

# Lilliput Farm Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY346471
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sylvia Cornock
<b>Setting Address</b>	Lilliput Farm Day Nursery, Big Hind Heath Farm, Hind Heath Road, SANDBACH, Cheshire, CW11 3LZ
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<b>Registered person</b>	Hind Heath Farm Limited
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day care, Out of School 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](http://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?

Lilliput Farm Day Nursery and Out of School club is privately owned. It opened in 1994 and has been under new ownership since 2007. It operates on two floors of a converted farmhouse in Sandbach, Cheshire. There is access to a secure outdoor play area. A maximum of 48 children aged from birth to under eight years may attend the nursery and 22 children aged three to under eight years may attend the out of school club at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday for 52 weeks of the year from 08.00 to 18.00 and the out of school club 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 18.00 term time and 08.00 to 18.00 during school holidays. There are currently 78 children aged from birth to eight years on roll. Of these, 17 children receive funding for nursery education. The setting currently has no children with learning difficulties and disabilities or who speak English as an additional language. The setting employs 16 members of staff and a manager who works directly with the children. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications including the manager who is a qualified teacher. There are currently two members of staff undertaking a childcare early years qualification. The setting receives support from a local authority pedagogue.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's health and well-being are promoted as good health and hygiene procedures help to prevent infection and cross contamination. Staff have clearly established routines for cleaning surfaces, toys and equipment. The clear nappy changing routine is followed appropriately by staff. These measures help to protect children's good health. Older children are developing a good awareness of simple hygiene procedures such as hand washing at appropriate times. Older children show awareness of the purpose of hand washing in removing germs.

Children are well protected due to good sickness, medication, accident and emergency procedures. A clear sickness policy helps protect children from the spread of infection. Staff are careful to ensure that medicines are appropriately administered so that children's health is protected. Many staff hold up to date first aid qualifications, helping to meet children's needs in the event of an accident or emergency. However, written parental permission has not been requested for all children in respect of seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment. This compromises children's safety and well-being.

Children are well nourished and are developing an awareness of the importance of healthy eating. Menus are carefully devised taking into account dietary requirements. Children's particular dietary needs and preferences are well catered for. As a result, children benefit from the provision of excellent quality menus, offering children a balanced and nutritious diet. Children learn to develop a healthy lifestyle through daily outdoor play. They are offered regular drinking water, further promoting their good health and development.

Children's physical development throughout the nursery and out of school provision is promoted well. Children have daily access to a good range of outdoor play equipment to develop skills. For example, as the older children climb and balance on the apparatus and equipment. Younger children show confidence in exploring their physical capabilities using the broad variety of both indoor and outdoor equipment provided.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

The nursery and out of school provides spacious facilities which are very welcoming. Displays of children's work are bright and attractive helping to develop children's sense of belonging. Children are able to move around safely in the well organised environment. Rooms are arranged well to provide different areas for play, rest and having meals. Children have access to an excellent range of clean, safe and well organised equipment in each room. Toys and equipment are suitable for different ages and abilities, meeting children's needs effectively. Children develop independence as they select from the easily accessible equipment.

Very good safety procedures are in place to protect children from hazards and dangers. All staff know who is the nominated person responsible for child protection and are confident in their knowledge and understanding of how to report any concerns. Staff understand their responsibilities to maintain a safe environment and complete risk assessments and daily safety checks. Babies and young children are well monitored when sleeping and placed safely in cots. This helps to ensure that children are well protected. Children learn to keep themselves safe through discussion with staff, for example, about the importance of not running indoors because

of the danger of hurting themselves or others. Children display an awareness of safety in the outdoor play areas as they carefully negotiate space and show consideration to others. The children attending the out of school provision negotiate the stairs with confidence and know how to keep themselves safe within and outside the premises, they are aware of the safety rules.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Staff establish positive relationships with children, helping them to feel settled and secure. Children benefit from a broad range of activities which promote their good all round development. Skilful intervention from staff encourages children to think and make connections. Children learn to explore and investigate using their senses as they feel the textures of different materials and listen to the different sounds they can make with musical instruments. They enjoy looking at books, being creative and experimenting with mark making. Staff make good use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to inform their planning and practice and this has a positive effect on the quality of children's learning. Children in the out of school are settled and happy as they enjoy the many and varied topics and activities provided. They share and take turns as they develop their own play both indoors and outside. Their creative and artistic work is displayed around the room giving them a sense of belonging. Staff engage and interact well with the children promoting children's development and interests.

