



Little Angels Fun Club and Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 301921
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Inspector Ann Marie Lefevre

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Registered person Little Angels Fun Club and Nursery 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

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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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little Angels Fun Club and Nursery was registered in 1999. The setting is able to provide places for a maximum of 111 children at any one time who are aged from 0 to 8 years. There are currently 139 children on the roll. Older children, aged up to 14 years, are able to attend. Children who have special needs, and those who have English as an additional language are extremely well supported in the setting. The group participates in the Foundation Stage of Learning initiative and there is

provision for funded 3 and 4 year old children to attend. 18 of the 3 year olds and 3 of the 4 year olds are in receipt of funding.

Childcare is provided in a large building which is close to Cramlington town centre and local amenities. The children are accommodated on two floors. Children are grouped according to their ages and stages of development. There are six designated rooms which are used for the care of babies and toddlers, for pre-school children and for school aged children. The setting also benefits from having a multi-sensory room. Toilet facilities are available on each floor. A fully equipped kitchen is used for the provision of meals. There is a secure entry and exit system, which gives access to a reception area. There are staff offices on both floors. There are two fully enclosed garden areas which are available for outdoor play. Sessions are available Monday to Friday from 07.45 to 17.45.

The facility is privately owned. There are 39 members of the care staff in addition to the proprietor/nursery teacher and the manager. There are 2 kitchen assistants and 2 administration workers. Staff are suitably qualified and experienced in relation to their roles. Students are welcomed into the setting; they are supervised at all times and gain clearance in relation to their placements.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children have a wealth of meaningful opportunities to learn about the importance of health and hygiene in their daily routines and activities. They are encouraged to take responsibility, to be aware of hygiene and wash their hands appropriately, for example, after going to the toilet, before meals and after messy play. Children are happy to help tidy playthings away and offer enthusiastic assistance in such putting toys away or using cloths to clean tables after meal times.

Children's health requirements are highlighted in the detailed and extremely well organised recording systems and policies in relation to their needs. These are carefully maintained to ensure that parents and the staff are kept fully informed about any health issues. All of the necessary recording systems are in place and extremely well maintained. Children's health is protected in practical ways as they learn about dental and general physical health in their daily activities and routines. A very high proportion of staff have completed appropriate first aid training and there is an expectation that all new staff participate in relevant training. There is a very well stocked first aid kit which is checked and replenished daily. Staff are keen to ensure that children benefit fully from being cared for in a healthy environment.

Babies and toddlers benefit extremely well from the excellent resources and carefully planned programmes of care in the designated rooms. Staff have gained a sound awareness of the Birth to Three Matters principles and are very skilled in relating these to the overall care of the children. Nappy changing, naps and feeds are well recorded and staff ensure that the children's routines are strictly adhered to. Children

are well protected by staff who closely monitor them as they have naps in quiet and pleasant surroundings. There are excellent nappy changing facilities and staff take steps to ensure that health and hygiene procedures are complied with and also provide soothing and comforting words and smiles as they work with the little ones, who are made comfortable and are cradled well by staff as they have their bottle feeds. There are good quality low chairs for them as they progress and well organised tables and chairs when they are ready to sit without support. All children in the nursery benefit from the healthy eating programme in the setting. Food is nutritious and varied so that children can enjoy freshly prepared fruit and vegetables, as well as meat, fish and vegetarian options. Parents are able to provide food for their children if they wish and they also benefit from gaining health eating guidance from the nursery. Meal times are social occasions and staff are very skilled at including all children and encouraging them to participate fully.

All children have a healthy diet, which includes good quality foods such as fresh fruit prepared by the children to make smoothies, with close supervision from staff. Children have a wealth of opportunities to learn about the food chain and how food arrives on their plates. Staff are able to ensure that any special dietary needs are met; this being evident in the excellent alternatives to meat dishes. They work closely with parents and obtain detailed information about the children to make sure that they have the necessary nutritional balance for positive growth in a caring and secure environment.

