

Kidsunlimited Nurseries - Little Flyers

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	500129
Inspection date	21 September 2007
Inspector	Christine Myerscough

Setting Address	Little Flyers, Thorley Lane, Ringway, Nr. Manchester Airport, WA15 8UN
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Registered person	Kidsunlimited Nurseries
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 satisfactory. 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 Flyers Nursery is run by Kidsunlimited Nurseries, a limited company. It opened on the present site in 2001 and operates from four rooms in a purpose-built building. It is situated near to Manchester airport. The nursery serves people who work at Manchester airport and occasionally places are offered to the general public. A maximum of 60 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 07.30 to 18.00 and closes on bank holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 76 children aged from five months to under five years on roll. Of these, 17 children receive funding for early education. The nursery currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 22 members of staff. Of these, 11 hold appropriate qualifications in early years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

In the main, positive steps are taken to promote the good health of children. For example, staff adopt consistent hygiene practices, such as wiping tables before use with anti-bacterial spray and wearing disposable gloves and aprons when changing children's nappies. Visitors are requested to remove their shoes or wear a protective foot covering before entering the room where there are crawling babies. However, dummies are not always hygienically stored posing a potential risk of cross-infection. There is a member of staff in every room who is qualified in first aid. This ensures children's health needs are attended to promptly and appropriately in the case of an accident or emergency situation. There is a clear and detailed policy regarding the care of children who become ill. The nursery keeps a copy of the exclusion guidelines for communicable diseases, for reference, to enable them to act in the best interests of all children.

Children enjoy a nutritious diet, which promotes their growth and development. The menu is endorsed by a nutritionist to ensure children receive a balanced diet to meet their dietary needs. Children experience a wide variety of meals and willingly try new tastes. Food is prepared daily by the nursery cook who is fully aware of children's individual and cultural requirements. Mealtimes are a relaxed and social occasion. Children take their time and eagerly tuck into snacks, such as apples and raisins. They become skilful using cutlery and show good levels of independence as they confidently feed themselves. Children quench their thirst, when needed, as they have ready access to fresh drinking water at all times.

Children participate in a range of activities, which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They look forward to playing in the spacious outdoor play area, which provides regular exercise and good opportunities to develop their physical skills. They run around in small groups playing games, such as hide the teddy, they keep fit and have fun. Children build their confidence and develop their coordination as they balance and jump off tyres. Playing on fixed play equipment, builds their muscular strength as they climb up steps, push themselves down the slide and repeatedly practise their skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed in their surroundings. The nursery is maintained in a suitable state of repair and decoration and there is a good amount of natural light in the playrooms to help create an inviting environment. Children move around with confidence as space and furniture are effectively organised to enable them to initiate their own play and build on their natural curiosity as learners. Toys and equipment are of good quality, and in the main, are sufficient to meet children's needs. However, the role play areas lack resources to further extend children's imagination. Some toys, furniture and furnishings are not well maintained and, therefore, lack appeal to children. For example, pieces are missing from educational toys and some of the furniture and furnishings are marked and stained.

Risk of accidental injury is minimised as children are well supervised by staff. For example, staff maintain close physical proximity to children as they practise new skills on the outdoor play equipment. Appropriate measures, such as fixed guards over radiators, keep children safe. However, hazards are not always identified. There are trailing wires at child-height and some low-level electrical sockets are exposed. Effective fire safety measures are in place to keep

children free from harm. Children take part in evacuation procedures on a regular basis. As a result, they learn to evacuate the building quickly. There are specially designed cots to transport babies out of the nursery safely in an emergency situation. Good security arrangements protect children from unauthorised entry into the nursery. There is a key-coded system at the entrance door and close circuit television is in place.

Children's welfare is suitably safeguarded. Staff have a satisfactory awareness of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. There are detailed procedures in place to ensure staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, in the event of identifying a child protection concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a positive environment. This enhances their confidence and contributes to their well-being. They are happy and content throughout the day in the care of a supportive staff team. Staff spend time playing with children and warm and friendly relationships are formed. The familiar routines and the relaxed, supportive environment contribute to children feeling at ease. Frequent story telling and singing songs successfully promotes children's communication skills. Children are confident communicators and make their feelings known. They develop good levels of understanding and follow instructions well. Favourite rhymes are requested often and children have fun as they join in with the actions.

Staff make good use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan a stimulating programme of activities. Children express themselves freely, play purposefully and are eager to take part in what is on offer. They enjoy playing imaginatively as they pretend to shop with their bags and scan the items through the till. Playing with water, paint and glue encourages children to explore using their senses. Good emphasis is placed on developing children's creativity. Children use a range of materials, such as wool and pipe cleaners to create their collage. They carefully and successfully fold paper and show fascination as they use their finger nails to make marks on foil. Children concentrate well as they complete jigsaws and build towers from bricks. Babies explore wooden items and show amazement as they place their fingers in sand and glitter. They eagerly pull themselves up onto furniture and practise their walking skills with confidence. Toddlers take great interest in the spider's web display on the wall and repeatedly and excitedly point to the spider.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Staff know the children well through carrying out regular observations of their learning. They use these observations in conjunction with their secure knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage to plan a varied and stimulating programme of activities to promote children's learning. As a result, children make good progress towards the early learning goals. Planning and assessments are clearly linked to the stepping stones, which enables staff to maintain a good overview of children's progress. Staff deploy themselves well and children benefit from a good amount of one to one support to encourage and extend their learning further. The organisation of the learning environment promotes children's independence and most of the learning areas are suitably resourced.