### **Nursery Education**

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals which is reflected in the wide range of varied and interesting activities planned. As a result children make very good progress. Children are settled and happy due to the calm, positive interaction from staff. They are interested and involved in the activities provided and respond well as staff question them effectively to develop learning. Children are secure in the routines of the nursery and cooperate well together as they take turns and share in the use of the computer. They are becoming confident to talk and express ideas at news sharing time. Children show the ability to communicate meaning through mark making as they happily 'write' in various role play activities. Such as, menus in the Lilliput Café. They enjoy stories and selecting books which they share with each other. They learn to count and are competent in counting to ten in French and English. They use their mathematical knowledge to solve simple problems, such as which is the large, medium and small bear as they play games together. Many are confident in writing numbers on their pictures and in role play. Children learn to explore and investigate as they plant and grow flowers and vegetables. They show confidence in using a computer and electronic equipment to support their learning. Their physical skills are developed through regular planned use of an excellent range of outdoor equipment. However, the provision of more opportunities for children to access the outdoor learning environment during periods of child initiated activities would further develop their independence and physical skills. Children play imaginatively in the role play area and express themselves using a variety of media and musical instruments. They are proud to show their creative pictures and art work which is displayed around the room, enabling them to revisit their contribution.

Staff have a good awareness of children's capabilities and in their day to day teaching build on this to develop learning well. There is a system for recording observations of children's learning which are used consistently and effectively in the planning to reflect and build on what individual children know. All children can choose and are included in all activities and

given a good level of attention. As a result their learning is developed well. The well planned routines of the day helps meet the needs of all children present, giving them time and opportunities to investigate their own play and learning and enjoy some adult directed activities.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children behave exceptionally well as staff give them plenty of praise and support for their efforts and achievements. Staff act as good role models, showing respect and consideration for children and each other. Staff meet individual needs well with regard to behaviour management, offering a clear and consistent approach which takes into account children's stage of development. Children respond well and as a result show a growing awareness of right and wrong.

All children are included in the activities provided and individual needs are well met. This helps to develop children's confidence and self esteem. Staff work effectively with parents and outside agencies to ensure that children who have learning difficulties or disabilities are appropriately catered for and are included, helping to promote their all round development. Children gain awareness of their local environment and the diversity of the wider world through a very good selection of resources and activities that promote positive images. Older children's awareness is well promoted through topic work, such as observing maps and using books with stories and information about 'Africa' and activities such as tasting food from different cultures. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Children benefit from a good partnership with parents and carers. An excellent settling in policy helps children to be reassured and feel that they belong. Parents receive a good level of information about the nursery and its provision. The entrance areas are used well to provide information about day to day events and how children's learning is developed. Photographs of children's involvement in various exciting activities help parents to see how their child spends their day. Parents comment on the many recent improvements and the staff's commitment to ensure that children are happy, and how their child enjoys their time in the nursery and out of school. Parents are encouraged to share information about their child when they join the nursery and continue to share information through regular informal talks with staff. This effective communication between parent and staff helps to promote children's welfare, safety and learning.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the good leadership and management of the nursery. The manager and staff work well together to ensure that children are provided with good quality education. The manager ensures that there are good systems in place for monitoring and evaluating the educational provision. Staff promote the nursery's and out of school's behaviour statement which refers to 'respectful of themselves and others'. This ethos is reflected in all areas of the nursery and is visibly promoted by staff. This means that children are cared for in a positive and supportive environment which effectively promotes their social and moral development. The nursery's strong commitment to improvement is reflected in the programme for staff training and the number of measures planned to further raise the quality of provision, such as plans to provide further training on 'Birth to three matters' for staff. This commitment helps to maintain and improve the quality of care and learning for children.

Most staff are well qualified and have much relevant experience. This has a positive effect on children's learning and welfare. Staffing levels are organised to ensure that they are within the required ratios at all times and that children have a good level of attention and support.

Children are safeguarded as the provider makes rigorous checks to ensure staff suitability before they are employed. Good well written policies and procedures are effectively in place and contribute to positive outcomes for children. Space and resources are organised well to promote children's safety, care and learning.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

### **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 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 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 written parental permission is requested, to seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future for all children attending the nursery or out of school.

#### **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):

- provide more opportunities for children to access the outdoor learning environment during periods of child initiated activities.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)