

Green Wellie Day Nursery Ltd

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	251758
Inspection date	13 November 2007
Inspector	Deirdra Keating
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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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Green Wellie Day Nursery opened in 1994. It operates from a single storey building within the grounds of the owner's home in Barrow, Suffolk. The nursery opens from 08:00 to 18:00 each weekday for 51 weeks per year. Children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area and a large garden. There is an indoor swimming pool on site which children can use during the summer months.

There are currently 47 children aged from two to under five years on roll. Children come from the local area and attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 11 members of staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority and has been awarded the Suffolk Quality Assurance Scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is maintained through consistent procedures and routines that are carefully followed by staff. Clear policies and guidance on infection control are displayed and proactively shared with parents. A written statement on common infections is prominently visible. This ensures that children are protected well from cross-infection. Children are consistently encouraged to wash their hands and do so routinely throughout the day. Low-level sinks with photographic picture line prompts help children understand what to do. Children receive good care if they have an accident or become ill whilst at nursery. Parents provide written consents for emergency medical treatment and any medication requirements. Accidents are documented correctly by staff who have attended first aid training and signed off by parents on collection. Younger children sleep according to their needs and in line with parents' wishes. Cots, prams and sleep mats with individual clean blankets are provided. Staff settle children off to sleep and make very regular checks to ensure they are safe and comfortable. This is clearly recorded and summarised for parents on collection. However, there is no soft and comfortable area in the middle room where children can rest.

Children's dietary needs are adequately met. Individual requirements are very carefully recorded and shared between rooms to ensure that all staff are aware. Children come together for a large group snack. Snacks generally feature toast and fresh fruit with milk or water. All food is prepared in the small clean kitchen area by staff who carefully adhere to guidelines and have attended food hygiene training. Regular risk assessments ensure that all areas are clean and food storage temperatures are checked daily. Hot lunches are provided as required and packed lunches are stored in the fridge. Babies are fed by staff and enjoy one to one time during feeds. Free access to drinking water ensures that all children remain hydrated throughout the day. This has been adapted well for younger children who use coloured beakers and drink freely with staff guiding them to their individual cups.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a spacious building comprising of four main rooms, kitchen and bathroom facilities. The rooms have been designed carefully to promote the development and care of children's different stages of development. A large outdoor area adjoins the building and houses a very good range of interesting resources and activities. A secure and enclosed garden and indoor swimming pool are also available for the children to use. Bathroom and toilet facilities are at one end of the building. These are low level and enable children to use them independently and with support from staff. A good range of resources that encompasses all stages of the children's development are readily available for children to choose from. Resources are stored well in boxes labelled with photographs for children's instant recognition. Children are able to make choices about how to spend their time and are clearly interested and stimulated with the activities on offer.

Detailed risk assessments that are conducted daily and documented ensure that all equipment is clean and well maintained. Thorough and consistent procedures ensure that most hazards to children are minimised. However, the garden has a loose fence panel and the swimming pool doors are not all locked which could compromise children's safety. Regular fire drills ensure that children know what to do in the event of a fire. Staff have specific roles to ensure the

whole building is covered and requirements are all met. Practise fire drills are carefully logged and evaluated to ensure that all staff and children respond appropriately and safely. Fire prevention equipment is regularly checked and all recommendations are met and approved by the fire department. The premises are secure and staff stringently supervise the safe arrival and collection of children.

Children are protected well from potential harm because staff are vigilant and have a good understanding of their responsibilities in the protection of children. All staff have undertaken safeguarding training. This ensures that staff have a good understanding of how to put the appropriate procedures into place. A simple written statement underpins all areas of practice and is clearly displayed for parents, carers and staff. Local contact numbers are also readily available for staff in case a concern should arise about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children have formed close and trusting relationships with the staff who know the children well and are warm and tactile. Children develop an excellent sense of belonging in the nursery. Low-level displays show pictures of children enjoying a wide range of activities; this promotes discussion and gives children a sense of pride. There are many opportunities for children's creative play. Paint and art and craft are regularly planned for children to access using their own preferred method and style. Children happily paint on the floor. This is supported extremely well by staff who provide a relaxed environment where they allow children to follow their own interests and explore colour by covering their hands in paint. Children's creativity is supported extremely well; they recreate mini environments in the sand tray and play in the role play area which is set up as a winter cottage. Children self-register using brightly illustrated name cards; they have activity work books and proudly request to share these with their parents.

The nursery has an extremely good understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and are clearly aware of the needs of younger children. Staff competently use the framework to support their excellent practice. Babies are contented as they play on the soft carpeted floor. The outdoor play area provides a wide range of tactile and sensory resources which inspire babies to experiment and explore. Creative and resourceful ideas are evident in all areas of the room. Photographic albums have been collated for each child. These show how the children play and are available for the children to look at and enjoy at home helping them to make connections between different parts of their lives. Interactive resources are stored in storage boxes and labelled with pictures and photos encouraging children's decision making. Sensory baskets that provide a range of different household objects encourage babies and young children to explore using all of their senses. There are many opportunities for children to explore through messy play experiences. Sparkly sand, jelly, water and pasta enable all children to enjoy hands-on exciting activities that capture their interest. Younger children relish a bubble blowing activity as they wait for lunch. They squeal with delight as they try to catch the bubbles.

