



Lilliputs Nursery Land Registry

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	309865
Inspection date	12 July 2005
Inspector	Carol-Anne Shaw
Setting Address	Wrea Brook Court, Lytham Road, Warton, Lancashire, PR4 1TE
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Registered person	Ashton House 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 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?

Lilliputs Nursery Land Registry was registered under the Busy Bees Company in 2002. It is one of a chain of nurseries owned by the same group. It operates from a purpose built detached single story building, located in the Land Registry site in Warton. Children are cared for in base rooms for children of similar age, which have adjoining toilet and nappy changing facilities. The nursery has three secure outside play areas that are developed for the different ages of the children that attend. There

is a separate base room used for the holiday play scheme.

The nursery offers care for a maximum of 88 children, of these no more than 24 may be under 2 years. There are currently 62 children on the register for the nursery and 148 for the holiday play scheme. Children attend for a variety of sessions both full and part time, of these there are 24 children in receipt of nursery education funding. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and for whom English is an additional language.

The nursery operates Monday to Friday 07.30 to 18.00 all year round, closed bank holidays. The play scheme is open for school holidays only.

There is a total of 18 staff working with the children, eight have relevant early year's childcare qualifications at level 3. There are currently three staff attending training to gain a childcare qualification. Two playscheme staff are doing a teacher training course. All staff complete company training as part of their induction. There is one support staff employed as a cook.

The nursery is a member of the National Day Nursery Association. The company has the Investors in People award. They also receive support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children progress well because staff work to the good procedures and practice in place. They have a secure knowledge and understanding of the group's health and hygiene policies and procedures. Children become independent in personal self-care skills. They enjoy physical exercise and are beginning to learn about the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Children learn about healthy eating at snack and meal times. Children access drinks throughout the day, they enjoy fruit at snack time. The nursery offers planned, nutritionally balanced, organic menus, linked to the age of the child. Close working relationships with parents to manage children's allergies and special diets, enables the individual needs of children to be met effectively. Good systems are in place to allow the safe management of any medical needs.

Children enjoy a comprehensive range of physical experiences, both indoors and outdoors, planned for their age and stage of development. The resources in place promote and encourage children to develop their fine and gross motor skills appropriately. The children are confident to learn new skills and supportive staff enable children to build on their skills. Children gain in confidence as they use the outside equipment, practising their balancing and climbing skills.

The holiday scheme children access many sports and leisure opportunities to promote their health and wellbeing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play freely as all immediate risks to children are minimised because staff are vigilant and use good risk assessment systems to reduce potential hazards. There is a range of well written policies and procedures in place. Staff are proactive in monitoring children's safety. The management of children's safety when playing outside is very appropriate. Children learn to protect themselves and follow the codes of behaviour, for example, the older children allow the younger children space and time to complete the balancing equipment before taking their own turn.

The staff ensure that children learn how to be safe and enjoy appropriate freedom and independence. Children gain knowledge about the dangers of leaving toys on the floor and how to use equipment safely. Children enjoy using a wide variety of equipment that is appropriate and relevant to their development needs, all is well organised and accessible.

Children are well protected by staff who have a clear understanding of child protection. There are good policies and procedures in place to promote the safety and welfare of children with regard to child protection. The company and staff working at the nursery have a good awareness of their responsibilities regarding child protection and the documentation is comprehensive.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the nursery. Very good relationships are evident within all sections. Children develop their confidence and self-esteem. They enjoy playing with the relevant well organised activities that link to the monthly topic. Children access and enjoy the range of well maintained resources which are used creatively to interest children and develop their learning. All children take part in the activities, quieter children choose to join in at their own pace. Children are eager to learn, they are well supported by the motivated staff. They know individual children well and are skilled at encouraging children to extend their experiences. Planning for the year is suitable and allows children access to a wide range of activities to suit their stage of development.

Children are well supported by staff who have a good understanding of the needs of the younger children, the planning includes a curriculum linking to the Birth to three matters guidance. Consistent key worker staff give younger children confidence when they arrive at the group. Children form very good relationships with the caring staff. There is a positive bond and appropriate physical contact between the younger children and staff. They interact well and enjoy the activities provided. The children enjoy the many play activities, water play and exploring paint come high on their agenda after food.

The planning for the holiday scheme includes lots of practical activities, planned to interest the older children. Children are able to make choices from a wide range of

sports and leisure activities. The holiday scheme was not open at the inspection, however, parents informed me the children enjoyed their time at the play scheme and had fun. The staff member involved with the scheme was enthusiastic and had lots of ideas planned for the summer.

Nursery Education.

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage and how to link it to children's learning. They plan and provide interesting activities that are well organised and supported by good questioning skills. A wide range of teaching methods are used to ensure most areas of the curriculum are explored by the children.

Children are making good progress towards the early learning goals. Children are motivated with interesting activities. They enjoy the role play area, dressing up and organising a party, with lots of help from the 'fireman'. Children have formed good relationships with each other and the staff. They come confidently into the group and settle quickly, freely accessing the activities. They work in groups and learn to share resources fairly and understand the need to take turns. Children develop their language and communication skills, these are being extended by learning new words linked to the current theme. They discuss summer and where they have been at the weekend. They communicate in a group situation clearly and show awareness of others and listening skills are being extended. They are beginning to know different letters and sounds and link these to their own and others names. Children are confident mark makers and use the many opportunities available to show their skills.

Children learn about the world through the many different topics they explore. The frog the children found in the garden gave the opportunity to show their knowledge about tadpoles. However, children have limited access to communication technology to support their learning.

Children progress in their mathematical understanding. They are able to say and recognise numbers one to nine and count reliably up to ten everyday objects. This is promoted through practical activities enjoyed by the children. The older children do simple addition and subtraction combining groups of objects and sorting, for example the bears. They are beginning to learn the language to enable them to name different shapes and understand simple measuring, using water and sand.

Children's physical development is progressing effectively. They are confident to try to learn new skills. For example, going round the outside equipment and going back to practise until able to do a complete circle. They learn to skilfully use their fine motor skills using small equipment and mastering the use of pouring from the water jug. Children are encouraged to respond in a variety of ways using all their senses. They enjoy the role play, making the party table look good with the flowers, not quite what the 'firemen' wanted, who then went off to fight the fire at the book corner. They access and enjoy many different creative resources for example designing and making boats from shapes. However, sometimes they do miss opportunities for children to explore and experiment with their own individual creativity by too much adult input.

The group offer very good support for children with special educational needs. Working with families and other professionals to ensure a relevant curriculum is available for individual children. Support workers are valued by both the nursery and parents, enabling children to meet their full potential.

Assessments overall are good but these are not always used by staff to link to the next stage of children's development. The planning is not used effectively to extend the learning for the more able children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children are made welcome in all areas of the nursery. Staff value children's individuality and respect parents information regarding their child. Good communication both ways is evident resulting in children feeling at home and settling quickly into the group. Children's behaviour is good overall with staff working to provide a consistent and caring approach. Older children follow simple rules and boundaries linked into the nursery sessions. They learn to share and take turns, good manners such as 'please' and 'thank you' are used by the children. They learn to negotiate and take responsibility for their own behaviour. As a result, children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered appropriately by staff that ensure children are supported in their understanding.

There is good information available for the holiday scheme and children are involved with drawing up the rules.

Children learn about the world about them, through topics and resources that promote diversity. Their own and other cultures are effectively supported. However, there are limited activities and resources to support the understanding of disability.

The good partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well being in the nursery. Parent's views are sought through discussion, documentation and questionnaires regarding the provision. Systems are in place to ensure all parents are kept informed of how their child is progressing and developing in their learning. A parent representative meets with the management to support communication. Children benefit from the involvement of parents in projects which contributes to their good health, development and learning.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Good organisation of the nursery provides a welcoming environment for children to play and learn. Children's care is supported with very good systems and management. A comprehensive range of very suitable policies and procedures are in place to support the good management of the group. The premises in all sections are very well organised and well planned to support and promote children's care and learning. The staff ratios give children support, this allows children to experience

many different activities throughout the day. The use of time, space and resources enhances children's learning.

Children's care and learning is supported with good leadership and management of the nursery education. Children benefit from the staff having a sound knowledge of how children develop and learn. Good procedures are in place for induction and the ongoing training of staff. The staff show a commitment to keeping their training updated; this is effectively supported by the company training section. The nursery is working to build a consistent and well trained staff team for each of the base rooms. Overall the provision meets the needs of all the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were a number of recommendations made at the last inspection, however, the nursery has completed all issues effectively.

They were asked to ensure that consistent carers were deployed to establish relationships with the children. A new manager has been appointed and staff are now deployed to work in the same base rooms of the nursery. This has given consistency for the children who have formed good relationships with the carers in their sections. It also allows parents better contact with their child's key worker.

It was recommended that resources for role play were made available and accessible for children. The nursery has provided new role play resources. Children now have in place a good range of role play activities that promote play and foster children's imagination.

They were asked to ensure that staff work to the toileting and nappy changing procedures. All staff have had training relating to these policies and procedures and how it relates to their work to ensure there is no cross infection. Signs are now displayed in children's bathrooms to remind staff. At the inspection the staff were seen to be following the procedures, ensuring children's health is maintained.

Complaints since the last inspection

The manager contacted Ofsted regarding information that had been shared with social services. It was confirmed by social services that they were taking no further action and the information provided at the outset by the manager indicated that appropriate steps had already been taken by the nursery.

The case was closed and the provider remains qualified for registration.

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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 that children have many different opportunities to experiment with their creative ideas, thus enabling children's own imagination to be developed.
- develop activities and resources to support children's understanding of disabilities

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 the assessment of children's learning is used effectively to enable the planning of activities to provide sufficient challenge for the more able children
- provide opportunities in the planning of activities for children to use information and communication technology and programmable toys to support their learning.

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