Children are interested and motivated to learn. They explore the activities with enthusiasm and confidently make choices. Children happily talk to visitors, form close relationships with their friends and involve each other in their play. They talk excitedly about attending one another's

birthday parties helping them to develop a sense of self and belonging to a community. Circle time is effective in promoting children's listening and speaking skills. Children share their news about their adventures during the weekend and talk about their pets. They request their favourite stories and select books freely, for pleasure. Children are beginning to recognise initial letter sounds. They develop good pencil control as they copy letter shapes and, attempt writing for different purposes by posting a letter home to their parents.

Children show a keen interest in number. They willingly attempt to count how many days are in a week using their fingers and recognise some numbers in a book. Children recognise many shapes and describe how a pentagon is similar to a crown. In activities, such as collage and threading, they learn about pattern. Opportunities to develop children's understanding of measure are less frequent. Daily discussions about the weather and seasons help children to gain a good awareness of change and what is happening around them. Outdoors, they plant seeds and watch them grow. Children talk with great confidence about past and present events as they discuss today's and yesterday's date at circle time. They concentrate well and take pride in making interesting models out of junk. Children play for considerable periods on the computer and develop good skills in using the mouse. However, children have limited access to everyday technology and programmable resources to support their learning further.

Children demonstrate good skills with their hands as they manipulate materials and make smooth balls and snakes with coloured dough. They successfully use tools, such as glue spreaders and independently use sharpeners for their pencils. Children use a variety of texture and colour in the art work and become absorbed when they are painting their creations. They freely explore sounds of musical instruments as they eagerly blow recorders together. Special care is taken of Lucy the nursery doll and they include her often in activities. Children use their imagination as they prepare meals in the home corner and laugh and giggle together at the table as they share experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children from a range of backgrounds are warmly welcomed and respected as individuals. Significant events in their lives, such as birthdays, are celebrated and they receive a card and cake from the friends to help them feel special. Children have access to some resources reflecting diversity and take part in activities to learn about similarities and differences. For example, during Chinese New Year, they have opportunities to practise using chopsticks. Children's awareness of others is extended further as staff learn everyday words in other languages reflecting the cultural background of children at nursery. Children with learning difficulties are well supported. Staff work closely with parents and outside agencies to ensure the activities provided enable children to reach their potential. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Children enjoy one another's company. They are generally well behaved and, cooperate together as they willingly swap crayons and colours of paint. Minor conflicts are quickly resolved with staff support and children are encouraged to give one another a hug. Good use of verbal praise from staff supports children's efforts and boosts their self-esteem. Staff ensure clear boundaries are in place, such as no climbing on the furniture.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. A daily record sheet keeps parents well informed about their child's day and welfare to promote consistency of care. Parent's evenings provide an opportunity to discuss children's progress in detail and parents receive a written report.

Parents have access to good quality information about the Foundation Stage curriculum and have opportunities to become involved in their child's learning. For example, a shared reading scheme is in place, which enables children to take a book home to read with their family. Parents speak positively about the nursery and are happy with the progress their children are making.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a nursery which is generally well organised. Robust vetting procedures establish the suitability of staff prior to employment, which ensures children are well protected. The nursery keep Ofsted informed of relevant matters in line with regulatory requirements. In the main, records and documentation are kept in suitable order, however, some lack the required detail to maintain a safe and efficient service. A comprehensive range of policies and procedures, which are regularly reviewed, contribute to ensuring outcomes for children are positive.

Staff divide their attention well so children feel well supported and reassured. This establishes trusting relationships. Staff are clear about their responsibilities and the key worker system is effective in ensuring children's needs are met. Regular training opportunities throughout the year enable staff to update their knowledge and skills to support the ongoing development of the nursery. There is a staff appraisal system in place and monthly staff meetings are held to establish good communication.

The leadership and management of the nursery education are good. Staff work hard to create a positive learning environment for children. Effective systems are in place to monitor and evaluate the nursery education. Kidsunlimited employ a care and education advisor who visits regularly to offer support and guidance to staff and to ensure the quality of the Foundation Stage curriculum.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider agreed to ensure books are well maintained, keep the premises and equipment clean, ensure consistency in accident and medication recording, manage resources to engage children's interest and review planning to ensure children take part in the full range of activities on offer.

Some of the books across the nursery are well worn and torn, therefore, do not appeal to children's interests. Written records are kept of accidents and medicines administered to children, however, parents do not always sign the medication record to acknowledge the entry to fully ensure children's welfare. Children's health is not fully protected as some of the equipment is not maintained to a good level of cleanliness, for example, air conditioning units are dusty. Toys are stored at child-height and children freely access them from low-level shelving, promoting their independence. Every child is allocated to a key worker who plans for their key group to ensure children access a broad range of activities to promote their overall development.

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.

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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):

- ensure equipment is maintained to a good level of cleanliness at all times and dummies are hygienically stored
- ensure furniture, furnishings and resources are well maintained and toys are sufficient to create a stimulating environment
- assess the risks to children in relation to the trailing wires and low-level electrical sockets and take action to minimise these
- ensure parents sign the medication record to acknowledge the entry.

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):

- provide more opportunities to promote children's understanding of measure
- provide more opportunities for children to use everyday technology and programmable resources.

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