Regular music and movement sessions are provided weekly from an outside teacher. Children thoroughly enjoy using different instruments with rhymes and songs; this gives children an opportunity to explore different sounds and move to music. These are carefully adapted to incorporate the different needs of the children in the nursery and are delivered in two groups. Children thoroughly enjoy these sessions; younger children spend quality one to one time with staff members as they join in the sessions. Children learn Spanish from a Spanish teacher who comes in weekly to teach the children. Younger children join older children for lunch and parents

are provided with room introductory booklets. These procedures ease transition between rooms building on children's confidence and developmental needs extremely well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children in this nursery are warmly welcomed and have a very good sense of belonging. Staff are extremely proactive in ensuring that records detail a good range of information regarding each child. This promotes good continuity of care and enables staff to meet each child's individual needs. A clear working policy is implemented by all staff who carefully ensure that all children who attend the nursery can enjoy equality of opportunity. Children gain a good sense of community; they visit local amenities including the school and post office. They also enjoy regular visits from the local vicar. A good range of mixed resources including posters, books, dolls and role play activities encourages children to show good respect for others in the setting, their beliefs, cultures and traditions. Children take turns and show concern for others. They play and socialise in different sized groups and this positive approach fosters children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.

Children from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and learning difficulties and/or disabilities are welcomed into the nursery. Staff are quick to access relevant support for children and have attended modular training. A designated member of staff has responsibility for this which ensures that children receive consistent support and children with additional needs are welcomed. Children are consistently well behaved and polite. Staff demonstrate clear and consistent boundaries and reasonably challenging yet realistic expectations. A detailed behavioural policy underpins all practice and sets out clear expectations. This is proactively shared with parents and carers. Any minor incidents are shared with parents at the end of the day. Parents are very warmly welcomed into the nursery and speak very highly regarding all areas of practice. A clear prospectus and several informative notice boards provide relevant and up-to-date information regarding sample menus, nursery news and a clear complaints policy. Parents have good opportunities to become involved in their children's learning. Home diaries are used daily to give parents an overview of their child's day. Open evenings enable parents to share children's individual records and discuss their child's progress with staff.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by experienced and dedicated staff that have had all checks to ensure they are safe and suitable to be with children. Staff are well qualified and the nursery ensures that staff continue to attend training courses that are relevant to their roles. Clear job descriptions and an effective appraisal procedure ensure that staff are all aware of their roles and responsibilities. Evaluations from staff are taken on board by the forward thinking management and used to inform future practice. The nursery is led by an organised and efficient manager who has developed a comprehensive operational plan. This reflects all the nursery's policies and procedures that underpin all areas of practice and supports children's care, learning and play. Children are settled and secure and ratios are generally maintained throughout the session. However, the organisation of staff over the lunchtime period is not always effective which could compromise children's safety. Arrival and collection times are managed well with a member of staff seeing children in and out. The manager has a very good understanding of the National Standards and her responsibility to comply with the details of the registration.

Extremely well-organised documentation is stored securely and confidentially. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the nursery was asked to conduct a risk assessment of the premises and activities undertaken by children, detailing actions to be taken to minimise identified risks, for example damaged wooden playhouse and exposed sharp edges of chicken wire in the garden, temperature of water for hand washing; safety procedures relating to swimming activities to comply with relevant health and safety guidelines; replacement of smoke alarm system. Risk assessments are now conducted regularly and stringently maintained. These detail all risks in order that children's safety is not compromised. The nursery was also asked to encourage children to further develop their independence by selecting resources for their own use more often and extend the range of resources, activities, play opportunities and sensory experiences in the outdoor play areas to meet the needs of babies more fully. This has all been addressed; the outdoor area provides a sensory and stimulating environment for children of all ages to access independently.

The nursery was also asked to ensure that the preparation and handling of food in the baby room complies with any Environmental Health requirements and ensure good hygiene practices are in place regarding hand washing, use of towels, face clothes and bedding. Good routines are now in place to ensure that clean bedding and face towels are provided daily for each child and hygiene and food preparation guidelines are carefully adhered to by staff who have attended food hygiene training.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted that required the provider to take action to meet the National Standards. The complaint related to National Standard 2: Organisation. Concerns were raised regarding staff to child ratios. Ofsted required the provider to investigate.

The visit to the premises showed that the staff ratios met the minimum standard set in the National Standards. An action was given to ensure that an accurate system for registering children's and staff attendance (showing actual times of children's arrival and departure) is available at all times. A satisfactory response to the action was received and Ofsted was satisfied that by taking these steps the provider remained 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.

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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):

- provide a soft and comfortable area where children can rest and relax (this refers to the middle room)
- ensure that children are safe when playing in the garden (this refers to the swimming pool doors and loose fence panel)
- improve the deployment of staff over the lunch time period to ensure that children are safe and supported.

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