

Cherry B Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	260006
Inspection date	21 November 2007
Inspector	Susan Hoult
Setting Address	37 Church Lane, Cherry Willingham, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN3 4AD
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Registered person	Wendy Fisk
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Cherry 'B' Day Nursery is privately owned by the manager and opened in 1993. It operates from a converted mobile classroom, sited in the grounds of the owner's parent's home, in the village of Cherry Willingham. The entrance hall, cot room and toilet/baby changing area lead off from the playroom. The kitchen and staff toilet are in the main house. There is an enclosed grassed outdoor play area adjacent to the nursery.

The nursery serves the village and surrounding areas. It opens all year apart from a week at Christmas, a week at Easter and two weeks during the summer. Opening times are 08.00 to 18.00 each weekday. A maximum of 15 children aged under five years may attend the nursery at any one time. There are currently 17 children on roll. The nursery is not registered to receive funding for nursery education.

There are five staff working with the children regularly. Of these, three have appropriate qualifications and one is working towards a qualification. The nursery receives support from the Lincolnshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and is affiliated to the National Day Nursery Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a sound understanding of a healthy lifestyle and the importance of good hygiene through daily routines and discussions with staff. Children wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating, mostly using individual paper towels to dry them. They are learning with gentle reminders from staff to access tissue to wipe their noses as needed. Children wear slippers inside and staff ensure all areas of the nursery are kept clean, helping reduce the risk of infection through cross-contamination. Staff are able to respond to accidents appropriately as there is always a least one member of staff on the premises who holds a current first aid certificate, the easily accessible first aid box is kept up to date and accidents are clearly recorded and shared with parents. Effective nappy changing routines are in place and children sleep and rest as needed either in a cot in the sleep room, on a mattress or bean bag in the comfortable quiet area.

Children have ample opportunities to take part in a good range of challenging, energetic and physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle in the large garden during the warmer, drier months of the year when children have fun whilst developing their large muscle skills, body control and hand-eye coordination. For instance using the ride-on and pedal toys, climbing frames, swings, slides, tunnels, and playing ball and parachute games. However, during the winter months these opportunities are less frequent although children occasionally take part in music and movement activities and some of the outdoor toys are brought inside for them to enjoy.

Children's dietary needs are met effectively by parents and staff sharing information. Children enjoy the well-balanced nourishing cooked lunches and afternoon teas provided. They have a plain biscuit for morning snack and parents are asked to provide fruit or yoghurt for their children's afternoon snack. Babies and young children are offered drinks regularly, and water is available for older children to request to ensure that they do not become thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, homely environment. Staff make checks of the indoor and outdoor areas before use. However, there is no current formal risk assessment in place which may potentially limit the nursery's ability to minimise risks and ensure children's safety. Children move freely and safely around the playroom because activities are set out to maintain clear walkways and to ensure staff can see all areas used. Babies have space on the carpet in the quiet area to safely develop their large and small muscle movements such as handling toys, sitting and rolling.

Children use a range of clean, well-maintained toys and equipment. They learn to keep themselves safe through routines and staff gently reminding them of safe practices. Staff ensure higher ratios are met for outings and take essential equipment such as a first aid kit, mobile phone and children's contact details with them. Children learn how to evacuate the building quickly and safely through regularly practising fire drills.

Staff are aware of their responsibility to safeguard children and of the procedure they should follow if they have concerns about the welfare of a child in their care. They are clear about who

can collect children and never leave them unsupervised with persons who have not been suitably vetted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the nursery. Their emotional well-being is fostered by the warm, caring relationships they develop with the staff. Children spontaneously give staff cuddles and young children often cuddle up on staff's knees when tired. All children are cared for in the playroom which can be divided into two areas when babies attend. Children enjoy listening to stories which are expressively read and actively join in with action songs and rhymes. They are learning to recognise their names, letters, numbers, shapes and colours which are consolidated at circle time through a variety of activities. Although the staff are aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework this is not regularly used to guide planning for young children. Therefore some activities such as making Christmas puddings by colouring paper plates and sticking on pieces of cut felt and coloured paper are inappropriate to their stage of development because they do not understand the point of the activity and it is very adult-directed. This means they do not have the opportunity to explore and examine the resources they are given and produce their own artwork so they become restless and little learning is achieved.

