

Busy Bees at Chorley Hospital

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY264229
Inspection date	03 March 2008
Inspector	Jannet Mary Richards
Setting Address	Dutch Barn Close, Chorley, PR7 1PP
Telephone number	01257 267 142
E-mail	
Registered person	Busy Bees Nurseries Limited
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?

This nursery is one of a number of nurseries run by Busy Bee Nurseries Ltd. It was registered in 2003. It is a purpose built nursery located on the hospital site, providing a subsidised childcare service for employees of Chorley Hospital.

The nursery is housed in a single story building. There are four large play rooms for the children and an enclosed outdoor play area. Kitchen and office facilities are also on site. There are currently 98 children on roll, of whom 37 are in receipt of nursery education funding. There are currently no children on roll with English as an additional language, and no children who have an identified disability or learning difficulty. Children attend for a variety of full and part-time sessions.

The nursery is open from 07.00 to 18.00, Monday to Friday all year round, excluding Christmas and bank holidays.

The nursery employs a total of 19 staff, of whom 12 hold relevant childcare qualifications.

The nursery is a member of National Day Nursery Association. It has attained the Investors in People and Quality Counts awards.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a nursery environment which helps to promote their health. The staff follow very effective hygiene procedures which minimise the risk of the spread of infection. They wear disposable gloves and aprons to change nappies and when serving food at mealtimes. Children are effectively encouraged to develop an awareness and independence in meeting their own health needs. The staff encourage them to put their hands over their mouths when they cough and to wipe their own noses and wash their hands before meals.

The children are provided with very healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. They help themselves to fresh fruit from fruit bowls in the nursery rooms. They enjoy the nutritious meals which are prepared on the premises using fresh ingredients. Menus are varied often to encourage the children to try different tastes and textures. The children are encouraged to be independent at meal times; babies are supported well as they learn to feed themselves and older children are able to serve themselves. The staff are well aware of children's dietary needs and allergies, and take care to ensure that their individual dietary needs are accommodated. The children enjoy some exciting opportunities to learn about foods which are healthy, where they come from and how they are prepared. They help to prepare sushi from fresh fish and make fresh pasta, for example.

Outdoor play is a regular feature of the nursery day and provides the children with fresh air and exercise to benefit their health. In addition they have a weekly activity session with some interesting challenges, such as negotiating their way around obstacle courses. The children have access to suitable play equipment which is always available, such as hoops, slides and climbing equipment, though this provides limited challenges for the older children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The nursery is a welcoming, child-centred environment. Displays of children's own creative work, space to store their belongings and photographs of them at play all help the children to have a sense of belonging and value. The nursery rooms are arranged effectively, with comfortable areas for children to rest and relax, and interesting pictures, mirrors and resources to stimulate their interest at child height. In addition the children are able to access a good range of toys, books and resources which offer them variety and choice. The very good quality storage units and furniture are used to the children's benefit. The low semi-circular tables allow the staff to face the babies and toddlers at meal times and encourage their social interactions, for example. In addition, the storage units have baskets which are placed to enable the children to see their contents and reach them easily.

Overall, the nursery offers a safe environment for children as the staff ensure they are well supervised at all times. In addition safety measures, such as socket covers, finger safe devices and a secure entry system help to keep the children safe. The staff carry out risk assessments and daily hazard checks, though these are not always rigorous enough, as two potential hazards are identified at the time of the inspection.

The procedures to safeguard children are understood by the staff team, enabling them to effectively safeguard the welfare of any children they may care for.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy attending the nursery. They are supported well by the staff to ensure that they settle and are happy and content. The staff get to know the children, their needs, characteristics and interests very well. They develop positive relationships, interact with and support the children well. Staff and babies laugh together as they play peek a boo and as they try to catch bubbles, for example. In the toddler rooms the staff speak to the children calmly and join in their imaginative play with enthusiasm, dressing up in hats and making dens with lengths of fabric, for example. The staff are sensitive to the children's moods and feelings, offering them reassurance and support when they need it. The children often 'snuggle in' for cuddles with the staff.

A wide range of interesting activities are provided, ensuring that the younger children up to three years enjoy play and become competent learners. The children can access sand and water play every day, they enjoy being creative with paints and collage materials, they use their senses to explore the textures of fabrics, corn flour mixture and natural objects. The staff and children sing together very often, they talk together as they play, they look at books and listen to stories, effectively encouraging their communication skills.

