



Small World Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY217923
Inspection date	12 July 2005
Inspector	Suman Willis

Setting Address	22 Tolpits Lane, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD18 6NR
------------------------	---

Telephone number	01923 230300
-------------------------	--------------

E-mail

Registered person	Small World Nursery
--------------------------	---------------------

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 satisfactory.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Small World Community Nursery opened in 2002. It operates from three rooms in a purpose built building next to Westfield School. It is a part of the children's centre. The nursery is situated in a residential area of West Watford. A maximum of 30 children may attend nursery at any one time. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 07.30 to 18.00 all year round except bank holidays and between Christmas and the New Year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 69 children aged from 3 months to 4 years on roll. Of these 13 children receive funding for nursery education. The nursery serves families in Watford and the surrounding area. The nursery currently supports children with special educational needs and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs fifteen full time/part time staff, this includes the cook and an administrative assistant. There are 11 staff, including the manager, who hold appropriate early years qualifications. Some staff are working towards a qualification. The nursery works in partnership with the local early years development team.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy playing in a clean environment with staff at hand to maintain a high level of hygiene. Children in the 'Sunflower' room learn about personal hygiene through their daily routine. They know that they need to wash their hands before eating and after toileting. All children are fully safeguarded against cross infection by staff maintaining good hygiene practices, such as consistently wearing disposable gloves and aprons for nappy changing. A clear exclusion policy agreed, with parents, ensures that children's risks to infections are minimised.

Children benefit from a very healthy and nutritious diet. They enjoy trying new foods, some confidently ask for second helpings of the lamb curry. A vegetarian option is included in the main menu ensuring that both options are given equal value. Children are offered drinks during snack and meal times and know that they can ask in between. This does not enable all children to access regular drinks independently. Babies' dietary needs are fully met, parents provide prepared baby milk and staff store appropriately in the well maintained milk kitchen. During weaning staff work with parents in providing a similar routine thus offering consistency of care for babies.

Children's daily intakes are recorded and shared with parents. Their medical and dietary needs are included in their personal details. All this contributes to a good working relationship between staff and parents ensuring that all children's dietary needs are fully met.

All children have access to an outdoor play area. The paved area allows them to develop their mobility using ride on toys and playing ball games. They also have access to hoops and bean bags to promote throwing skills. Older children learn to manoeuvre, enjoy being taken out for local walks and rolling down the grassy hill with control.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised in the well-designed setting which has

good security precautions in place. A safety buzzer alerts staff when they have visitors and the glass panels enable them to view before opening the door. Children are given good clear examples of safety when going out for walks. They learn to look and listen before crossing roads and know that they have to wear sunhats when out in the sun. Clear procedures for outings followed by staff enable children to feel safe. This includes taking a first aid kit and a mobile phone out with them.

Children are kept safe in the nursery by staff using their observational skills to monitor all areas. Children's needs are fully addressed and emergency evacuation procedures include an emergency aid kit which has all children's personal details, their personal comforters and treats. Staff have consent from the local surgery to use this as a safe house during emergency evacuation.

Children enjoy participating in a wide range of activities and play with toys that are safe, age appropriate and well maintained. Staff check these for safety as used and wash frequently especially in the 'Buttercup' and 'Daffodil' rooms.

Children are well protected. The child protection coordinator has a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. The information is passed down to all staff ensuring that they are all familiar with the guidelines. Training has also been completed by other members of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in a nurturing and caring environment where relationships between children and staff are very good. They are very familiar with the daily routines and engage purposefully in a wide range of interesting activities. Staff are very knowledgeable of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and implement this effectively.

Babies receive lots of cuddles and have a strong bond with their key worker which increases their sense of belonging. They benefit from routines consistent with their experiences at home. Babies explore their environment with interest and enjoy playing with a variety of toys and play materials. They are developing early communication skills as staff respond attentively to their sounds during play.

Children have developed good relationships with staff and approach them with ease. All children confidently ask staff for help and older children's requests for further resources are honoured. Younger children are demonstrating their emerging social skills well, as they share a book. All children enjoy meal times which is positively promoted as a social occasion. Staff are at hand to offer support appropriately. Children enjoy sharing the trolley during outdoor play and relish the response of the adults as they wave goodbye.

