

Little Lambs Childcare

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY345593
Inspection date 24 July 2007
Inspector Ann Winifred Harrison

Setting Address Valley House, Rangemoor, Tatenhill Common, Staffordshire, De13 9RS

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Registered person Carole Edith Barker

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?

Little Lambs Childcare at Valley House Tatenhill opened in 2007. The day nursery operates from a listed building, sited on the Rangemore Estate in Burton-on-Trent. It is one of two nurseries run by the owner. The nursery serves the local and surrounding areas. A maximum of 28 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery opens from 07:30 to 18:00 all year round. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 28 children on roll aged from five months to five years. The nursery employs 10 staff of whom eight, including the manager, hold an appropriate early years qualification. Two staff are working towards a relevant qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through well planned routines, such as hand washing before eating and after toileting. They use paper towels to minimise cross infection. The extensive hygiene procedures throughout the setting ensure that children are

cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment. For example, staff wear aprons and gloves when changing nappies and they wipe down the nappy changing unit after each use. There are good procedures in place for sick and infectious children which help prevent the spread of infection and help to keep children healthy.

Children are well nourished. They enjoy healthy meals and snacks which are freshly prepared on site. Meals include meat, fish, vegetarian options, fresh fruit, vegetables and pasta. On the day of inspection children thoroughly enjoyed their lunch which included cheese and potato pie, beans and yoghurt. All meals comply with any special dietary requirements to ensure children remain healthy. Staff work closely with parents to ensure dietary needs are met. Children are given regular drinks through the day and they can help themselves to drinking water at all times. This helps to promote their independence skills. Staff ensure children have extra drinks when the weather is hot, which means children are well hydrated. Children are learning about healthy living through discussion with staff and planned topics. Staff talk to children about the importance of exercise for their bodies and wearing sun cream and sun hats when it is hot.

Staff provide a good range of physical play experiences for all children. Children access outdoor play daily. They take part in a range of activities, such as pedalling bikes, pushing pushchairs and throwing and catching balls. They can practise their climbing and balancing skills on climbing frames and stepping stones. They enjoy playing various games with a large parachute and they join in well with action songs. Children enjoy various opportunities to experience physical exercise indoors, such as weekly ballet sessions and climbing on soft play equipment. This enhances their physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for by staff who ensure that safety is a priority in all areas of children's care. Staff monitor access to the group at all times and all visitors are asked for identification before entering the building. Daily checks on the premises and equipment are made to ensure children are kept safe. Risk assessments are completed, which identify some risks to children. However, these are not specific to the setting and therefore do not identify all risks and how to minimise them. This means children are not fully protected. The outside play area is fully secure and protected by fencing and a gate. Children are well supervised and staff ensure that adult to child ratios are maintained at all times. Fire evacuation procedures are fully understood by staff and are practised regularly, consequently, children's safety is well promoted. All staff are suitably qualified in first aid which ensures injuries to children are appropriately managed.

Children are learning how to keep themselves safe, for example, they understand that they must be careful when they come down the stairs and they know they have to wait until the gates are shut before going outside. They know they not to run in the play rooms and they know they have to wear sun cream and hats when it is hot. Children have access to a wide range of safe toys and equipment, which are well maintained by the setting.

The setting has a detailed policy regarding child protection and all staff have a good understanding of signs and symptoms of abuse and appropriate responses, which helps to keep children safe. Staff are aware of the procedures in the event of allegations made against themselves. As a result, children's safety and well-being are safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The care learning and play experiences for children are good. Children are secure in the nursery's welcoming environment and have positive relationships with staff which increases their sense of trust and well-being. They enter the group confidently and enjoy their time in the setting. An effective key worker system ensures that children and babies are cared for by consistent staff. They benefit from familiar routines and staff are very attentive to their needs. Young children take part in a wide range of well planned activities. For example, they have great fun exploring sensory treasure baskets and they enjoy sand and water play. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and how children learn. Which means they plan a comprehensive range of activities to offer variety to young children. An effective system of observation and assessment is in place and these are used to plan for children's next steps in learning. This helps children to make progress.

Staff plan a stimulating and exciting programme of activities to inspire and challenge older children, as a result children show interest in the activities and high levels of concentration. For example, children use their imagination well as they play in the seaside shop selling sun hats, sun cream and plastic sandals. They learn to write price tickets for the sponge sea horses and sunglasses. Children play happily together and with adults. Staff engage with the children in role play in the garden where they pretend the house is a space rocket and they fly to the moon to collect moon rocks. Staff extend their learning by using mathematical language during play, such as heavy and light, full and empty.

Children benefit from a colourful, stimulating and interesting environment in which they are happy and well cared for. Musical activities include singing and action rhymes which contribute to children's developing communication skills. They enjoy listening to stories and chatting to each other at meal times. As a result children enjoy their time in the setting and are making good progress in their learning and personal development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children benefit from the very good partnership staff have developed with parents. Parents receive good written information on how the setting operates. Information about children's individual care needs are shared between staff and parents through the good settling-in procedure. Parents have regular opportunities to talk to staff and to see the children's developmental progress files. They are also invited to a parents evening twice each year and receive daily written sheets on what the children have been doing. They are kept fully informed of what goes on in the setting through newsletters and notice boards.

Children feel a sense of belonging as they are welcomed into the setting by staff. All children benefit from being cared for as individuals, with their different needs acknowledged and valued by the caring staff. Good use of praise and encouragement by staff build children's self-esteem well. For example, staff tell children 'well done' and 'aren't you clever' when they help to tidy up. Children are involved in making choices about their play. Younger children make their choices from attractive boxes of the toys and older children can help themselves from resources that are easily accessible.

Children behave well. They understand responsible behaviour through boundaries set by staff, who reinforce good behaviour by continuous praise. They are learning to share and take turns

with equipment, for example, they share construction toys and take turns when playing on bikes. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world through planned activities and celebrations, such as Diwali and Chinese New Year. Staff provide resources that positively reflect diversity. Currently there are no children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities or children who speak English as an additional language attending the setting, but staff have past experience and ensure that they work with parents and other professionals to meet each child's needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting is clear in its aim to offer the best for the children in their care. Children benefit from a staff team that are committed to training and development to improve their practice. There are effective recruitment procedures which ensure that staff are appropriately vetted and there is a good level of qualified staff who work with the children. Induction training and regular staff meetings and appraisals ensure staff are clear of their roles and responsibilities. An effective key worker system is in place, which ensures that each child has a named person who takes responsibility for coordinating information about their needs and development. There is a detailed operational plan to support children's play, care and welfare linked to the National Standards.

Staffing ratios are well-maintained resulting in children's care and play being well supported. Space and resources are well-organised which enhances the care offered to children. There are systems in place to register the attendance of staff and children, although these are not always clearly recorded. Younger children benefit from the 'Birth to three matters' framework which is implemented well. Older children are well supported and helped to make progress and to enjoy their play and learning experiences. Staff are enthusiastic and work efficiently together as a team and are committed to continuous improvement and development. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 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.

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 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 further the risk assessment procedures to identify specific risks and actions taken to minimise identified risks
- revise the registration procedure to ensure that staff and children's time of attendance is clearly recorded.

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