The morning sessions tend to be very structured with mainly adult-directed activities which are often done in large groups with very few freely accessible toys and resources available. This limits the play opportunities for children to build on their natural curiosity as learners and to independently make decisions, and choose and explore resources. During the afternoon children have more opportunities for free play although there is not always a wide variety of choice available. Children have great fun playing with dolls in the home corner encouraging them to eat and drink. There is lots of giggling as they chat and play with each other and a member of staff. Children problem solve as they choose jigsaws and children looking at books handle them carefully. Later a group of children enjoying paint printing whilst two younger children are fascinated and concentrate very well whilst playing with 'gloop'.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are warmly welcomed into the nursery by the staff who respect and value them as individuals. This helps raise their confidence and self-esteem. Children increase their awareness of their own and differing cultures through planned activities. These include celebrating festivals such as Christmas, Harvest, Diwali and Holi and the use of books, stories and toys promoting positive images of all members of society. Children develop their understanding of the wider world through the use of a globe, games and tasting different foods such as paella, pasta and Indian dishes. Walks into the village to buy ingredients for cooking or trips to the park, and visitors to the nursery such as a musician, a librarian reading stories on the mobile library van and a community police officer help children become aware of their local community.

Children behave well and are developing good manners through the staff setting clear guidance, and using encouragement, praise, explanation effectively. Children mostly work harmoniously with and alongside each other although at times in large groups they become a little frustrated whilst waiting for their turn and disrupt others. Children are kind to each other. For example, an older child gently explains to a younger child that they are holding the play mobile telephone the wrong way up and shows them how to use it correctly.

Staff develop an effective partnership ensuring they are aware of each child's individual needs. Parents say they are very happy with the care their children receive and find the regular discussions with staff and the nursery home books extremely useful for keeping up to date with what activities their children have taken part in. Parents receive copies of the nursery's policies, a prospectus detailing the service offered and newsletters about four times a year which give an overview of future themes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The nursery prides itself on maintaining a family atmosphere which parents appreciate. The staff have a high regard for the well-being of all children and work together as a team under the leadership of the manager who has a clear understanding of her responsibilities. She ensures that satisfactory employment procedures are in place and all staff are vetted correctly. She has recently taken the opportunity to attend a briefing event about the incoming Early Years Foundation Stage. All the required documentation is in place and all policies and procedures are easily accessible to staff and parents.

Staff ratios are maintained at all times to ensure children are supervised sufficiently. However, the grouping of children and the organisation of the day does not enable staff to consistently support children's play, learning and developing independence. For example, following lunch children are given a table top activity whilst the staff sit with them and eat their meal. This means children are sat for long periods of time with little choice of what they play with. Children are often all grouped together for an activity so their differing levels of concentration, ability and interest are not fully taken into account. Staff closely supervise babies to ensure older children playing nearby do not compromise their safety.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following recommendations made at the last inspection high chairs are no longer stored in the play room helping minimise risks to children and the manager and deputy are booked to attend child protection training in December 2007 to increase their knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, Ofsted received two complaints and conducted an unannounced visit to the provision on 29 January 2007 to consider these concerns in relation to National Standards 1: Suitable person, 2: Organisation, 11: Behaviour, 12: Working in partnership with parents and carers, and 14: Documentation. As a result of the visit the provider was given the following actions: ensure that no more than 15 children under 5 years; and of these, not more than 5 children under 2 years are cared for at any one time; develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare; ensure minimum staffing ratios are met at all times; ensure Ofsted is informed of any significant changes or events; demonstrate how you ensure staff are suitable, both mentally and physically, to care for children and make a written record of complaints relating to the national standards, any action taken, and the outcome of any investigation, and provide a summary on request to any parent of a child for whom day care is provided.

A satisfactory response to the actions was received on 14 March 2007 and 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

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.

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 a current risk assessment of the premises is in place
- improve outcomes for children aged under three by using an approach in line with 'Birth to three matters'
- increase the variety of activities, play opportunities and first-hand experiences which allow children to build on their natural curiosity as learners and make independent choices and decisions
- review the organisation of the day and the grouping of children so that staff can more effectively support children's play and learning.

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