

Wishing Well Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	253398
Inspection date	08 February 2008
Inspector	Ann Keen
Setting Address	2 Oakfields Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5DN
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Registered person	Wishing Well Day Nurseries Ltd
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?

Wishing Well Day Nursery opened in 1998. It operates from a converted building in the Lady Bay area of West Bridgford. There are separate rooms for the different age groups of children. There is also an enclosed outdoor play area, a soft play room, indoor play areas, toilets and changing facilities and a kitchen. The nursery serves the local area.

There are currently 156 children aged from six weeks to 11 years on roll. This includes 22 funded children. The nursery supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week, 51 weeks a year. Sessions are from 07:45 to 18:00. Children attend a variety of sessions each week.

There are 16 staff working with the children, 14 of these hold early years qualifications and one member of staff is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The nursery receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a healthy diet, they enjoy nutritious meals which are prepared each day by the cook. The menus comply with all special dietary requirements and this ensures children remain healthy. The older children can independently help themselves to fresh drinking water throughout the day and serve themselves snacks. Younger children are offered drinks regularly. Children enjoy sociable mealtimes where they eat comfortably around the table with their friends and staff. There are suitable health and hygiene policies and procedures in place which are generally well implemented and these procedures enable children to be cared for in an environment that reduces the risk of infection. On occasions, however, staff use procedures which do not fully promote good hygiene practices when cooling food. Children understand the importance of washing their hands after going to the toilet but older children are not always encouraged to wash their hands before helping themselves to snacks. Children in the after-school club are well aware of good hygiene practices. The building is kept to a high standard of cleanliness to ensure children are kept protected from germs.

Many staff are first aid trained and this ensures children's welfare in the event of an incident. Although accidents are generally accurately recorded, signatures are not always requested from parents to acknowledge an accident. Children's physical development is well supported through the use of the wide range of resources available and the nursery provides children with good opportunities for fresh air and exercise to maintain their health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The staff provide a warm welcome to the children and parents when bringing their children into the nursery to settle them. The building is well maintained and decorated with children's artwork and posters. The nursery is exceptionally well equipped with appropriate furniture and resources which are safe and well maintained. All equipment is fit for purpose and children have access to good quality resources. This ensures that children are well protected from hazards. A generally high level of supervision also promotes children's safety as staff monitor their activities. There is suitable equipment for babies to eat comfortably in highchairs and rest in individual cots. Children's independence is very well promoted as they are able to explore their environment and make choices about their play from the extensive activities.

Good security precautions are in place on the front entrance. Parents or visitors cannot enter the nursery beyond the reception area without staff authorisation. Video cameras are installed in specific areas to ensure children's security. Children practise regular fire drills which helps them gain a good understanding of fire safety issues. Staff have a secure understanding and knowledge of child protection issues; they are aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and know the reporting procedure to follow if concerned for a child's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and enjoy their time at nursery where they acquire new skills and knowledge in a supporting and stimulating environment. Staff working with the children under three years use 'Birth to three matters', a framework to support children in their earliest years, to plan

exciting and varied activities effectively. This helps to encourage and develop children's early developmental skills. Babies and toddlers are confident to explore their surroundings and choose toys to play. Sensory and creative experiences are used particularly well and younger children delight in hand painting and exploring play dough and sand. All children are well supported by close and caring relationships with staff who provide guidance and support to children as required. Staff provide outdoor play when possible and designated space for physical play is used inside on a regular basis so children are able to engage in boisterous activity.

Children in the after-school club are able to participate in a wide variety of activities. Staff plan specific activities such as those concerned with Chinese New Year as well as free choice activities so children are able to relax and follow their own wishes and interests effectively. Children can use the computers to access the internet safely and securely. They can play snooker, play boxed games or 'chill out', for example. Staff support children's interests and hobbies by taking them to and from local school for clubs such as 'jazz dance'.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Staff have a good knowledge of the Foundation Stage and how children develop. They plan an interesting variety of activities which motivates children to learn, such as playing with wet and dry sand, constructing with wooden blocks and completing puzzles. Plans target specific children, helping to move them forward in their learning. Staff are aware of the learning intentions so they are clear in their thinking about what they want the children to learn from activities. They use a range of teaching methods to help children learn; they provide child-initiated and adult-led activities. Staff have worked hard to improve their practice and have thought very hard about making a system that works well in their situation for the children. Children have much time throughout the day for free choice play although staff also plan focussed activities, where staff work directly with groups of children encouraging their learning further. Staff observe children's development and they record progress in children's individual development files well. They are still developing their system but they are aware of children's next steps for learning and keyworkers understand their own group's needs well. They have worked hard to create an environment based on children's interests to promote learning effectively. The nursery has an exceptional amount of space and a very wide selection of resources to support children's learning. They have recently reorganised the rooms to provide children with independence and choice, however, staff have not yet fully adapted to managing children and their activities in these circumstances. Consequently, on occasions, children's learning is not fully promoted.

Children's knowledge, skills and understanding are developing appropriately to help them to progress towards the early learning goals. Children have positive and enthusiastic attitudes to play so they achieve well during their time in the nursery. They are developing their independence extremely well and can confidently choose activities for themselves. Children enjoy using the computer which contributes to their overall learning and develops their co-ordination effectively. They learn about information technology when they use the computer to draw and 'telephone' grandma to discuss arrangements. They learn to recognise their names, helping the early stages of reading. Children enjoy sharing books with staff or with a friend and sit for prolonged periods of time engaged in stories talking about the pictures to extend their understanding. Children show a keen interest in making marks on paper to represent meaning, and older children are learning to form recognisable letters correctly. Activities are well planned to help children count and recognise numbers; fishing for numbers in the water tray, for example. Plans to develop children's physical skills are suitable; when they are unable to go outside due to bad weather children play inside on both large and small apparatus such

as slides, rockers and climbing equipment. Children confidently make their own constructions using commercially produced materials, supporting their imagination well. Children's manipulative skills are supported effectively by controlling small 'tools' such as sieves, pens and paintbrushes. Children frequently engage in activities that help them to express their ideas and develop their creative skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in an emotionally warm, child friendly environment where staff are fully informed about children's individual needs. The nursery has a policy on behaviour management and children generally have a good understanding of the behavioural expectations and play well together in a relaxed environment. Children participate and acknowledge various festivals and celebrations throughout the year and this increases children's awareness of diversity and understanding of others in the world. This positive approach fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The setting has a clear understanding of the needs of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There is a special needs co-ordinator worker present who can be designated to work with children, parents and any outside agencies.

Staff welcome parents into the setting and the nursery provides written information each day on how their child has been, along with verbal feedback. Information is available on the notice boards regarding the day-to-day activities the children are involved in. Babies' routines are respected so they feel secure.

The partnership with parents and carers of children in receipt of early education is good. Parents are able to talk to staff about their children's educational progress. This gives staff a good chance to inform parents about their children's learning. Parents receive good quality information about the educational provision and they are encouraged to be involved in their children's learning through initiatives such as taking 'Wishing Well Bear' home and bring resources in to participate in topics.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children's care, learning and play is supported by good organisation and they have an excellent amount of space and a very wide range of resources. Most staff working directly with the children hold a recognised childcare qualification, and robust recruitment procedures ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. Generally, the required documentation and records are in place to ensure the smooth running of the nursery. Sufficient staff are employed and specific staff are brought in for lunchtimes and the after-school club to ensure children are safe. The nursery is well organised to provide a welcoming and child-friendly environment. The open plan environment is generally well managed to ensure children have a very wide variety of exciting experiences. However, on occasions staff are not deployed fully effectively to support children's welfare. Generally good adult to child ratios positively contribute to children's good health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to take an active part in the nursery. An operational plan is in place which includes extensive policies and comprehensive documentation which reflect the practice well. These include a fire evacuation policy, health and safety and safeguarding children policies. Overall children's needs are met.

The leadership and management of nursery education is good. There is a suitable commitment to staff development and training is encouraged to enhance and build skills further. The nursery

has regular staff meetings and they identify their own future developments. They have good systems in place to monitor and evaluate the provision, consequently children benefit from continual improvement to the nursery.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last combined inspection the nursery was required to develop arrangements to share information on children's progress and develop learning at home. The nursery has developed initiatives to report on children's progress and provides information for parents to encourage their children's interest in activities. This ensures the nursery and home are working together for the benefit of the children. The nursery was also asked to improve the use of assessments to plan for children's progress. They have worked hard to improve their systems so children's individual learning needs are met. They were required to ensure the accident book was kept accurately. Although they now make sure the children's names are fully recorded, on occasions staff do not ensure parents sign it so parents are fully informed about their children's injuries at nursery. The final recommendation from the last inspection was to ensure that the complaints procedure is kept in line with current requirements. This is now in place so parents are well informed of events so children are safeguarded.

Complaints since the last inspection

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 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):

- take positive steps to adhere to good hygiene practices with regard to hand washing and cooling food
- ensure the accident record is always signed by parents or carers.

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):

- develop all staff's skills in managing children and the activities (this also applies to care).

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