

Baby-Tec

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY265795
Inspection date	17 September 2007
Inspector	Saida Cummings
Setting Address	St Wulstans Building, Worcester College of Technology, Deansway, Worcester, WR1 2JF
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Registered person	Worcester College of Technology Childcare Services
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?

Worcester College of Technology Childcare Services, Baby-Tec opened in 2003 and is one of three full day care settings operated by the college. The setting is based within St. Wulstan's building which forms part of the college campus. Children are accommodated in a specifically adapted nursery with separate rooms available for the different age groups cared for. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area available to the rear of the building. A maximum of 18 children may attend at any one time. Children up to the age of three years attend the setting. The nursery provides a full day care service for staff and students at the college, as well as, the general public.

There are currently 30 children aged from five months to two years on roll. The nursery opens five days a week for 47 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 08:30 to 17:30. Children attend for a variety of sessions. They are able to progress to one of the other college's full day care settings at an appropriate developmental stage or to another provider of the parents' or carers' choice. The setting offers support to children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs eight members of staff. All the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority and has achieved the 'Growing Together' bronze quality assurance award.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of experiences which contribute to their good health. The premises and equipment are maintained to a very good standard of cleanliness. Good hygiene procedures are followed by the staff, such as ensuring children's hands are wiped with individual flannels before eating and after messy play activities. There are appropriate procedures in place for dealing with any accidents, administering medication if requested and initially gathering information from parents and carers concerning individual children's health needs. The risk of infection to children is reduced as parents and carers are made aware of the guidelines followed and children are not cared for if they have an infectious illness. Children are protected from the harmful effects of the sun in hot weather because staff are proactive in their approach. There are appropriate shaded areas available for children to use during outdoor play.

Children benefit from the opportunities for regular fresh air and exercise. They use the safe outdoor play area to take part in a variety of activities to help them develop their physical skills. For example, they enjoy using a variety of age-appropriate wheeled toys, push-along toys and rockers. Children also enjoy taking part in regular indoor physical activities and use the large play areas for various appropriate indoor games. Babies' and young children's needs are met as the staff know the children well and are aware of their individual health needs. For example, they are aware of when individual children start to show signs of tiredness and ensure they are allowed the time to take naps in their allocated cots. Babies have many opportunities for creative physical experiences and development, such as shuffling, rolling, crawling and starting to walk. The staff ensure appropriate equipment and space is made available for children to be able to safely build on these skills and are very aware of each child's specific abilities. Suitable equipment is provided so younger children can develop their mobility skills, for instance, enabling children to pull themselves up onto the low-level furniture and using push along toys to aid walking.

Children are well nourished and their special dietary needs are met as the staff ensure this is fully discussed with the parents and carers. Parents and carers are requested to provide the food which is stored appropriately in labelled containers. The staff responsible for preparing the meals are very aware of food hygiene procedures and ensure all the food is heated to the appropriate temperatures. The staff work closely with parents and carers to ensure babies' specific food and drink needs are met. For example, they discuss the types of food babies can start eating once they start weaning. They also work closely with parents and carers to encourage them to provide appropriate food to ensure children receive a healthy and balanced diet. For example, displays in the kitchen and reception area include appropriate posters which show the types of food children should be eating and the staff have devised a list of the types of food children may enjoy eating. Children have access to suitable drinks at all times and the staff encourage them to drink plenty of fluids especially after exercising and during hot weather. Younger children are constantly offered appropriate drinks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very welcoming, secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. The layout of the nursery creates attractive and stimulating areas for the children. Furniture and equipment are set out to enable children to move freely and safely. Children also have access to a secure outdoor play area which has recently been re-surfaced with outdoor safety flooring. Staff complete regular risk assessments to ensure hazards to children are minimised.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of high quality toys and equipment which meet safety requirements. The child-height storage units enable children to self-select toys safely. All equipment is regularly checked for safety and cleaned including sterilisation of all the baby toys. Appropriate safety features are in place including safety gates and high-level electrical sockets which cannot be accessed by the children. There are excellent procedures for emergency evacuation which include the use of age-appropriate mobile evacuation cots. These are regularly practised to ensure the staff and children are fully aware of the procedures. Sleeping children are protected as systems are in place to ensure they are regularly checked.

Children are kept safe as staff follow appropriate procedures when they are dropped off and collected. Their welfare is safeguarded because staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and the procedures to follow if they were to have concerns about a child in their care. All staff are aware of the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are involved in a wide variety of interesting and stimulating activities that support them making good progress. The warm caring relationships between adults and children are evident. This is achieved because of the effective key worker system. Staff have a good knowledge of child development and regularly access appropriate training. Many of the staff working with the younger children have accessed relevant training and information sessions on the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Children benefit from the staff's knowledge and ability to implement the framework to promote positive outcomes. Space is well-organised to allow children to explore and experiment in their play. Children benefit from interesting and varied planned activities that are attractively presented and provide appropriate challenge for children of different abilities. Staff have started to carry out observations and use these to adapt planned activities to enable individual children to progress at their own pace.