Nursery education

Teaching and learning is satisfactory. Children are making progress towards the early learning goals. Staff are committed to ongoing training and have a satisfactory

knowledge of the Foundation Stage curriculum. The setting continues to develop the implementation of the foundation stage and is working in partnership with the early years development team. They are developing their skills at linking activities to the six areas of learning. However, children's achievements and progress through the stepping stones are not clearly identified. Staff provide good support for children and extend their learning by asking lots of open ended questions during activities. However, children's learning is not fully promoted as staff do not use daily routines to encourage independence. Opportunities to access a wider range of activities freely are limited.

Children show a strong sense of belonging as they take part in a range of activities. Friendships are developing as they take turns. They speak with increasing confidence and enjoy listening to sounds and identifying objects when out and about. Good use of labelling throughout the nursery in words and pictures helps children develop their reading skills. However, children should be given the opportunity to freely practise mark making skills through their daily routine.

Children delight in linking the letters to their names when finding their seats at lunch. Mathematical skills are developing as they solve simple problems. Children demonstrate their calculation skills competently during outdoor play. They add the number of children sitting on the ride on trolley to the number of children pulling the trolley. Children are developing a good understanding of their natural environment when on walks around the area. A strong link with the local shops and post office enables children to extend their understanding of the local community.

Children enjoy exploring a range of experiences during organised activities. They make collage using a variety of textured materials and use their imagination when playing musical instruments. Children engage themselves in role play, making tea for adults.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children of all abilities are encouraged to reach their full potential. A positive inclusive policy is fully promoted and implemented by staff through their daily routine. Children play with a variety of resources reflecting positive images and celebrate festivals from around the world. Children with special needs benefit by the nursery having a strong coordinator. She has a good understanding of working with children with special educational needs and liaising with other agencies where appropriate.

Children and staff work harmoniously together in a calm atmosphere and children respond well to the praise offered. Babies in the 'Buttercup' room enjoy being cuddled and laugh as staff make noises and smile with them. Two boys in the 'Daffodil' room enjoy sharing a book and are developing their understanding of socialising. Children in the 'Sunflower' room say please and thank you and are very comfortable with staff.

Partnership with parents is good. Children benefit from staff being pro-active in building and developing parents understanding of child development. Parents are offered the option of attending information evenings in various topics. They have

attended a healthy eating session delivered by a nutritionist. This is being extended to information on 'Birth to three matters' framework, behaviour management and Foundation Stage. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs are fostered.

Children have a sense of belonging because daily information about their needs and routine is shared between parents and staff. Daily activities with long term aims and objectives and linked to 'Birth to three matters' framework is displayed throughout the nursery. Full information about the foundation stage is also displayed in and outside the 'Sunflower' room. Information evenings for parents help them to understand how children learn.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Leadership and management is satisfactory. Children feel very much at home in an environment which is warm, welcoming and well organised. Their needs are met well because staff are appropriately deployed in all areas and use their observational skills to help them to achieve. An appropriate management structure ensures that the deputy is kept fully informed of how the nursery is run. Her knowledge of documentation, procedures and general day to day running of the nursery ensures that everything runs smoothly in the manager's absence.

Staff are encouraged to be involved in policy changes which are discussed at meetings. Regular supervision ensures that staff feel valued. This gives management the opportunities to encourage their future development. Children generally benefit by staff implementing the knowledge gained from their training especially in 'Birth to three matters' framework. Staff have a satisfactory knowledge of the Foundation Stage but not enough emphasis is given to all areas of learning. Children's independence is not fully promoted.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous inspection recommended: the registration arrangements show when children are present. Ensure curriculum planning and resources are appropriate for children aged 3-5 years. Ensure staff are aware of procedures that should be followed if they have concerns about the development of a child. Ensure there are sufficient appropriate areas for children to relax. Ensure information about outings is included in the operational plan. Ensure daily records for children aged 2-5 years are maintained and shared with parents.

The nursery now records accurately the time of arrival and departure of each child in the register. Copies of curriculum guidance for all staff in the 'Sunflower' room are now available. Staff continue to access further training in the foundation stage curriculum. Soft cushions, small sofas and bean bags have been purchased and are being used. Outings procedure not available for parents as the group did not feel they were providing outings. However, going for walks within the community was

considered as outings and the nursery is going to draw up a procedure for parents. The nursery introduced key sheets for sharing information with parents in the 'Sunflower' room but felt it wasn't working. However, information is shared verbally and any concerns are recorded in the children's personal development records.

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

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

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):

- develop children's independence by ensuring they have access to regular fresh drinking water

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):

- develop staff knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage curriculum to ensure that activities engage and challenge children's learning
- ensure that children's assessments are used to inform future planning for their learning.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk