

# Lady K Care and Play

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 250073   |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 03 July 2007   |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Lucy Showell   |
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| <b>Registered person</b>       | Lady K Care & PLayer   |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Childcare  |
| <b>Type of care</b>            | 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](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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Lady K Care and Play opened in 2000 and is a privately owned setting. The provision offers out of school care in the school hall and a lunch club/playgroup within the nursery building at Lady Katherine Levison CE Primary School in Temple Balsall, Knowle. The setting offers out of school care, wrap-around and holiday play scheme for a maximum of 30 children aged three to eight years who may attend the out of school and a maximum of 20 children aged 2 to 5 years who may attend the playgroup at any one time. The provisions operate between the hours of 07.45 to 08.45, 11.30 to 15.30 and 15.30 to 18.00 Monday to Friday. All children have access to a safe and secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 26 children on roll for out of school care and 25 children on roll for the lunch club/playgroup provision. Lady K Care and Play serves families and children in the local community and surrounding areas.

The provision employs a total of seven staff on a part-time basis. Of these, five including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications and two staff are working towards appropriate early years qualifications.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children's overall health and welfare is promoted through the effectively implemented policies. For example, medication and sickness procedures are clearly understood by staff and carried out appropriately. Children benefit through a well-maintained environment. The premises and equipment are in good condition of cleanliness and redecoration. Children enjoy good health and a healthy lifestyle through good hygiene procedures which protects them from the spread of infection. For example, staff attend training to support their practice with regard to food hygiene.

Children are encouraged to understand and learn about the importance of personal hygiene and independence in their individual care. Their needs are met through good daily routines such as appropriate nappy changing procedures and toilet training for younger children. They rest according to their needs. For example, older children relax when they return from school and quiet areas are available for younger children in playgroup. Physical development is promoted well as they enjoy using equipment in the nursery garden or on the playground. When the weather dictates children play indoors in tunnels and tents and join in with ring games and dancing.

Children have their health and dietary needs met because staff have a sound knowledge of any allergies and special dietary requirements. This information is used when preparing snacks and cooking activities. Children have good awareness of the importance of healthy eating which is demonstrated by a brightly coloured display in the nursery room and encouragement to eat 'friendly' fruits and vegetables which they have renamed. Children are well-nourished as they enjoy snacks and meals and have free access to drinks.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment. Their welfare is effectively promoted by the staff's appropriate knowledge and proactive skills with regard to safety. Possible hazards are identified through constant observation and risks are minimised through suitable actions. For example, resources are checked before use and broken equipment is discarded. Generally, good documentation such as fire procedures and records of daily safety checks are available. A policy is in place including procedures to follow if a child is lost at the setting or on outings. However, written procedures with regard to uncollected children are not clearly identified.

Children are protected from harm through the staff's competent knowledge of child protection issues. Staff are aware of their role in child protection and have a clear understanding of the procedures to follow if there are concerns regarding a child. However, the written procedure has not been updated in line with current guidance and lacks some necessary detail with regard to dealing with allegations of abuse.

Children enjoy a welcoming environment which facilitates free movement and well spread out activities. Space is used effectively and children independently access resources which are suitable for their ages and developmental stages and comply with British Safety Standards.

Children learn about their own and others safety through receiving gentle reminders during play and show consideration for others' safety as they set up and tidy away after themselves.

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

The provision is good.

Children's play is promoted through the bright and cheerful environment which supports the happy atmosphere. There are good examples of children's artwork on the walls and space is used effectively. A good range of equipment is rotated to maintain interest and to ensure the activities are suitable for all children who attend. Children laugh and play contentedly with their peers and adults as they enjoy sharing stories and playing games together.

Children develop good confidence and positive self-esteem through receiving praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements. They build good relationships with the staff who are respectful of individual needs and requirements and value children's opinions. For example, older children are encouraged to give ideas for activities to involve them in planning the opportunities provided.

In the playgroup, children's needs are met through well-planned activities which are adapted in recognition of individual abilities. These activities cover all areas of development, link with current topics in the school nursery and are evaluated with regard to children's enjoyment and achievements.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's care is promoted well through the staff's valuable relationship with the parents. There is a good system of communication and staff share daily verbal feedback and relevant information in an approachable and friendly manner. Suitable documentation which is available for parents supports this, although the complaints procedure has not been updated in line with current guidance.

Children develop a sound sense of belonging within the child friendly atmosphere of the setting. Their opinions are asked and respected and they are involved with plans and activities within the setting. Children's awareness and understanding of the diverse community is promoted through free access to a range of resources and activities which reflect positive images of diversity.

Children are well behaved and show good awareness of the needs of others and their own needs. They enjoy selecting resources for themselves as they play and work harmoniously together. Independence is promoted through taking responsibility of themselves and their surroundings. For example, they take care with equipment tidying away when asked and give and receive support when needed.

Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are supported by staff who are deployed to meet their needs and ensure they are fully involved within the setting. Children's progress and development is encouraged as staff work consistently with parents and other agencies to discuss, devise and implement individual education plans. The written statement is shared with parents and has regard to current legislation.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare is supported by the majority of written policies and procedures that work well in practice. Children's care is supported by adequate staff deployment, vetting procedures and maintained ratios. However, the out of school supervisor does not hold a level three qualification appropriate for the care or development of children. There is a proactive approach with regard to updating training and extending opportunities for developing childcare skills and knowledge. This promotes children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievements and ability to make a positive contribution.

Children learn through the staff's appropriate knowledge of child development and they enjoy initiating experiences, adult-led activities and opportunities for free choice and supported play. Space is organised well to enable the children to take part in varied activities and children's individual needs are met through the flexible routines and their valued opinions. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous care inspection the setting received one action and four recommendations.

With regard to written information, the setting received one action requiring a written procedure for lost or uncollected children and a recommendation asking for a review and improvement to general documentation.

The setting has made some progress and written procedures are available to follow in the event of a child being lost at the setting or on outings. Staff have good understanding of procedures regarding uncollected children however this is not clearly defined in writing. Therefore, a recommendation has been given at this inspection.

Generally, the written information available is clear and well-written and plans are in place to review documentation ready for the next school year. However, recommendations have been given regarding the child protection and complaints policies which have not been updated in line with current guidance and lack some detail.

Three further recommendations had been given. Improvement was needed with regard to the observations and monitoring of children's progress to link with the activities provided and use of key worker systems, the provision of space to display children's artwork and their access to resources that provide positive images of diversity. Good progress has been made as children enjoy a variety of experiences which are relevant to their learning. Key workers observe, assess and plan for the children. The activities and resources used ensure equality of opportunity and colourful displays of the children's work decorate the rooms used.

## **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 satisfactory. 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 the written child protection policy includes the procedure to be followed if there are allegations against a member of staff and is updated in line with current guidance
- ensure a clear written procedure is in place with regard to uncollected children
- update the complaints procedure in line with current guidance
- provide an action plan detailing how you intend to ensure all supervisors hold a level three qualification appropriate for the care or development of 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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)