Children are free to choose the activities they want to take part in from the range of resources available. They are able to self-select from a wide variety of interesting and age-appropriate toys and resources. They are provided with various stimulating toys and equipment which are used to develop their awareness of different materials and textures. They also enjoy using everyday items which are carefully selected and placed in the 'treasure basket' and 'holistic play box'. For example, they are able to see their faces in the oval stainless steel dish and feel the textures of the nail brush. Babies and young children are very well stimulated as the staff interact with them at all times and encourage them to experience different types of interesting and stimulating play. Children enjoy taking part in messy play activities which give them the opportunities to explore and use their senses. An example of this is when they take part in 'cooked spaghetti' play where they enjoy feeling the texture, pulling it apart and trying to use a plastic fork or spoon to lift up the pasta strands.

Children are gaining in confidence and being encouraged to communicate through a range of techniques such as sensitive support and use of sign language. They are encouraged to be creative as drawing and painting activities are adapted to allow all the children to join in. The babies and younger children use finger paints and enjoy making hand and foot prints. Older children are challenged as staff support them in their spontaneous and purposeful play. For example, when using play dough the older children find different items to use with their play which enables them to make different shapes. Children are curious and inquisitive and staff encourage them to think for themselves and to develop their skills. Adults consistently and positively interact with the children to encourage their interest, involvement and learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have a strong sense of belonging and of their own identity within the setting. A key worker system is in place so children can build a strong bond with the staff. Children are given lots of individual attention and thoroughly enjoy good interaction with the staff which enables their individual needs to be met. There are excellent strategies in place to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Some staff have accessed relevant training and links have been forged with outside agencies that can offer help and advice.

Children are encouraged to be involved and staff ensure all children are included. There is an effective equal opportunities policy in place which is implemented by all staff. Children have access to a good range of resources to promote their awareness of diversity and take part in several planned activities to help them understand their own and other cultures and beliefs. Staff are good role models for the children and create an environment that encourages children to behave well. Their positive behaviour is encouraged, praised and they are taught to share, take turns and give consideration to each other.

Staff establish a good relationship with parents and carers which contributes significantly to children's well-being in the nursery. Children are settled-in on a gradual basis which is fully planned with the parents and carers to ensure enough time is allowed. This varies depending on the individual child's needs and how quickly they settle into their new environment. Children's routines are met as the staff ensure these are initially fully detailed and discussed and all children's own routines are adhered to. This includes sleep or nap times and any specific feeding arrangements. Staff welcome parents and carers and share a wealth of relevant information with them. They are initially supplied with a detailed and 'user friendly' information pack which includes the procedures to follow should they have a complaint. There is a notice board which is regularly updated and includes items of news with regard to the setting as well as more general information items about childcare. The effective key worker system ensures that parents and carers are kept fully informed of their child's progress. They are kept well informed of what their children do and their achievements through daily discussions and written information which include any domestic routines and the activities their children have enjoyed taking part in.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced because of the expertise of staff and the good quality organisation. They aim extremely high and never stop in their focus to provide the best care. There is a strong commitment to training from the management, and staff attend ongoing suitable courses and

information sessions. All staff are committed to continuous improvement and development. Children benefit from the staff's development as any new procedures or good practice is incorporated into the care provided. There is an appropriate system in place for the ongoing appraisal of staff. The key worker system is effective and the staff get to know the children extremely well. The service is regularly reviewed as parents' and carers' views and suggestions are taken on board and whenever possible changes are made to accommodate any requests. Appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures are in place which ensure children are well protected and cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development.

Children are being extended and challenged in a safe and stimulating environment that develops their emotional, intellectual, physical and social skills. There are opportunities for children to be valued, cuddled, comforted and their individual needs and personalities are recognised and provided for. The policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety and well-being. There are many detailed documents in place. These are regularly reviewed and updated taking into consideration current legislation affecting the care of children. However, the complaints procedure requires further development to ensure this clearly identifies the latest required procedures to follow.

Children are comfortable in the well-resourced and organised surroundings which are made accessible and welcoming to them. The management and staff are very keen, enthusiastic and work well as a team. The management and staff are committed to a high standard of care in which every child matters. Consequently, this contributes to children's good health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to take an active part in the sessions. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to improve safety to children by ensuring they are not able to access the sleep room where large play equipment is also stored.

A safety gate has now been installed in the doorway of the sleep room which ensures children are not able to access this area without supervision. As a result of this improvement children's safety is assured.

Complaints since the last inspection

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents and carers, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- develop the complaints procedure further to ensure this is in line with the latest legislation and make sure this is shared with staff, parents and carers.

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