

Unicorn Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	119631
Inspection date	01 November 2007
Inspector	Sarah Morfett
Setting Address	13 Columbus Courtyard, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4DA
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Registered person	Fran n Bru Limited
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?

Little Unicorn Day Nursery is one of four nurseries run by Fran 'n' Bru Ltd. It opened in 1998 and operates from five rooms in a purpose built building in Canary Wharf. A maximum of 100 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30 to 18.30 for 51 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 107 children aged from three months to under five years on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area. The nursery currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 31 members of staff. All of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and there are three working towards the next level of qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean and hygienic environment because staff follow good cleaning routines. For example, they wipe surfaces with anti-bacterial sprays and ensure that floors and equipment are cleaned regularly. Children learn about good personal hygiene routines as they wash their hands regularly and are provided with suitable resources such as, liquid soap and paper towels. They clean their teeth each day after they have eaten and through discussion they learn that getting rid of germs keeps them well. Very young children are involved from an early age as staff talk to them as they wipe their hands and faces after dinner. An effective sickness policy is in place and when children are unwell they are sent home. Therefore, the risk of cross infection is reduced.

Children's health and well-being is protected by the good procedures in place. For example, accident and medication records are used well and good details are noted. However, the way they are recorded means that confidentiality is not maintained. Children's health records are thorough and extensive, however, details of their medical needs and dietary requirements are recorded. An effective system to communicate this to the staff team has been devised. Staff are extremely vigilant and double check with the list and also with each other regarding the children's dietary requirements, therefore, individual needs are met.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. Meals are cooked on the premises by a qualified cook. Fresh ingredients are used and a range of healthy food is planned into the menus. Ample amounts of food are provided and the children enjoy what they eat. They have regular drinks throughout the day, however, other than the babies, who have beakers of drink constantly available; the other children can not access fresh drinking water at any time other than specified drinks time.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from this large purpose built nursery. Play rooms are light and airy and the darker corridors are brightly decorated. Staff are able to control the temperature within the rooms according to the children's needs. The wide range of furniture and equipment is suitable for the ages of the children attending and means they can take part in activities comfortably. The resources are clean and in good condition. Therefore, children are cared for in a warm and welcoming child centred environment.

Safety within the nursery is of high importance. The staff complete daily risk assessments to ensure that hazards are minimised and all areas are safe for children to play in. Further risk assessments are developed to ensure that the facilities are safe and secure and any issues are dealt with quickly and efficiently. There is an extremely well developed emergency evacuation procedure taking into consideration location and surrounding areas. Children practise this regularly and therefore, learn to keep themselves safe. The nursery works closely with the building management and local security to ensure that children's safety is paramount.

Children are effectively protected from harm because staff understand their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. The child protection policy is informative giving guidelines of the signs and symptoms of abuse and how

any concerns should be recorded. This is shared with parents so they are familiar with the nursery's duty of care to their children. Staff minimise their vulnerability when looking after the children by informing each other of what they are doing and where they are going. Therefore, children are safeguarded in the nurseries care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the nursery. They are cared for in five group rooms according to their age, where they can play, eat and rest. They have access to other areas within the nursery for different activities such as, a soft play room, library and a large play space for physical activities. They follow set routines throughout the day moving from one area to another in small groups. This means they are given a broad range of experiences during their time in the nursery. As the nursery does not have an outside play area the staff ensure that small groups of children are taken out for regular walks. Therefore, they have good opportunities for fresh air and exercise.

Activities for children are planned using either the Foundation Stage curriculum or the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Very young children are made comfortable and have a good range of toys and resources set out for them which they can easily reach. Staff are warm and affectionate to them picking them up for cuddles when they feel they need reassurance or to comfort them if they are crying. Resources are bright and inviting. Staff sit on the floor with the little ones and support them in their play. This means they are stimulated and move forward with their development.

Older children play in large bright rooms where activities are set out on the tables or the floor for them to play with. They are able to move freely between these activities. However, opportunities for them to choose from a range of freely accessible toys are limited as there are no resources displayed around the room from which they can make choices from. The range of planned activities promotes children's learning and staff interact well with them supporting their progress by using questioning to provide challenge for them. However, the range of resources and activities provided are not always age or stage appropriate and therefore, sometimes children lose interest and become bored.

Overall, the nursery plans and provides a range of activities, experiences and play opportunities which provide balance and challenge.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated as important individuals. When they start there is a wealth of information gathered from parents which enables the staff to meet their needs effectively. Their understanding of the world around them is promoted well. They play with a suitable range of toys and resources which help them understand diversity and there is a very good reflection of different cultures, disabilities and positive gender roles displayed in pictures and posters around the nursery. They take part in festivals from other cultures celebrating the diverse range of children attending. There is a good inclusion policy and children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are supported well.

Children behave well, they are given plenty of praise and encouragement as they play, therefore, they build confidence and self esteem. Appropriate strategies according to their age and stage

of development are used to deal with any unwanted behaviour. The nursery work hard to provide a good partnership with parents. They encourage effective settling in visits and have an open door policy which means parents can come into see how their children are settling. Secure written agreements are made to ensure that children are thoroughly protected. Parents receive daily written feedback from staff and are given opportunities to attend meetings with their key worker to discuss children's progress and well being. Therefore, children are provided with consistency of care and parents feel included.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a very well organised environment. Appropriate staff deployment ensures that the children receive sufficient support. They have ample space to move around in and are able to access a good range of learning experiences which meet their age and stage of development. All staff working with the children hold an appropriate childcare qualification. Thorough systems are in place for recruitment and all staff have a clear Criminal Records Bureau check. Staff receive good support through staff meetings and an appraisal system where their personal development is discussed.

A comprehensive range of policies and procedures make up the groups operational plan. This underpins the group's good practice. They include procedures which help to protect the children. For example, policies on lost or uncollected children and recording of complaints are particularly clear and ensure staff know what to do step by step should a situation arise. All required documentation is in place and maintained to a high level. For example, the registration certificate is displayed and children's attendance is recorded with their arrival and departure times noted by the parents. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the nursery were asked to develop their range of activities and resources which promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. They have increased the range of resources and provided a good reflection of diversity around the nursery. Therefore, children are gaining a wide view of diversity.

Other recommendations were to ensure that the babies were supervised at all times when being fed and to ensure that any incidents relating to child protection are appropriately recorded. The babies enjoy a warm and social meal time and staff ensure they are comfortable when being fed their bottles. A clear child protection policy includes guidelines for staff on how to complete incident records.

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 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 that accident and medication systems record secure details and maintain confidentiality
- ensure that children of all ages have access to fresh drinking water at all times
- provide children with activities which are age and stage appropriate and ensure that they have opportunities to choose from freely accessible activities.

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