Children develop their physical and emotional well-being in an excellent range of stimulating activities and projects. They are able to participate in fun activities which exercise their bodies as well as develop their thinking skills. They benefit from being outdoors in the fresh air as they use the enclosed outdoor play areas for an exciting range of physical activities such as team games or just running around and having fun. Children have regular opportunities to go out into the local community and also farther a-field to city parks to see the animals or to the beach to collect topic based items to use in their nursery displays and activities. In addition, children do lots of energetic physical activities in the playrooms as they enthusiastically join in circle games doing actions to rhymes and songs. Children confidently use the wide range of high quality large and small play equipment to promote a healthy body. Children also develop their emotional well-being as they build relationships and socialise with other children and adults.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The premises are extremely welcoming, well organised and comfortable for children to use safely. Children access the designated childcare areas freely with close, age appropriate supervision and excellent support from the staff. They are encouraged to be aware of safety, both in and outside the setting, in daily routines and activities. Staff ensure the premises are safe and secure so that children are very well protected. Robust safety measures have been taken, for example, a secure main entry system as well as security systems to each room and internal telephone links throughout the building. The outdoor areas are extremely well planned so really safe

and secure for children to play. Staff take very effective measures to ensure that children do not gain access to any potentially hazardous areas or materials. Regular, formal risk assessments are undertaken in the setting each day to make sure the premises are kept safe for the children.

Staff are extremely vigilant and take effective measures so that play resources, equipment and furniture are maintained in a safe and clean condition for the children attending; all items are checked frequently. Staff ensure that the toys and activities comply with high safety standards and are appropriate for the age and stage of development of each child to use.

Children are extremely well protected by the carefully planned and strictly maintained documentation in relation to child safety in the setting. Recording systems are used in conjunction with detailed written parental consents to ensure consistency of care for each child. Children are also effectively protected as staff continue to develop their already excellent awareness, knowledge and skills by participating in appropriate external and in-house training, including child protection. There is a sound child protection policy in place and, although staff have had no concerns to date in relation to child protection issues arising in the setting, they have an excellent understanding of what to be aware of, who to contact and what to record.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are given maximum support to help them settle really well in the setting as they benefit from the staff's sensitive and calm approach to their care and learning. Staff have an outstanding awareness of the Birth to Three Matters framework and this is reflected in the actual care of the children. Children build very positive relationships with staff who respond well to the children's differing needs.

Babies and toddlers have a wealth of experiences to stimulate their awareness of self, promote learning and knowledge, and generally well-being. They listen to a wide range of relaxing or lively music; shake, rattle and bang instruments to make their own lovely sound; or be part of group or individual activities to explore colour, shape, texture and smell. They thoroughly enjoy their time in the sensory room, absorbing the different sounds and sights, with staff giving them lots of support. They are also able to benefit from many early learning opportunities as they grow and develop. There is easy access to age appropriate books, construction and activity toys so that they can investigate and develop their natural curiosity. Children happily join in doing simple puzzle and games extremely well supported by the staff.

All children have many opportunities to participate in a wealth of exciting activities and projects. They develop and grow in an extremely safe and secure environment. All children are valued by the staff, who help them to develop their confidence and sense of self worth. Staff have a sound knowledge of the children and the wishes of the parents to ensure there is consistency and continuity so that each child can learn and progress effectively.

Staff have an excellent understanding of how children gain independence and allow

them to explore and investigate in many stimulating activities. Activities are organised to allow for flexibility and spontaneity which enables each child to choose what they want to do and introduce their own ideas. Children are enthusiastic in their use of the play areas so they can develop their imagination in fun and exciting ways. For example, choosing outfits from the dressing up selection to play games of pretend, using the home corner to do further role play using lots of well organised resources, or using craft materials in exciting art projects.

There is a strong emphasis on children being enabled to make choices in all nursery activities and routines. Children are very well supported as they take responsibility and grow as individuals. Children are also able to build friendships with their peers and enjoy participating in an extensive range of group and individual activities, as well as just sitting and having fun with a friend.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Children are helped to gain confidence in their abilities and build positive relationships as they interact with their peers and with staff. They participate in many new and exciting experiences and are encouraged to take an active role in the group. Staff are very skilled at using clear and simple language and guidance which enables the children to learn and develop well.

