

Elm Grove Pepperpot Baby Unit

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	130685
Inspection date	07 November 2007
Inspector	Fran Fielder
Setting Address	Elm Grove School, Elm Grove, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 3ES
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Registered person	Pepper Pot Nursery Ltd
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?

Elm Grove Pepperpot Baby Unit is privately owned and was established in 1998. The nursery is situated in a former school building. It is a single storey building with access to a fully enclosed outdoor area.

The nursery is open 08.00 to 17.45 Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year and cares only for children aged under two years. The children leave the unit at the age of two years and parents can apply for a place at another nursery in the chain that cares for older children.

The nursery is registered to care for a maximum of 14 children at any one time. There are currently 17 children on roll. Including the manager there are six members of staff, of whom five hold appropriate childcare qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Babies play in a warm and comfortable environment where staff maintain high levels of cleanliness. Staff and visitors remove outdoor shoes before entering the nursery. This ensures the floor remains clean and hygienic. Staff help toddlers establish excellent hygiene routines by introducing hand washing after nappy changes. Children have their own face flannels and are encouraged to wipe noses with support. Nappy changing routines are excellent and prevent the spread of infection.

Staff gather detailed information from parents regarding individual feeding routines and diets. Excellent support and encouragement means children enjoy their food and become independent in feeding themselves. A variety of nutritious snacks such as fruit, vegetables and rice cakes establish good eating habits from a very young age. Cool boiled water is always available and babies soon learn to recognise their own cups.

Young children enjoy physical play both indoors and out. Key workers ensure each child has a physical session where they are encouraged to move to music, crawl through tunnels, jump and bounce, and roll on soft mats. Walks to the local library, to the garden centre to buy fish food, or just around the block ensures plenty of fresh air and the opportunity for young children to become familiar with their local environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a lovely environment with interactive mobiles, beautiful displays and cosy corners. There is a wide range of safe toys and resources that encourage exploration and support development. The sleep room is inviting with soft music playing which soothes young children when settling down for a nap. Staff monitor sleeping children to ensure they are safe and comfortable.

The premises are very secure. Staff record daily risk assessments to ensure all areas are safe and clean for young children. Toys and resources as well as items such as finger guards, stair gates and socket covers are checked every week. Staff practice fire evacuation drills each month. These are evaluated carefully to see where to improve the speed and efficiency of escape in the event of an emergency. All outings are assessed before the visit and staff carry all necessary equipment to meet individual needs.

Staff discuss child protection issues regularly. They are aware of their role and the importance of monitoring concerns. There are good procedures in place to support and safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Toddlers and babies are exceptionally content. They enjoy plenty of attention from their key workers and love being physically close to other children and familiar adults. Staff are extremely warm and gentle supporting children as they explore the environment. Staff ensure children are surrounded by familiar sights, sounds and smells. Treasure baskets, full of interesting items

both natural and man made, stimulate young children's senses. Staff respond extremely well to early attempts at vocalising. They talk to young children explaining what they are doing which encourages children to link words with actions.

Young children love to study their faces in the mirror and recognise themselves as being separate from others. When playing with balloons, they squeal with delight as the balloons escape their grip and float away. Chasing after the balloons demonstrates an early eagerness to persist at tasks. Painting and music are regular features of the day and children love to listen to staff singing nursery rhymes. In the role-play area, children 'make' toast, 'prepare' and 'heat' food and share what they have 'cooked'. Babies love to play 'peek-a-boo'. They wait in anticipation and laugh aloud as their carers 'reappear'.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff gather all relevant information about children before they start at the nursery. This means staff can continue established routines ensuring individual needs are met. Staff chat about children's families helping toddlers learn the names of older siblings and others who are important in their lives. Staff help babies and toddlers to recognise themselves as separate from others by pointing to their noses, eyes and toes.

Staff have a good awareness of how to support individuals who need specific care. The communication with parents in determining needs is extremely good. Staff do not have trouble with young children's behaviour. This is because children receive constant attention.

Parents receive good information about the nursery although some details are out of date. Settling in procedures are excellent. Over the first month, children attend various sessions that gradually get longer depending on the individual child. This allows them to become familiar with the staff and the environment. The nursery regularly asks for feedback in the form of questionnaires. A daily information sheet gives parents details of their child's day. Parents have formal meetings with their child's key worker to discuss children's development. Regular newsletters keep parents informed of local events and many become involved in charity fundraising such as 'Children in Need'. Parents also enjoy various social events organised by the staff.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home in the well-organised environment. All receive good support from a staff group that enjoy their company and know them. This, together with consistent routines ensures children feel secure and confident.

An experienced and very competent manager leads a dedicated and talented staff team. Clear communication and guidance allows them to provide a stimulating and well-balanced programme of activities. The procedures for appointing and inducting staff ensures that adults are suitable and have a good understanding of their role. Monthly meetings and annual appraisals help the manager assess the ongoing suitability of staff and helps to identify training needs.

All mandatory records are in place, confidential and well maintained. This guarantees the safe and effective management of the setting in order to promote children's welfare. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the group was asked to increase the range of resources that reflect diversity and to review and update the operational plan.

There is now a good range of resources that reflect diversity. Children see positive images of all people in society on posters and in books. This helps children develop a positive attitude towards differences.

The operational plan has been reviewed and updated. It contains all relevant information and is used successfully as a working document.

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.

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):

- ensure the contact details for the registering body in the parent information file is correct

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