



Little Ladybirds Ltd

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY295573
Inspection date 28 June 2005
Inspector Ann Coggin

Setting Address Ladybird House, Unit 11 Falcon Court, Preston Farm Industrial Estate, Stockton on Tees, TS18 3TS
Telephone number 01642 614 020
E-mail
Registered person Little Ladybirds Ltd
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 good.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little Ladybirds Nursery has been registered since October 2004. It is located within a two storey building situated on the Preston Farm Industrial Estate on the outskirts of Stockton on Tees. The nursery serves the local and surrounding areas. The nursery operates from six activity rooms and has a secure outdoor play area.

The nursery is registered to provide full day care for 110 children aged under eight years. They are currently 119 children on roll of which 2 are in receipt of nursery

education funding. The nursery operates an after school and holiday club. There are systems in place to support children with special educational needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery is open five days a week all year round excluding bank holidays. Sessions are from 07.30 - 18.00 and children attend for a variety of sessions.

There are thirteen full time and seven part time members of staff eighteen of which hold suitable childcare qualifications and two staff members are working towards qualifications. The setting receives regular support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted within the nursery by staff following effective and consistent procedures and practices that meet the needs of all children. Staff offer support and guidance and this helps children gain an understanding of hygiene routine and become increasingly independent in personal care. For example, they know washing hands stops germs spreading. Excellent procedures, such as staff wearing disposable aprons for nappy changing and washing hands after each nappy change ensures high levels of hygiene are maintained to prevent the spread of infection.

Children benefit from a healthy diet and enjoy fresh fruit at snack times. Meals are varied and nutritious and enjoyed by the children. Younger children are offered drinks regularly while older children usually help themselves to drinks throughout the day. Individual dietary needs of all the children are taken into account as are parental wishes.

Staff use Birth to three matters guidance to provide a good range of physical play experiences for all children which means even the youngest children are developing positive attitudes to physical exercise. All children are able to rest and be active according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised by staff being vigilant and through the use of daily risk assessments to reduce potential hazards. Staff have a good understanding of how to achieve a mixed balance of allowing children to move around freely and setting safe limits. This allows children to begin to learn how to protect themselves from harm. Most parental consents are in place, however permission to transport in a vehicle is required.

Children access a good selection of safe, good quality and well maintained resources which are developmentally appropriate. Staff explain to children safe practices such

as, sweeping up spilt salt and always holding onto the hand rail when going downstairs. This helps children to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

Children are protected well by staff who have a good understanding of the nursery's child protection policies and procedures and who give a high priority to children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enter the nursery confidently and settle quickly. They are eager and keen to learn and show excitement and enjoyment. All children have a strong bond with their named worker and this increases their self esteem and well being. Their development is promoted well through a range of appropriate resources and activities. Babies benefit from routines which are consistent with their experiences at home. They develop early communication skills as they attract the attention of staff who respond to their sounds appropriately.

Staff are beginning to use the Birth to three matters framework to improve their practice and give children the opportunity to play together. They have a secure understanding of the range of experiences children need to enable them make greater use of their senses and creative abilities.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage and plans link to the areas of learning and promote children's learning in most areas. Assessment records are used effectively to plan the appropriate next step in children's learning, although dates of achievements are not always recorded.

Children are confident and eager to learn. They are able to work on their own and as part of a group taking turns and sharing, for example when colouring and counting the spots on the ladybirds. They display a positive self image and are developing good personal and independence skills. They separate well and with confidence from parents and all have formed good relationships with adults and their peers. Children communicate confidently and initiate conversations and listen and respond well to what others are saying. However more opportunities are needed for children to further develop their mark making skills.

Children are beginning to show an interest in numbers and counting, with some children counting reliably to 10. They use fingers to represent numbers, for example counting the different coloured balls in the paddling pool. Children are beginning to use language to compare size and position and they can correctly name different shapes. Children are beginning to show an interest in living things and their surroundings through a variety of topics and they are gaining an awareness of their own culture. Children access to information technology needs to be developed so it supports further learning.

Children move with confidence and control. They use a range of large and small equipment well and climb with confidence. They use simple tools for a purpose and join in first hand experiences, for example playing in sand and water. Children are gaining an understanding of personal hygiene. Children use their imagination in play and have opportunities to experience music and dance. Children sing enthusiastically from a good repertoire of songs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are warmly welcomed into the setting and very good relationships have been formed between children and staff. Staff take positive steps to promote the welfare and development of all the children attending. They ensure that the resources available positively represent the children who attend as well as individuals from the wider community. This enables children to develop a positive attitude towards others.

Children are very well behaved and show concern for others. They respond positively to the staff calm and consistent handling and there is a strong emphasis on respect and consideration for others. Effective use of praise and encouragement ensures children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Partnership with parents and carers is good. Positive relationships have been established with them to ensure children receive good quality care and nursery education. Well maintained documentation and regular verbal communication keeps parents well informed about all aspects of their children's care achievements and progress which enhances children's learning. They receive good information about the setting and the settings policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

All children feel settled and relaxed and staff work well together as a team to provide a warm and welcoming environment for children and their parents. Rooms are well organised enabling children to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. However, some domestic style furniture is needed in the baby rooms to assist children in developing mobility and to continue normal life experiences.

Leadership and management is good. The manager and staff ensure the smooth running of the nursery and they are well aware of their roles and responsibilities. Management and staff are committed to developing practice through ongoing training. The manager leads and encourages staff with an enthusiastic approach and values their opinions.

Staff are appropriately qualified and management has ensured those who work with the children in receipt of funding for nursery education have sufficient knowledge and

understanding of the curriculum to enable them to help all children achieve well.

Induction training together with appropriate written policies and procedures and in combination with basic training in child protection, food hygiene and first aid help staff keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare.

Overall the needs of children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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):

- obtain written permission from parents to transport children in a vehicle
- ensure some domestic style furniture is provided in the baby rooms to assist children in developing mobility and to continue normal life experiences.

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):

- improve the curriculum by providing opportunities for children to develop their mark making skills and by making the computer corner more accessible.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the

procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk