

Blackley Village Manor Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY263735
Inspection date	20 November 2007
Inspector	Patricia Graham
Setting Address	1027 Rochdale Road, Manchester, Lancashire, M9 8AJ
Telephone number	0161 203 5855
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Registered person	Village Manor Nurseries 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 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?

Blackley Village Manor Nursery was registered in 2003. It is run by Village Manor Nurseries Ltd to provide care for children in the local community. A maximum of 42 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07.30 to 18.00 for 51 weeks of the year. Children attending the nursery have access to the basement, three rooms on the ground floor, two rooms on the first floor and associated facilities.

There are currently 28 children on roll. Of these, seven children receive funding for early education. The nursery cares for children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 11 qualified members of staff.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a nursery which is maintained to a high standard of cleanliness. Staff implement good hygiene procedures throughout the day. For example, staff take shoes off before entering the under two's room. Dummies are stored in individual tubs and colour coded mops are used throughout the setting. This minimises the risk of cross infection. Children take responsibility for their own personal care as they wash their hands at appropriate times in the day and good visual prompts in the bathroom areas reinforce the importance of good hygiene. Children are protected from illness and infection because there are adequate procedures in place for administering medication and the effective sickness policy is shared with parents. Children are protected in the event of an accident as sufficient staff are qualified to administer first aid.

Children are suitably nourished and enjoy an adequate range of healthy foods, which include fresh fruits and vegetables. Food is safely prepared as meals are probed to ensure food is at the correct temperature before being served. Older children set the tables for lunch with appropriate cutlery and serve their own meals, which fosters their independence. Younger children are supported by staff at mealtimes. However, babies are provided with some processed foods and they are not always held whilst having a bottle, for example, as they are settling to sleep. As a result, their dietary needs and comfort are not always catered for. Children are able to quench their thirst as they help themselves to drinks in their own water bottles, which are accessible at all times in the designated snack area.

All children benefit from fresh air and exercise and take part in regular outdoor activities using the well equipped outdoor play area. They run freely and use a good range wheeled toys, which promote their coordination and physical skills. At other times, children refine their digging skills as they search for bugs and insects in the flower beds. Babies and young children have ample room to develop their skills, which promote their good health. For example, they crawl and manoeuvre around their spacious playrooms which are fully carpeted.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a very welcoming environment, which is bright and child focused. The staff take pride in maintaining a child friendly environment by displaying children's pictures and tactile displays. This creates a welcoming atmosphere for children and parents. Children's rooms are bright and spacious with lots of natural light. However, the temperature is not always maintained to ensure children's comfort.

Staff give high priority to keeping children safe and secure. Potential hazards are identified and minimised through the completion of regular risk assessments of toys, equipment and play areas. Children are developing a good awareness of keeping themselves and others safe. This is promoted through good practice encouraged by the staff. For example, children take pride as they sweep up the sand and staff ensure spillages from the water play are mopped up immediately. Children know to hold the hand rail and walk carefully up the stairs using two feet per stair. Their safety on outings is well considered as low ratios are maintained and relevant consents are obtained from parents. Staff ensure children are continually supervised and closely monitor all visitors which promotes children's safety at all times.

Children are safeguarded because clear guidelines and procedures are in place. Staff have a good knowledge of child protection issues and training for new staff is provided as a priority. Staff are aware of possible signs and symptoms displayed by children suffering abuse. The manager is aware of her duty to safeguard children through relevant training and she takes responsibility for liaising with child protection agencies. All required procedures are in place. Consequently, children's welfare is promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and enjoy attending the nursery. The relaxed atmosphere enables them to settle in quickly in the care of the supportive staff team. The effective key worker system means children receive daily care from familiar and trusted adults. As a result, children have a good sense of belonging and build strong attachments. Children play with a stimulating range of toys and activities, which promote their development. For example, babies and toddlers delight as they explore different textures, such as shredded paper. They have superb opportunities to explore natural resources throughout the nursery and most notable is the delightful sensory area, which offers a calm and tranquil environment.

