

Margaret Wells-Furby Children's Resource Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	119274
Inspection date	15 June 2007
Inspector	Deborah Jaqueline Newbury
Setting Address	Great Hollands Square, BRACKNELL, Berkshire, RG12 8UX
Telephone number	01344 456416
E-mail	
Registered person	NCH
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	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.

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?

Margaret Wells-Furby Children's Resource Centre opened in 1992. It operates from a purpose built children's resource centre in the Great Hollands area of Bracknell in Berkshire. The resource centre serves the Bracknell Forest area. Attendance at the group is through referral from Education, the Primary Care Trust, Children's Services and Libraries.

A maximum of 14 children from two to five years of age may attend at any one time. There are currently 14 children on roll. All children attending the setting have learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The group operates on Fridays only, all year round. Sessions are from 10:00 until 13:30.

Children are cared for by five project workers and the project manager. The manager and her deputy hold relevant qualifications and three other project workers are currently working towards NVQ Level 3. The setting works alongside a variety of professionals including the community paediatrician, speech and language therapists, teaching and support services, physiotherapists and health visitors.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are accommodated in a clean, well-maintained environment. Staff open windows to ensure suitable levels of ventilation and they talk to children about taking their jumpers off so they do not get too hot. Staff implement mostly effective practice to ensure good standards of hygiene and to minimise the potential for the spread of infection. For instance, they are vigilant about wiping children's noses as necessary, they sweep the floor of any spilt food to avoid the possibility of children picking this up and they wear gloves when changing nappies. Tables are cleaned before children sit down to eat. Children are supported in washing their hands before they eat lunch but they do not do this before snack time to ensure a fully consistent approach and avoid the possibility of them receiving mixed messages.

Children are provided with a variety of items at snack time, including fresh or dried fruit and they are offered a choice of drinks. Those children who stay for lunch bring a packed lunch from home. Staff encourage parents to have regard for healthy eating when considering the content of their children's lunch boxes and they are proactive in encouraging children to select the healthier options first, such as sandwiches before sweet items. Children and staff sit together at snack and lunch time which means that children benefit from opportunities to begin to develop their independence and to relate to others under the watchful eye of staff who provide them with good levels of support.

Children have good opportunities to be physically active and develop their gross motor skills as they freely explore the different climbing, crawling and sliding apparatus within the play room. Outside play enables them to spend time in the fresh air and explore the group's outdoor play equipment. On occasions, when numbers permit, children are taken to a local park; this allows them to explore a different range of play equipment and experience an alternative environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children feel confident in a safe and secure environment where staff undertake daily safety checks to identify and minimise areas of potential risk. The play room is spacious and well organised. Activities and resources are arranged around the room with clear walkways evident between the different areas. Consequently, children are able to move around freely and independently. Staff supervise children carefully and remain vigilant at all times. They notice when children attempt to walk down the slide rather than sit down and sensitively intervene to guide them towards a safer way of using the equipment and they talk to children about the need to get down when they attempt to climb up and stand on chairs. Thus, children are helped to understand how to keep themselves safe. There are suitable fire safety precautions in place and staff are familiar with the procedure for evacuating the premises. During the course of the inspection an alarm sounded which resulted in the evacuation of the premises, although the sound made by the alarm sited within the play room was not the usual one staff associate with the need to vacate the premises.

Children explore a broad range of play equipment that is of good quality, clean condition and appropriate to the needs of the children attending. Staff undertake daily checks of those areas

of the premises used by children and the resources they use to ensure that everything is safe and ready for them.

Children are safeguarded because staff are very secure in their understanding of child protection issues and their role and responsibility. Everyone undertakes child protection training and referral procedures are readily to hand. Parents are informed of the setting's responsibility in this respect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from excellent levels of interaction and support from a staff team who are very involved with the children they care for. Staff are extremely caring towards children and remain focused on them throughout the session. They speak to them constantly, using language matched to their level of comprehension along with other forms of communication, such as pictures and signing and they consistently acknowledge children's efforts to communicate.

Staff adapt the session to include different types of play and change the pace. Thus provide children with varied experiences. For instance, they spend time singing and rolling a ball to one another. Staff sit and read to children and spontaneously sing to them. The prospect of playing a game of picture lotto attracts several children and they are keen to come and sit down at the table to join in. Their attention is captured and maintained by the active involvement and support of staff which helps make the activity accessible and achievable by all those children who participate.

Children are presented with lots of choice as most play materials are arranged at low level to aid their independent choice and they move freely around the play room selecting different things to explore. Staff show interest in everything they do and provide lots of support and encouragement for children to try and do things for themselves.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are valued and have their individual needs well met by the staff who care for them. Staff show interest in children; they greet everyone on arrival and welcome them into the group which adds to children's sense of belonging. The practice of talking to children, for instance about the need to change nappies before they take them to the bathroom means that children are consulted. There are lots of resources within the play room that reflect positive images of the diverse world in which we live.

All children attending the setting have additional needs and staff work alongside a variety of professionals including the community paediatrician, speech and language therapists, teaching and support services, physiotherapists and health visitors to meet their needs.

Children's developing self-esteem is well fostered as staff praise them constantly. They use simple language and explain what it is children are being praised for to aid their understanding. Staff set simple boundaries, which are consistently applied, to help children begin to understand the expectations for behaviour within the group.

Children benefit because staff work closely with their parents. They meet regularly to share information about children and to discuss their progress. Parents receive detailed information

about the provision in a variety of ways. They have access to policies and procedures and are encouraged to contribute their views about the provision. A suggestion box is available within the foyer and parents are asked to complete exit questionnaires. Everyone is provided with clear information about the procedure they should follow if they have any comments or complaints about the service and how these will be dealt with. However, the leaflet they receive relates to the whole of the service, not just the Friday group, and consequently, does not include any reference to Ofsted. The Ofsted parent poster is displayed though within the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff have a clear understanding of their role and responsibility within the setting and work together well as a team to promote good outcomes for children. All members of the staff either hold or are working towards appropriate early years qualifications and they take advantage of training courses to further develop their knowledge. Good organisation of the physical environment and the effective deployment of staff benefits the children attending and helps them to feel secure and ensures they receive appropriate support to help them progress.

Robust recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are cared for by adults who are suitable to do so. Required documentation that promotes the health, safety and welfare of children is maintained well and has regard for confidentiality. Written policies and procedures underpin all aspects of the provision. These are currently being reviewed and updated.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous care inspection the group has considered recommendations relating to the risk assessment and the development of an effective procedure to cover the absence of the manager. Staff check the premises before the start and end of the session to ensure children are presented with a safe environment and a risk assessment of the whole premises is undertaken. A new member of staff has been appointed as a senior play worker. This person is suitably qualified and deputises in the absence of the manager.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 01 April 2004 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 greater consistency with regard to hand washing before children eat
- ensure the fire alarm system is in full working order
- expand the written complaints procedure to include reference to Ofsted.

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