Staff have an excellent understanding of the Foundation Stage of learning, early learning goals and the six areas of learning. There is detailed planning in place which is used well in practice. Staff monitor the children as they participate in activities and use this to inform future practice. There is a wealth of exciting play and learning opportunities occurring throughout each session. Staff use lots of effective teaching methods and tools, for example, the organisation of the play areas reflects the six areas of learning, there are exciting wall displays of children's work and posters, there is consistent use of upper and lower case letters for labelling, and play resources, activities, and daily routines are used to provide learning and life experiences.

All children are building confidence in relating to their peers and adults. They are able to express their ideas and thoughts and communicate well during incidental and planned activities. Children benefit from the positive community spirit in their immediate home area and in the nursery setting as well as building an awareness of the wider world and different cultures. Children chat about their families and friends, telling of happy events and family outings. They become involved in projects that extend their understanding and knowledge and they have age appropriate challenges without undue pressure being put upon them.

Children listen well to stories and guidance from adults. There are many opportunities for children to practise mark making, writing their names and learning to understand about developing their writing skills. Children have many opportunities to appreciate books in the setting and are able to choose books to take home on loan. They use the book areas freely and are respectful as they handle books, carefully turning the pages and becoming familiar with the written word. They enjoy story time and are able to take a very active role in discussions about the contents of the book. They are also

able to start appreciating the different elements that go towards producing a book, for example being aware of the title and author, as well as the content.

Children are taught about numbers and simple mathematical concepts in many activities and daily routines. They develop their number recognition skills and counting skills and learn about simple addition and subtraction by using a range of manufactured and home made resources, for example cutting fruit into sections to learn about simple fractions such as half, quarter and even eighth, measure liquids and follow recipes as they make exciting snack foods, sensitively supported by staff. They are able to learn about capacity in a variety of ways and understanding such concepts as half empty and half full. They recognise shapes and use these in their drawings, as well as considering concepts such as flat and rectangle when making parcels to play pass the parcel. Children have many opportunities to extend their learning in daily routines as well as in the many activities.

Children are able to gain an understanding of how things work. They learn about modern technology as well as the natural world. Children are enthusiastic as they carefully use computer programmes, play a game of pretend with a toy digital camera to photograph what is happening in the playroom. They do simple science experiments, for example, what happens when ice pops melt. There is a strong emphasis on promoting equal opportunities in the setting and children are able to gain many experiences of different cultures and festivals as well as gain an awareness of differing abilities.

Children learn about being healthy and are developing an understanding of their physical well-being as they learn about looking after their bodies. They gain independence as they wash their hands well using soap and water, and carefully dry their hands. They help themselves to their own labelled milk bottles or to easily accessible in the playroom. Children are helped to become aware of dental and bodily health in many ways such as stories discouraging smoking, and also in routines such as cleaning their teeth after lunch. Children use a wealth of large and small equipment and playthings in the playroom and outdoors to develop their physical strength and coordination in planned and incidental activities.

Children thoroughly enjoy participating in the many art and craft projects. They use large and small equipment, and a variety of materials to create lots of exciting pictures and models. Children are enthusiastic as they join in music and movement, confidently singing and doing actions to circle time rhymes and songs, or playing a wide range of musical instruments. They are developing their skills as they explore the many imaginative and high quality materials and resources in the setting.

Staff ensure that the setting is extremely well organised with resources to ensure that children have effective learning experiences as well as lots of fun. There is a balanced range of activities in keeping with the six areas of learning and designated play areas to reinforce children's understanding and knowledge. Staff prepare well for the sessions and ensure that all necessary materials and equipment are in place for the planned activities and also for the additional free-play. Staff are sensitive to the differing needs of each child. Children who have additional requirements are well supported in the setting and are sensitively encouraged to participate and be fully integrated into the group. There is a close partnership between staff, parents and

other agencies to ensure that each child really benefits from their placement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from the staff's positive attitude towards equal opportunities and respecting individual and differing needs. There are many excellent opportunities for children to develop their awareness of their local and wider communities. They not only experience celebrations and festivals such as Christmas, but also learn about other religious and cultural celebrations such as the Chinese New Year. There are many excellent resources in the setting which reflect differing backgrounds and abilities. Stereotyping is discouraged and all children have the opportunity to participate in age appropriate activities according to their stages of development.

