to learn about the changes which occur in their bodies when they are active.

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

The provision is inadequate.

There is a child protection policy in place but the staff have not had any child protection training. Staff members' knowledge and understanding of issues relating to child protection and possible signs of abuse is limited, and as a result, children's safety is compromised. There is a fire evacuation procedure in place. However, there are no smoke alarms to warn staff if a fire has started. Therefore, children's safety is put at risk.

The nursery is a welcoming environment for children and parents because children's work is displayed. This gives the children a sense of belonging. Toys and equipment are in good condition because staff clean and check them on a regular basis, and any broken items are thrown away. This helps protect children from injury. There is a sufficient number of chairs and tables so children can play and eat together. The premises are secure, and there are effective procedures in place for the arrival and collection of children. As a result, children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised and are only collected by authorised adults.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children appear confident in their surroundings and settle well. They enjoy their time at nursery and interact well together. The staff use lots of praise and encouragement to help build children's self esteem and confidence. The nursery has a calm and harmonious atmosphere and children are happy. They have a good and trusting relationship with the staff. Staff are aware of the Birth to three matters framework but do not implement it, as staff have not had training in this area. There is a timetable of the day so parents and children can know the routine. This is

working fairly well, but staff interrupt children's concentration in their activities to move them on to snack time or to go outside.

## **Nursery Education**

The quality of the teaching and learning is satisfactory. Children are progressing in some areas of the curriculum. The planning is detailed and covers all areas of learning. The staff are making observations on all the children on a regular basis and recording this information. However, it is not clear how they use this information to inform their planning.

Children are developing good relationships and understand the need to share and take turns. They spend a lot of time talking to the staff and negotiate well during free play. They talk happily about their home lives and can recount past and future events. Children enjoy having a story read to them. However, the book area is not inviting and there is no soft seating for children to relax and share books with each other.

Children show signs of beginning to write, but are not given free opportunity to practise these skills. Mathematical development is a strong area for the staff and children. The children understand the concept of simple addition and subtraction. They can also recognise a group of three objects without counting. During free play children use appropriate mathematical language and understand space and shapes.

Children learn about different cultures and beliefs through planned topics and the celebration of festivals. However, children do not have a defined role play area for pretend play to enrich and support their imagination.

Children use their senses to explore, they enjoy music and movement sessions and the staff always praise their efforts. They also have the opportunity to express themselves through a range of mediums such as painting, drawing and junk modelling.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Support for children with learning difficulties is not effective, as there is no special needs co-ordinator on site to help facilitate and cater for children's individual needs. Individual educational plans are not being used and children are missing opportunities to be moved forward. Some policies and procedures are not up-to-date, nor made available for parents to read.

Children attending the nursery, move around confidently and settle quickly. There is a wide range of resources available to children that promote positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability. This contribute to helping children learn about differences and embrace diversity.

Children behave well because staff are attentive and encourage children's thinking as they engage in conversation, related to the children's interests. There are strategies in place for managing behaviour and these take account the children's ages and stages of development. Staff act as role models, teaching children to respect each other and others in their community. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Partnership with parents is satisfactory. Parent's receive information about the Foundation Stage outlining what the children are expected to learn. This helps parents become involved

in their child's development. Children can take home books to read with parents and the staff have an open door policy if parents wish to talk to them.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The organisation of the nursery is not effective, resulting in some policies and procedures being out of date. At times the minimum staffing ratios are not being met. Therefore, children's safety is compromised. The staff do not have a sound knowledge of the National Standards. All mandatory documents are in place and maintained. There are no regular appraisals or commitment to professional development. Therefore, good outcomes for children are not promoted. The nursery does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides care

The leadership and management of the nursery is satisfactory. The nursery has made some improvements to rectifying previous weaknesses in the nursery education programme. The staff have a sound awareness of the curriculum guidance to the Foundation Stage and how to apply this in practice. They have successfully identified areas to improve the nursery, such as attending relevant training, but have not yet drawn up clear plans to achieve their aims. Therefore, staff and children are missing opportunities to progress.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection the following recommendations were made:

- 1) To compile a operational plan. This is now in place.
- 2) To develop a formal risk assessment system. This is now in place
- 3) Ensure all children practise emergency procedures on a regular basis. This in now being done.
- 4) Ensure full medicine records are kept, including parents written acknowledgement of each entry. This is now being done.
- 5) Obtain written consent from parents for children to receive emergency treatment. This is now in place.
- 6) Revise child protection policy to include procedures to follow where there are allegations against staff. This is now in place.
- 7) Revise special needs policy to include details of how the nursery meets the code of conduct. This is now in place.

Overall, the nursery have made some improvements.

## **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 of 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure correct adult to child ratios are met at all times
- ensure staff are fully informed and kept up-to-date with changes to regulations and requirements of the National Standards

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

#### 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):

- ensure that observations on children's development clearly informs the planning
- ensure children have constant access to writing implements during free play
- ensure children have daily access to resources that promote imaginary play

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)