

Little Lingfields

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY346141
Inspection date	12 November 2007
Inspector	Pauline Pinnegar
Setting Address	Building 9, Lingfield Point, McMullen Road, Darlington, DL1 1RW
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Registered person	Nicola Marie McGee
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 Lingfields Day Nursery is a privately owned provision and has been registered since May 2007. The nursery operates from four rooms within a single storey building in the grounds of Lingfield Point business park in Darlington. A maximum of 43 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30 to 18.00 for all of the year apart from Christmas and bank holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently eight children on roll, aged from five months to two years old on roll. Children come from the surrounding areas. The nursery employs five staff. Of the staff employed, four staff including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is working towards a qualification. The nursery receives some support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children thrive because staff follow effective procedures and practices which meets children's physical, nutritional and health needs. The good adult support and guidance helps children begin to gain a sound understanding of hygiene. Staff follow effective routines with very young children in relation to their personal care. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands before lunch and at snack time. Daily routines reinforce good hygiene and act as helpful reminders to encourage children's increasing independence. Staff follow clear, efficient hygiene routines. They wear disposable gloves when nappy changing and ensure toys and equipment are very clean and well maintained. This sustains high levels of hygiene and helps prevent the spread of infection, which protects children's health. Children under two years benefit from flexible daily routines, which allows them to have quiet time or sleep that reflects their individual requirements. Staff liaise closely with parents to establish a shared understanding about their care needs. They recognise the signs of tiredness in babies and respond appropriately, so that their needs for sleep and rest are met. Children are made to feel special, as they enjoy lots of cuddles and gentle conversation with well known staff.

Children enjoy physical activity both indoors and outdoors. They are helped to develop physical control through a range of interesting daily experiences. Babies and young children keenly take an interest in the suitable range of activities on offer to them, such as sensory toys and music. They enjoy playing in the garden, using the pushchairs and a range of 'sit and ride' toys. Toddlers enjoy climbing, crawling and rolling, showing developing skills in their movements as they use the soft play equipment indoors. They develop hand eye coordination they handle the various resources.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. The food provided promotes healthy eating, it is varied, well presented and full of fresh ingredients. The menu complies with all individual dietary needs to ensure that parental wishes are followed and individuals' needs are met appropriately. Toddlers are gaining independence in feeding themselves. Children are offered a choice of good quality snacks including fresh fruit. Drinks are available in individual feeding cups throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a mainly safe and secure environment. The well designed setting has effective security precautions in place, for example, there is a clear log of visitors to the building in the main reception area and all doors remain locked, so that no one can gain unauthorised entry. In addition, closed circuit television and internally coded doors are used. Children's safety is mainly risk assessed to a suitable level. However, not all creams and cleaning materials are stored safely, in order that children cannot access them easily. This poses a potential safety risk to children. The fire evacuation procedure is not displayed in all areas of the nursery, to clearly inform all people present, including visitors. However, it is understood by all staff and is practised regularly with children. Staff have a good understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits for children. All children are able to move safely and freely between activities.

Children have access to a good range of age appropriate and very good quality play equipment. Children's safety is also monitored well, as equipment and play areas are regularly checked. Children have opportunities to independently access this equipment, as it is presented for self selection. They have good opportunities to choose their activities. Their safety is further promoted as all equipment is placed in low storage cabinets or on the floor.

There is a clear lost and uncollected child policy in place. Staff have a sound understanding of their roles and responsibilities under child protection and the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. There procedures are in place in the event of an allegation against staff. This means that the welfare of children is satisfactorily protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children approach staff easily, freely cuddle up and respond with affection, enjoying the attention and being physically close to familiar adults. Staff echo the sounds young children make and they interpret meaning to their words, which encourages them to be confident and competent language users. Staff interact well with the children at their level, which positively encourages them to talk and express themselves imaginatively. The children benefit from familiar routines. Young children enjoy a good range of discovery and sensory resources. Staff actively encourage them to interact and use sounds, gestures and basic language by playing with them on their level and responding to them appropriately. Older children between 18 months and two years are confident and are becoming increasingly independent. The good variation of resources allows children to explore, experiment and investigate extremely well. Children's self esteem is promoted very well by staff who are interested in them and they receive lots of praise and encouragement.

Children are very eager to participate and are highly motivated. Staff are very sensitive towards their individual needs and meet these fully. All children make very good progress because staff recognise the uniqueness of each child. Close and caring relationships increase the children's sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self. They begin to play happily together and with adults enjoying using resources such as puzzles, games, small world toys and construction toys. Equipment to promote children's physical development both large and fine motor skills are also used, such as paint brushes and wheeled toys. All the equipment is suitable to their age and stage of development. Practitioners good use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework is improving children's achievements. They have a secure understanding of the range of experiences, which enables young children to make greater use of their senses and creative abilities. Musical activities include singing to tapes, which contributes to children's developing communication skills. Books are used successfully to develop children's language. Children enjoy stories and are developing their listening skills. Exploration with paint, water and 'junk modelling' helps children represent their experiences, feelings and ideas in a variety of ways. Children are just beginning to use their imagination well in role play in the shop, playing with the dolls and buggies in the garden.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed because staff value and respect their individuality and the family context for each child. Children enjoy mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. They develop self esteem and confidence, as they make choices and decisions about

activities and resources they wish to access. There is a satisfactory range of resources that reflect diversity within the setting. This helps children develop a positive attitude to others. Children are becoming suitably aware of wider society. For example, they celebrate different cultural and religious festivals, such as Diwali and Remembrance Sunday, at a level that is meaningful to children. Appropriate systems are in place to promote the welfare and development of children with learning difficulties and disabilities within the setting. There is a named coordinator in place who has recently attended relevant training.

Children benefit from the positive partnership staff have developed with parents. Staff work closely with parents to ensure they follow their home routine. For example, verbal and written communications are effective, settling-in arrangements are very flexible. There is a range of written information provided for parent. However, the nursery's written policies and procedures are not easily accessible to parents, as they are stored in the office. Staff have a high regard for respecting parent's views and wishes, which ensures children's individual needs are well met.

Staff clearly know all children very well. Children are encouraged and made to feel valued and important by staff, as they interact effectively when they tell and read stories together. Children behave well and this is managed consistently at all times in a calm, relaxed manner, using entirely appropriate strategies. Children develop self esteem because they receive plenty of positive encouragement from staff who play with them in a very cheerful and enthusiastic manner.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is enhanced by the effective organisation of the provision, with a clear management structure in place. Staff are suitably vetted and the majority are qualified or working towards a childcare qualification. The premises are well organised and indoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. As well as all attending courses in first aid, child protection and basic food hygiene, all staff are positively encouraged and supported to attend further training, which is extremely beneficial to the children. Ratios of staff to children and appropriate group sizes are very well met at all times, which ensures good outcomes for children.

Documentation that contributes to children's wellbeing is in place. However, written policies for the administration of medicines and the management of complaints, contains conflicting details from the information given to parents in the registration pack. Therefore, they do not accurately reflect the practice within the nursery. Also a clear system for logging complaints in line with changes to regulations has not been fully developed.

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

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):

- display the emergency evacuation procedure in all activity rooms
- ensure all creams and cleaning materials are safe and inaccessible to children
- ensure all policies and procedures are easily accessible to parents
- review the written policies for complaints and medication, to ensure they are detailed and include the correct information
- develop a clear written procedure for logging complaints in line with changes to regulations.

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