The staff observe the children and know how to promote their development and learning through play. They plan activities specifically for each child to promote their enjoyment and development, which means that children's individual needs and interests are taken into account. The planning and written observations do not yet indicate clearly what they intend the children to gain from the activities, which means that some opportunities may be missed.

Nursery education

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Children are happy, confident and eager to learn. They have good levels of independence, selecting the toys and resources they use in their play and returning them when they have finished. They play well together and are considerate to each other, helping to carry toys for their friends, for example. The children develop an appreciation of books as they listen well to their favourite stories and join in the familiar verse. They are confident speakers, taking turns to offer their ideas at circle time and talking about what they are doing during their play. They have many good opportunities to develop early writing skills as they make marks using paint and creative materials. Most of the children are able to recognise their own names and make good attempts at writing their names on their pictures.

The children develop strong early mathematical skills. They count very often as they play and can recognise numbers on the scales and till, in the role play area. They use their mathematical knowledge well to solve simple problems, when they find out that they do not have enough forks for all the children and need 'one more' at lunch time, for example. The children are eager to engage in new activities and develop their knowledge and understanding of the world. They are able to touch and smell different fish and observe a live lobster during a visit from a nutritionist, for example. They talk about animals and where they live, they plant seeds and observe their growth.

The children enjoy expressing their own ideas as they make pictures and models using a wide range of materials in the creative area. This area is very popular with the children who proudly show what they have made and enjoy having their work displayed for all to see. The well resourced role play area is also very popular, with a good range of props which allow the children to use their imagination well and develop simple story lines. During play the children develop their fine motor skills and coordination well. They use scissors and pencils skilfully, for example, and confidently pour their own drinks and serve their own food at meal times. They have fewer challenging opportunities to develop large motor skills, however.

The staff use similar systems to observe, assess and plan for the children as the systems used for younger children. These effectively identify children's interests but are not always clear about what children are intended to learn.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well in the nursery as they respond to encouragement and praise. They show care and consideration to each other. The children engage in a wide range of activities which raise their awareness of differences. For example, they make fresh pasta during an Italian day and try traditional food during the Hindu festival of Holi. In addition the children play with toys and books which reflect different people in society. This approach ensures that children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is fostered.

Children's individual needs are met well by the staff who know them very well. They discuss and agree children's care needs thoroughly with parents. Children who have specific needs are well supported by the staff, who have a strong commitment to including all children.

There is a good range of information for parents and carers, in the form of newsletters, daily diary sheets and displays, which keeps them well informed. Parents are well consulted through questionnaires which provide them with opportunities to share their views. The partnership with parents of children in receipt of nursery education is satisfactory. They receive appropriate information about the children's learning activities. Parents are asked about what their children know and can do when children commence at the nursery. However, they do not yet have opportunities to contribute continuously to the assessment of children's progress.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The effective organisation of the nursery ensures that children receive good quality care which meets their individual needs. The organisation of staff time and resources ensures that children are well supported by suitable adults. The policies and procedures work effectively in practice to the benefit of the children.

The leadership and management of the nursery education are good. There are effective systems and designated personnel who support the staff working with the children. The effective monitoring, evaluation and development of the educational provision ensures that children continue to receive challenges which help them to make good progress.

The documentation relating to the care of the children is well maintained and fully supports the care of the children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection the nursery was asked to conduct regular risk assessments. The nursery now has systems in place to assess risks on a daily basis and identify actions to minimise risks. These are generally effective and have led to improvements in the systems to keep children safe.

Complaints since the last inspection

On 09/08/2006 and 08/11/2006 Ofsted received concerns regarding National Standard One, suitable Person. The concerns were originally shared with another agency. The setting took appropriate action in response to the concerns. The other agency concluded their investigation and Ofsted took no further action in relation to these concerns.

On 12/03/2007 the registered provider notified Ofsted of a significant event that had occurred at the setting. The provider gave details of the steps they had taken following this incident, including contacting the relevant agencies, which demonstrated that they had complied with the National Standards. No further action was required and Ofsted is satisfied that the provider remains qualified for registration.

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):

- conduct risk assessments for outdoor play equipment and the radiator in the baby room, and take action to minimise identified risks
- develop the outdoor play area to provide additional interest for all children and more challenging physical opportunities for older children. (also applies to nursery education)

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):

- Continue to develop the systems for observing children and planning the next steps in their progress, ensuring that learning and development opportunities are clearly identified (also applies to care)

- increase the opportunities for parents to contribute to the assessments of children's progress. (also applies to care)

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