

Ravensbourne Project Early Years Group

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY275998
Inspection date	19 July 2007
Inspector	Pamela Patricia Paisley

Setting Address	South Lewisham Health Centre, 50, Conisborough Crescent, London, SE6 2SS
Telephone number	020 7771 4044
E-mail	barbaranathan@ravensbourneproject.net
Registered person	Ravensbourne Project
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 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 good.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Ravensbourne Project Early Years Group opened in 2004. It operates from a room within a health centre. It is situated in a residential area of Lewisham. The provision is part of a range of services provided by the Project who support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. A maximum of 12 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 09:30 to 15:30 during term time. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 24 children aged from two to under five years on roll, and of these, 16 children receive funding for early years. The nursery supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs five members of staff, of these, four including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications and one member of staff is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are developing good fine motor skills as they use paint brushes, glue sticks, felt tip pens and pencils. They have good opportunities to practise balancing, jumping and crawling through tunnels on a daily basis, which contributes to keeping them healthy. Good hygiene practice is given high priority to prevent cross-infection in the nursery. Staff ensure that the nursery is thoroughly cleaned before children arrive and at the end of each day. Staff wear aprons and gloves when changing children and anti-bacterial spray is used for changing mats. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before meals, after visiting the toilet and messy play activities. As a result, they are learning the importance of good personal hygiene.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They enjoy apples, grapes, cheese, crackers and water or milk at snack time. There is a snack bar in operation which allows the children to choose when they want to have something to eat. Children can ask for drinks when they need one, but do not have opportunities to access water independently.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Staff use effective measures to protect children on the premises. The front door is kept locked and a door bell system is in place. Parents escort children into the nursery each day and an accurate record is kept of visitors on the premises. Staff deployment is very good and guarantees that children are well supervised at all times and protected from persons who have not been vetted. Thorough risk assessments are carried out daily both indoors and outdoors so children can play and explore without danger. The outdoor area is fully enclosed and staff make safety checks before the children arrive and outdoor play equipment is secure and well maintained ensuring they are suitable for children's use.

Children play with good quality toys, equipment and play materials that are closely monitored by staff to make sure they are suitable for all the children. Staff have good knowledge and understanding of how to safeguard children. They know how to proceed if they have any concerns about the children in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are made to feel very welcome by staff who greet them with a smile. They sing the hello song when they arrive and ask the children how they are. Children choose a photo of themselves and place them on a board. Staff use this as a settling-in technique for the children at every session. Children experience a wide range of purposeful activities which are carefully planned by staff to ensure they have fun and learn through play. Children explore with different types of media such as paint, cornflour and play dough. They have many opportunities to sing a broad range of action rhymes and songs which have repetition in the verses to help promote language and speech. Children enjoy listening to stories told by staff and use story bags which they can choose from. All stories have lots of actions and children can touch different textured props which staff use to bring the characters to life in books.

Staff use the Birth to three matters framework to help them identify the next steps for each child's development and they ensure these are focused on during individual and group activities. Children play with an extensive range of toys and play materials that are stimulating and provide good challenge.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Staff pay good attention to the individual development needs of each child who attend so that they can make good progress in their learning. Staff have good knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage and use observations and assessments effectively to plan the next steps of children's learning. As a result, children are making good progress towards the early learning goals. Children are beginning to recognise letters and their names in print. They listen with enthusiasm to stories and are becoming familiar with the beginning and endings of their favourite books.

Children enjoy well organised activities which allow them to extend their play outdoors. They are developing good relationships with each other and are excited when their friends arrive at nursery. Children begin to understand everyday technology as they use telephones, electronic toys and calculators. They enjoy investigating the life cycle of butterflies, spiders, birds and exploring the growth of tomatoes and flowers. They have good access to creative activities and play various musical instruments as they sing and dance.

Children are learning good mathematical language as they sing number songs and are beginning to use language to describe and compare shapes, position, size and quantity. They experiment with paint and textures and use their imagination in role play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff work closely with parents to enable them to effectively meet children's individual care needs. Staff assess children at the start of a placement to gain a good and accurate account of their specific needs. The centre provides for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. They are referred by health visitors or other professionals working with the families. The children have individual educational plans that are regularly reviewed by staff to ensure they are receiving the best support.

Staff introduce topics to teach children about other cultures. Themed activities, together with a good range of resources, help children to develop a positive attitude to others and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered. Staff are very experienced in providing care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and are very secure in their knowledge and understanding of the code of practice. They liaise closely with speech and language therapists, including physiotherapists, who come into the nursery on a regular basis to work with the children and their parents. Staff manage children's behaviour calmly and patiently. This encourages children to respond effectively to any guidance and praise.

Partnership with parents is good. Parents are involved in their children's learning. They receive regular updates about their children's developmental progress at reviews that are held. Staff make sure they are available to talk to parents and offer valuable advice and support. However, the nursery prospectus does not contain detailed information for parents regarding the Foundation Stage and the Birth to three matters framework.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff work well as a team to provide a good quality service in an environment that is safe, stimulating, fun and interesting for children. They have a good knowledge of child development and use their experience and skills to promote learning through play. The main aims of the nursery are for each child to reach their full potential and to be integrated into mainstream provision. There are clear records, policies and procedures in place which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision and to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. Independence is encouraged in most areas of children's learning, although they are not able to access drinks independently.

Leadership and management is good. Staff have a strong commitment to updating their childcare knowledge through attending training and development courses. This helps them to reflect, monitor and improve the quality of the care and education they offer the children. All staff have completed the Birth to three matters framework and Foundation Stage training, however, parents do not receive detailed written information regarding the frameworks used. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended that: daily routines be reviewed; a copy of safeguarding children guidelines be obtained; and activities to be arranged to offer children sufficient space to participate freely in their exploration of play materials. The nursery has improved their daily routines to offer children free play and opportunities to extend their play outdoors and re-organised the setting so children have sufficient space to play and move around safely. They have obtained guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and improved the range of resources that reflect positive images and promote diversity.

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 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 good.

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 children can access drinks independently

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 parents receive detailed information regarding the Foundation Stage and the Birth to three matters framework

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