

Whitmore Park Baby Unit

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY152573
Inspection date	17 April 2007
Inspector	Mary Kelly
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Registered person	Coventry City Council
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	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.

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?

Whitmore Park baby unit has been in their current premises since 2002. It is a citywide facility for children under three years of age whose mother is under 16 years. It operates from a self contained room within the annexe of Whitmore Park School. The mothers of the children are educated on site.

There are currently six children on roll. The setting opens five days a week during term time only. Sessions are from 09.00 a.m. until 14.30 p.m. Children attend a variety of sessions.

Transport to and from the facility is provided.

Two full time staff work with the children, both of whom hold early years qualifications, supply staff are provided by the local authority education department.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about hygiene practices through daily routines, including toileting and washing hands after messy activities and before meals. The use of paper towels for hand drying and anti-bacterial spray being used to clean tables and nappy changing areas assists in minimising the spread of infection. Staff have access to a fully equipped first aid box, one holds a valid first aid certificate and have a clear understanding of the accident recording procedures, therefore minor accidents are dealt with appropriately and recorded for parents information.

Parents provide children's meals, in line with their dietary and health needs. They also provide appropriate drinks for their children to have during the sessions and additional drinks are available for children throughout the session to ensure they remain hydrated.

Children have access to a suitable outdoor area, and staff encourage them to access more challenging physical play during trips to the local park. This ensures they have additional opportunities contributing to their good health. Children develop control of their bodies by climbing on suitably challenging climbing frames, swings and develop their fine motor skills through the use of different tools, including pencils and paintbrushes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children use a wide range of safe, good quality and developmentally appropriate resources. Children are beginning to understand the importance of keeping themselves safe as staff use clear explanations to remind children about safety, including sitting on chairs properly and being gentle with the younger babies. The fire procedures are displayed in the crèche and regular fire drills ensure that children have opportunities to be aware and gain confidence in what actions to take in the event of an emergency.

Staff have an good understanding of how to keep children safe. Risks involving broken or unsafe toys, furniture or equipment are minimised as the staff carry out suitable visual checks on all equipment used ensuring that they promote children's safety. The premises are secure and only authorised persons have entry, children are closely supervised when inside, and when going on regular outings.

Children's welfare is positively safeguarded as staff have a very good understanding of child protection procedures and are fully aware of their role and responsibility to protect the children in their care. This ensures that children are confidently protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely happy and enter the crèche confidently, benefiting from staff being enthusiastic and welcoming on arrival. Those returning after the holiday are helped to settle by staff who are sensitive and caring towards their individual needs. Staff have an excellent knowledge of children's skills, interests and needs, which is further supported by the information shared by parents. Practice is further enhanced for the children, by the use of 'Birth to three matters' as staff use ideas to inform their practice and the planning they have in place.

Older children confidently select resources and enjoy activities on offer, including role play, and looking at books. The children really enjoy playing with the glitter box and have access to a wide range of textures within it, such as strings of beads, filled bottles and soft scourers. During activities, children's communication skills are strongly promoted as staff chat and engage in conversation with them and encourage them to make choices about the resources they are using. They are spoken to all of the time whilst travelling to the park, especially about the environment around them such as the blossom on the trees and noises they may hear. Activity plans are flexible and appropriately adapted on a daily basis to fully meet the needs of the children attending the crèche sessions. Staff are very aware that children's attendance may be random and make adjustments as necessary.

Staff recognise the importance of younger children's comforters and how they meet the emotional needs of the children. Lots of cuddles and reassurance are given to the children, therefore allowing them to feel secure. Children easily approach the staff for reassurance and fondly call them 'Nanny'.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and have equal access to a suitable range of resources and activities that help them to appreciate the wider world, including books and images showing positive images. Children have opportunities to learn about themselves and others through planned activities and spontaneous activities. When caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities staff understand the importance of working in partnership with parents to identify individual needs and adapt activities to ensure all children are included. Staff are clear about how children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities will be supported within the setting to ensure their needs are met and activities are suitably adapted if required.

Children's efforts and achievements are constantly praised and valued by staff. Encouragement and praise is given consistently through the day, which in turn develops children's confidence and self-esteem. Staff have an excellent understanding of appropriate behaviour management strategies and children are well behaved, play well together and form good relationships. Children are beginning to take turns, with suitable adult support, and show care and concern for each other, especially the older children encouraging the smaller baby with play resources.

Children attend the crèche for short sessions whilst their mums are attending classes within the building. Staff know they are on hand to provide parents with reassurance that they can get them if their child is upset or if they require further information to meet the child's needs effectively. Positive and friendly relationships have formed between staff and parents, which successfully contributes to children's well-being. Staff keep parents well informed about their child's care through verbal and written communication. The crèche has a complaints procedure and log to inform parents of any complaints and details for the Regulator are available, which will allow a parent to make a complaint if they needed to.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by enthusiastic and caring staff who enjoy their roles and develop warm, positive relationships with the children in their care. The environment is

strongly nurturing, welcoming and well organised, having effective areas for children to rest or sleep and suitable areas for a variety of activities.

Recruitment and vetting procedures are thorough, ensuring staff are suitable to work with children. Most required records are maintained, however the arrival and departure times are not recorded. Therefore staff would not be able to be informed about any child's arrival or departure on any given day. Children's records are detailed and informative ensuring staff have a sound knowledge of children's needs. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to improve the outdoor area for use by the provision. They have addressed this by now having a safe, secure area for the children to access freely. This ensures that the children get regular fresh air and exercise to promote their health and well-being.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by the 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 documentation accurately reflects children's times of attendance.

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