

Sefton Park Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	322390
Inspection date	14 May 2007
Inspector	Gillian Sutherland
Setting Address	2 Bagot Street, Wavertree, Liverpool, Merseyside, L15 0HT
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Registered person	Patricia Cassidy
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Sefton Park Nursery is a private day nursery which has been registered under the present owner since 1996. It operates from a purpose built, single storey building, which is situated in a multi-cultural residential area in the south end of the Liverpool.

A maximum of 51 children may attend the nursery at any one time. Children have access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area.

The nursery is open five days a week from Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year. It is open from 08.00 until 17.30. There are currently 35 children aged from birth to five years on roll, and of these eight receive funding for nursery education. The nursery currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 13 members of staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery receives support from a teacher advisor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a caring environment, where staff create many opportunities for children to talk about being healthy and participate in a range of activities which contribute to keeping them healthy. For example, children learn about healthy eating through discussion about snacks and meal times and also as they participate in a varied range of planned topics. As a result of this children are developing an understanding of a healthy diet, the different foods that are good for you and those which are not good for your teeth or health. Children enjoy social snack and meal times where they can sit together and chat, thus developing their confidence and self-esteem.

Children eagerly enjoy a wide variety of activities that contribute to keeping them healthy. They effectively use a range of activities on a daily basis to develop their physical skills. Children enjoy riding bikes, climbing, balancing and playing ball games. They also enjoy music and movement and learn to coordinate their bodies and move around safely. Children follow instructions for these activities from the member of staff. Children practise their fine motor skills as they skilfully use a range of tools including scissors, paintbrushes, pencils and cutting tools.

Children routinely participate in good hygiene procedures, although they are not always made aware of the reason for such procedures. Liquid soap is available for use in the toddler and pre-school bathroom, although the children cannot access this themselves.

The nursery has a sickness policy which all parents have a copy of in the parent information pack. All medical conditions are recorded on each child's enrolment form and parents give prior written consent for medication to be given, thus ensuring that children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. Children receive appropriate care if there has been an accident because a number of staff in the nursery hold current first aid certificates, thus ensuring there is always a member of staff who is trained in first aid on duty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children access a warm and welcoming environment, which is well organised and set out to meet their individual needs. Children benefit from a wide selection of activities that are readily accessible to them at each session. During each session they can freely self-select which toys they want to play with or which activities they want to participate in.

Children demonstrate a good awareness of safety. They practise fire drills, which ensures they are aware of the evacuation procedure that would be implemented in the event of a fire, and a record of when these take place is maintained. Daily risk assessments help to maintain a safe environment for the children and staff ensure that all areas, toys and equipment used by the children are safe and clean at all times. Current documentation regarding the safety checks of the building and the equipment used was made available during the inspection visit.

Effective arrival and collection policies help to ensure that children are safe and well cared for at all times. Children are signed in and out of the nursery by the manager of the day nursery. Children are not allowed to leave the premises until they are collected by their parent or nominated person. To ensure children are safe and do not leave with anyone else, a password

system is used if the person who usually collects the children is unable to do so. A visitors book is used to identify the names of any persons visiting the nursery and also the reason for the visit.

Children are protected by staff having a good knowledge of child protection issues. They have a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures, which provides them with the appropriate contact details of the agencies they may need to contact should they have concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled at the setting. They enter the nursery happily and leave their parents to play with their friends. Staff produce plans throughout the nursery to ensure all of the children take part in a range of interesting play and learning opportunities. Activity plans are on display for parents to look at and discuss with their child's key worker or the staff on duty. Children are engaged in a range of purposeful activities. They freely choose from a wide variety of toys and equipment and staff ensure that such resources are easily accessible. For the very young children this means placing toys and equipment around the room at their level, which ensures they are within their reach. Children move well from one activity to another. The children enjoy a range of activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development. Babies show great delight as they listen to rattles making different sounds, and they examine these closely to try and understand where the sound is coming from. They also participate in a varied range of creative activities, including some which allow even the very young children to explore different textures. For example, the babies enjoy participating in a 'gloop' activity where they can let the mixture trickle through their fingers and begin their awareness of touch and texture. The under threes also enjoy painting and playing with sand and water.

Children throughout the nursery receive lots of support and encouragement from the staff, and enjoy close contact with familiar adults as there is a key worker system securely in place. Staff are very knowledgeable about the children and use information gained from parents to ensure that each child's individual needs are met.

Staff are increasing their knowledge and understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and have devised profiles for each child under three years old. Parents can request to look at this documentation at any time. They have shared their knowledge of this framework with parents as there is written and pictorial information displayed around the nursery. Similarly, nursery staff have a good understanding of the Foundation Stage and curriculum guidance and have included information about this in their prospectus, and again there is written and pictorial information for parents to look at.

