

Kidsunlimited Nurseries - Eldonians

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY268696
Inspection date	02 October 2007
Inspector	Michele Anne Villiers
Setting Address	Burlington Street, Vauxhall, Liverpool, Merseyside, L3 6LG
Telephone number	0151 298 2521
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Registered person	Kidsunlimited Nurseries
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 good.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kidsunlimited Eldonians Nursery is part of a national chain of nurseries run by a limited company. It opened in 2003 and operates from four rooms in a purpose-built building. It is situated in Vauxhall, Liverpool. A maximum of 60 children may attend the nursery at any one time. It is open each weekday from 07.30 to 18.00 all year round. All children have access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 76 children on roll. Of these, 16 children receive funding for early education. The nursery currently supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 18 staff who work directly with the children. Of these 16 hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff take appropriate steps to help promote hygiene and prevent the spread of infection. For example, tables are frequently washed, protective clothing is worn when necessary, and outdoor shoes are removed or covered when entering the baby room. Children are encouraged to wash their hands throughout the daily routine. However, they are often not reminded about the importance of personal hygiene. Sometimes children fail to use soap when washing their hands. Dental care is occasionally discussed but activities are not planned to further reinforce their learning.

Children develop a positive attitude to fresh air and physical exercise. Outdoors they access some wheeled toys and climbing apparatus. Staff organise games using balls, hoops and stepping stones, helping to foster the children's balance, coordination and stamina. Indoors, they enjoy singing and moving to music. Yoga, baby massage and 'Let's get physical' are also incorporated into the planning. Babies are supported well by staff who help them learn to crawl and walk, gaining good body control.

Children are well nourished and benefit from a nutritious diet. Mealtimes are relaxed and social occasions. Children experience different tastes and textures, such as hummus, pitta bread and couscous. The cook prepares homemade meals at lunchtime and fresh fruit is given daily. Children become skilful using cutlery and confidently feed themselves. They help themselves to drinking water throughout the day in order to quench their thirst.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are secure and all visitors closely monitored, helping to keep children safe. Staff warmly greet the children and parents, creating a welcoming environment. Children play with a wide range of safe and age-appropriate toys and resources. Clear risk assessment is regularly carried out by the staff, helping to protect children from harm.

Children learn about safety. On walks and outings staff demonstrate road safety to children and discuss 'stranger danger' with older children. They learn about the Green Cross Code and have visits from the local police who talk to the children about keeping themselves safe. During role play children have fun dressing up as fire fighter, doctors and nurses. Staff practise the fire evacuation procedure with children, and babies are safely transported outside in specially designed cots.

The children's welfare is further safeguarded as staff have a good awareness of child protection issues. There is a designated coordinator and all staff received in-house training. Babies and toddlers are safely strapped into chairs when necessary, and comfortably sleep in cots. Staff working with babies have received training on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and have an awareness of the preventative steps to take.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Babies and toddlers play with a good range of sensory toys. They develop hand-eye coordination as they skilfully build with blocks and explore different activity centres. They excitedly self-discover as they view themselves in large multi-image mirrors. Young children play with natural materials, such as sand and water, and leaves and twigs from the outside play area. They enjoy art and craft and experiment with different coloured paint and different brushes. They feel the texture of play dough and use various shape cutters to create patterns.

Staff support the children well, helping them to develop in all areas of learning. Babies respond to staff with smiles and chuckles. Staff constantly talk to the children and toddlers respond, mimicking sounds and words. They enjoy singing songs, such as 'Miss Polly had a dolly' and 'The wheels on the bus', copying the actions and words. Staff use planning well to provide interesting play opportunities. They monitor and document the children's progress using the components to the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Nursery Education.

The quality of teaching and learning is good and children are making effective progress towards the early learning goals. Staff enthusiastically motivate children and support them in small groups. Key workers plan and provide interesting activities using the six areas of learning. Good supporting materials and repetition are used to reinforce the children's learning. For example, every month the 'Cookery club' and the 'Green finger's gardening club' are incorporated into the curriculum enabling children to explore their senses using a range of media as they bake and grow different plants.

Children are happy and interested in their play. They confidently speak in group situations and initiate interaction with adults. They demonstrate good concentration and their independence is very much encouraged. Children dress themselves for outdoor play and, at lunchtime, help themselves to plates of food, cutlery and drinks. Children enjoy looking at books and impromptu stories with staff on a one to one basis or in small groups. Many opportunities are provided for children to practise mark making and develop writing skills. They use small sticks to create patterns in the sand and draw around their hands. Focused activities help children to learn about letters and numbers. Children cut out and colour different shapes. Their learning is reinforced at lunchtime when the shapes they have drawn are used to identify the different tables where children sit, such as the 'triangle' table. However, mathematical concepts are not fully promoted during practical activities, such as calculating how many tables, plates, cups are required, or how many children are present.

Children enjoy exploring their environment and examining the seasons. They dig the soil and grow different textured and coloured plants in unusual containers, such as large car tyres. Children learn about animals and bugs, and use magnifying glasses to examine small creatures. They use their imagination well and have fun dressing up and re-enacting home life in the role play area. They express their own ideas during art and craft and create interesting models during construction. Staff use observation to monitor the children's progress. They make comprehensive notes in order to track their development through the stepping stones. These are effectively used for future planning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children confidently contribute to life in the nursery and develop a strong sense of belonging. They become aware of their culture and the culture of others through the celebration of festivals and events. For example, they have a themed breakfast to celebrate American Independence Day, tucking into bagels, waffles and pancakes. Some toys and resources, such as books, dolls, and puzzles reflect positive images. However, there are limited play materials and displayed images of race, culture, gender and disability to fully reinforce the children's learning of diversity.

Children are respected as individuals and their differences acknowledged. They learn about helping others through fundraising events, such as 'The Sponsored Toddler' for Barnardo's. Children are well behaved, cooperative and polite. Staff act as good role models and effectively resolve any conflicts between children in a calm and consistent manner, using appropriate strategies. There is a positive environment that reinforces good behaviour and children are set clear boundaries. The children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered well.

Parents are welcomed into the nursery at all times, helping children to settle. Information is exchanged through informal discussion and displayed written notices. Staff devise reports on young children detailing their progress with the use of photographs, drawings and written documentation. Parents may take these home and contribute their own comments. A written daily diary is also available detailing babies' sleep, food intake and nappy change. Formal parent evenings are arranged twice a year where they may meet with key workers to discuss their child's progress. The partnership with parents of educationally funded children is good. Parents are kept well informed about the children's learning programme and progress. Formal 'Moving on up' sessions are arranged where staff discuss the Foundation Stage with parents of children who start in the pre-school room.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Robust recruitment and vetting procedures of staff help to safeguard children. All supervisory staff are qualified and use their skills and knowledge to provide good quality care. Staff are committed to their work and many have worked in the nursery for several years, providing good continuity of care for children. Staff are clear about their responsibilities and the key worker system is effective in ensuring children's needs are met. Regular training opportunities are available for staff throughout the year, keeping them up to date with new initiatives.

All regulatory documentation is in place with comprehensively written policies and procedures for the effective management of the nursery. The quality of leadership and management of the nursery education is good. There is a strong commitment from management to continually improve the care and education for all children. The provision is closely monitored and the manager meets regularly with staff to oversee the planning of activities. The organisation employs a care and education advisor who regularly visits the nursery to offer support and guidance to staff in relation to the Foundation Stage curriculum. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection it was recommended that the nursery develop an understanding of the procedures to follow with regard to communicable and notifiable diseases, and implement a system to record any incident of physical restraint. A written policy is now in place detailing the exclusion of sick children. A system has been implemented to log any physical restraint incidents.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted that required the provider to take an action in order to meet the National Standards. The complaint related to National Standard 2; staffing ratios. The complainant alleged that the baby room appeared to be occasionally understaffed. Ofsted requested the provider to investigate the concern. The organisation's care and education advisor conducted an inspection visit and investigated the staffing ratios throughout different times of the day. The advisor concluded that on some occasions, during the lunchtime period, extra staff may be required to attend to the needs of babies. The nursery have reviewed and revised their policy to ensure sufficient staff are on duty at all times. Ofsted are satisfied with the provider's response and that the nursery continues 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.

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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):

- help children to understand the importance of personal hygiene through practical and planned activities
- increase toys, resources and displayed images throughout the nursery to fully reflect diversity.

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):

- incorporate opportunities for children to become more familiar with mathematical concepts and calculation into the children's daily routine and practical 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