Children are given choices as equipment is stored at their level. This means they are able to initiate activities of their own choosing. Children refine their mark making skills and ascribe meaning to their marks using a variety of resources, such as chalkboards and fabrics. At other times children develop their physical skills as they climb the slide and use scissors to make patterns on the paper. Children are confident communicators and their language skills are fostered. They chat confidently to their friends and respond well to questions from staff.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. Staff have a sound understanding of the Foundation Stage curriculum and have recently introduced a new planning and assessment system. This includes detailed observations, which are used to plan children's next steps taking into account their needs and interests. As a result children are making steady progress towards the early learning goals. Children display good levels of independence as they take part in activities. For example, they butter their own crumpets and operate the computer with ease. They move between rooms with confidence and show regard for their friends as they wait patiently for their turn.

Children show an awareness of change as they talk about the weather and seasons. This is complemented with seasonal displays. At other times they ask lots of questions, which helps them make sense of the world. For example, they ask why the dry sand will not make sandcastles. Children construct with a purpose in mind, carefully placing wooden pieces together to make a train track and their creativity is extended as they partake in imaginative play. Children show an awareness of rhyme and alliterations as they sing action songs with enthusiasm and enjoyment. They develop a love of books and listen eagerly as staff read their favourite stories. Children have adequate opportunities to learn about number as some resources, such as a telephone, clock and puzzles are provided. However, staff do not always extend children's mathematical understanding and miss opportunities to introduce children to simple calculating and number problems.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are made to feel welcome and valued within the setting. Their individual needs are acknowledged and details, such as allergies and dietary requirements are recorded. Children have good opportunities to gain knowledge of diversity as they make foods from around the world and access resources, which reflect positive images. As a result, children are gaining respect for others. Staff provide adequate support to children who speak English as an additional language. They know the language some children speak and take time to learn key words. This is supported with the use of picture cards as an alternative means of communication.

Children play harmoniously in the nursery because they are given lots praise and encouragement. For example, they are rewarded with kind words and their achievements are proudly displayed on the 'Success tree'. The behaviour management policy is clearly implemented as staff talk positively to children about their actions. For example, children understand why it is wrong to push the sand trough across the floor. At other times, children respond well to different strategies used, such as distraction techniques. Consequently, children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. An informative notice board and regular newsletters keep parents abreast of nursery activities, which include the educational provision. Parents have free access to their child's progress file and verbal updates are provided each day. As a result, parents are kept up-to date on their child's learning and development. Parents are sufficiently involved in their children's learning as some children take books home as part of a shared reading scheme, which staff are keen to extend further.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for within required ratios, which promote their care and well-being. Staff are well deployed and consistently interact with the children to give them effective support and encouragement. As a result children are happy and they form good relationships with adults who provide consistency of care. The staff team work well together and access regular training to enhance their knowledge and skills, which promote good opportunities for children. Children are fully protected because robust procedures are in place to ensure staff are suitable to work with children.

The leadership and management is satisfactory. The management team have good systems for communication and regularly meet with the team, by way of team meetings and appraisals, to promote children's care, learning and play. They ensure staff have sufficient time to complete children's progress records and plan weekly activities which enhance children's learning. However, there is no system in place to monitor the educational provision, which means gaps in delivery are not always identified.

The nursery has good policies and procedures in place, which are shared with parents and all regulatory documents are in place. For example, a register of attendance clearly records times of arrival and departure for staff and children. However, children's records are not effectively organised to ensure children's confidentiality. The provider has a good understanding of notifying the regulator of significant events, which ensure children's safety and well-being. 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 was asked to: ensure that correct hygiene procedures are followed by all staff in respect of nappy changes and washing children's hands; minimise safety risks to children within the nursery; organise play materials that reflect positive images of race, gender and culture and up date documentation by including a complaints procedure and revising the behaviour management policy.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment both indoors and outdoors. The staff ensure appropriate hygiene arrangements are in place for children's hand washing and good nappy changing procedures are now adopted. All children access a good selection toys and resources, which promote positive images. The nursery has updated documentation, which now includes a complaints procedure and an updated policy on behaviour management. These improvements contribute to the health, safety and well-being of the children

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 complaint 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):

- review the dietary needs and feeding arrangements for babies
- ensure rooms are maintained to an adequate temperature
- ensure that all records relating to individual children are retained in a confidential manner.

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 that children have frequent opportunities to extend their mathematical understanding
- develop leadership and management within the setting by implementing a system to monitor and evaluate the educational provision.

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