Children with additional needs are sensitively helped to participate fully within the group. Staff work closely with parents to ensure that all children gain the necessary care and learning opportunities to gain maximum enjoyment and stimulation in the setting. Children with English as an additional language are able to settle well and benefit from the setting, but can also share their language with other children attending. Staff enable all children to have a happy experience and enjoy their time in the nursery.

Children learn about sharing and valuing others from the excellent role models provided by the staff. Staff gently and sensitively support, praise and encourage children in their daily routines and activities which helps them to develop their self esteem, confidence and sense of belonging. The children are very polite and well behaved. They are really keen to take part in all aspects of nursery life, they show how they can help during snack and tidy up times by taking responsibility for undertaking useful tasks. The children are very happy and relaxed in the group and they respond well to the smiles and encouraging words from the staff. Children are enabled to make choices in their play and daily routines and are gaining increasing confidence as they select playthings and participate in activities. All staff are adept at encouraging children to share their opinions and take an active role in the group.

The partnership with parents and carers is outstanding. There is a strong sense of community in the setting. Parents are able to participate fully in the exchange of information necessary for their child's care. They are kept well informed about daily issues, are aware of planning, topics for activities, and the six areas of learning. The staff team have prepared a wealth of excellent information, notice boards are used very well, there is an information pack, a parent hand-book, regular newsletters and also verbal updates to ensure parents have a sound knowledge and understanding of the service provided for their children. Parents contribute their ideas and time in home learning with the children in their home link books and journals. Children's individual development files are available for parents to see how their children are progressing, and children regularly take pieces of work home to complete with family members. Many examples of the children's work are displayed in the setting and children also take lots of their art and craft projects home to show what they have achieved.

The setting fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development exceptionally well.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Staff take an extremely professional approach to their work. This is reflected in all aspects of the nursery; in the very well organised child care areas in the setting, in safety measures taken and in the range of high quality resources and equipment provided. Clearly defined, sensitive daily routines enable children to settle well and feel secure. There is a high ratio of staff in relation to the numbers of children attending. Children benefit from having small numbers participating in group activities as they are able to have more individual staff attention.

Very well structured and informative files, notice boards and other means are available to inform staff and parents. A wide range of policies and procedures such as child protection, behaviour management and equal opportunities are used to inform practice and protect the children who attend. There are detailed and extremely ordered recording systems in place including individual child records. Staff continually update and develop these for the benefit of children attending, their parents and for the staff team. There are effective registration systems to record attendance which are undertaken with parents and children on arrival and departure. Staff complete a further attendance checks with the children as they are welcomed into the setting and are informed about the planned activities in circle time. Children are also made aware of visitors arriving so that children are aware of why strangers are in the setting.

Children benefit from the high quality care provided and from the staff's positive attitude towards their own training and personal development. Little Angels have been recognised as Investors in People after completing an intensive assessment which is used in the management of the setting. A very detailed file has been produced in relation to this which is used to inform staff practice. Staff have completed an extensive range of appropriate in-house and external training relating to the health, welfare, safety and the educational needs of the children, and continue to look at further development to enhance their already outstanding practice.

Leadership and management are robust and extremely effective throughout the setting to ensure that smooth, consistent and outstanding practice are in place for the benefit of all the children and their parents. Therefore, the leadership and management of the facility is outstanding.

Overall, the needs of all children who attend are extremely well met.

Improvements since the last inspection

There have been significant and extremely effective improvements since the last care and education inspections.

Care

The outside play areas have been remodelled and upgraded to provide an exciting and safe environment for children to play and learn.

Education

The overall planning and structuring of educational input has been upgraded to a high standard to ensure the effective development of calculation skills in planned activities for older and more able children.

Activities and routines in the setting have been extremely well planned and organised to encourage children to take responsibility and promote their sense of independence in the nursery environment.

Extremely well structured and effective observation, monitoring and evaluation systems are now in place to assess children in planned and incidental activities; these are used to inform future planning.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of nursery education are outstanding.

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