Nursery Education.

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. Children are making steady progress towards the early learning goals. Staff responsible for the educational programme do have some knowledge of the Foundation Stage and use this during their planning to ensure that all areas of the curriculum are covered. Children then participate in a range of purposeful activities, some of which do not provide sufficient challenge for their age and level of development.

Children enjoy using role play equipment. In the home corner, they played well together using play foods and a range of home equipment, including a washing machine, vacuum cleaner and a cooker.

All children are provided with many opportunities to develop their creativity and their personal self-esteem is raised as they proudly display and talk about their art and craft work. Children's art and craft work is attractively displayed throughout the nursery and children were proud to show me which was the picture they had drawn.

Children are able to recognise letters and their names and each child has place mat with their name on it. For the younger children their placemat also has their photograph on. Children have opportunities for mark making and writing during free play and again through pre-planned activities. There are few opportunities for children to extend their writing and mark making skills into their role play activities.

During story time, children's listening skills are developed as they participate in a story sack activity. Each child was given a cuddly toy and as they listened to the story about the jungle they had to identify the different sounds their animal makes.

Children have opportunities to identify different mathematical shapes and also participate in simple calculation activities. For example, a small group of children sat in a circle with a member of staff, who threw a satin filled ball for them to catch. Each ball was decorated with coloured shapes and the children had to identify whether they were covered with circles, squares or triangles. The children were then asked how many shapes were on the ball they had caught.

The planning of the activity programme is undertaken by the manager and the staff team and activities are planned on a long and short term basis. Staff observe children at play and use notes to record children's achievements reached during their play. Each child has their own development file, which parents can have access to at any time on request. Staff record children's progress in these documents and link this information to the stepping stones.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children attending the nursery are developing a good understanding of their local community and the wider world through planned activities. They celebrate a range of festivals throughout the year, including Diwali, Ramadan, Eid and Chinese New Year. Positive images of individuals in today's society are displayed around the environment and these help children attending the nursery to be aware of the differing needs of all people. Children access a wide range of resources which also represent others in our society and there are also jigsaws and books which help them to identify people's differences. In the main hallway there is a large display of the map of the world and children and their family origins are being highlighted, through discussion with the children's parents. Information about this is then used with children as part of their theme work.

Children's behaviour is good. They have an understanding of basic rules, enabling them to feel safe. This is supported by the behaviour management policy and the systems implemented by the staff. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement from staff, for their efforts and achievements. They are polite, share the resources and take turns easily, showing consideration for others. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Partnership with parents and carers is good. Parents are warmly welcomed into the nursery and are provided with a parent's information pack which contains detailed information about the practices and routines of the day nursery. Prior to care commencing, staff seek information from parents to enable them to provide the appropriate care for individual children. Notice board displays and information given to parents ensure they are well informed about the 'Birth to three matters' framework and the Foundation Stage curriculum.

Clear communication is established from the outset with parents. In addition, parents look at informative notice boards to keep them well informed of any developments. Children's development and progress is observed, monitored and recorded and parents are fully aware they have access to these records at any time. This ensures parents are able to contribute to their child's care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care and learning is enhanced by the effective deployment of staff and their roles and responsibilities. Good and robust systems are in place for the recruitment of new staff and interview and induction procedures are appropriate. Staff work well as a team and communicate effectively through informal discussion plus formal team meetings.

Children are well cared for because high staff to child ratios are maintained and this ensures they receive lots of care and attention. The required documentation is in place and well maintained, thus ensuring children are cared for according to their parent's wishes. The daily registration system ensures that staff always know who is present and are therefore able to maintain children's safety and welfare.

Leadership and management is satisfactory. The operational plan works effectively and the comprehensive policies and procedures are available to parents at any time. Policies are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they meet current legislation and guidelines. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the nursery owner has devised an effective operational plan which was easily accessed during this inspection. She has also implemented a key worker system which ensures that parents have a nominated person with whom they can discuss the individual needs of their child. Regarding the other recommendations made, the nursery provider ensures that a broad range of toys and resources throughout the nursery help children to become aware of the differing needs of society. All toys and resources accessed by the children are clean and in good condition to ensure children are safe.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the 1 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.

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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):

- consider how children can be made aware of the reasons why they must participate in good hygiene practices

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):

- extend children's opportunities for access to writing and mark making, not only during organised activities but also during their role play
- ensure that toys provided are appropriate for the children's level of development and understanding and provide sufficient challenge.

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