

# Phoenix Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	130708
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Fran Fielder

<b>Setting Address</b>	Phoenix Residency Halls, Flat 2, Block E, Southover Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 9WN
<b>Telephone number</b>	01273 277 016
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	University of Brighton
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<b>Type of care</b>	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](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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Phoenix Nursery opened in 1998. It operates from a ground floor flat in the halls of residence for students attending courses at the university. The nursery is close to Brighton city centre. There are three rooms used by the children. There are kitchen and toilet facilities and a fully enclosed outdoor play area. There are separate staff facilities and an office. The nursery caters for children of staff and students at the university.

There are currently 16 children, aged from two to four years, on roll. This includes five children in receipt of nursery education funding. The setting makes provision for children with learning difficulties and disabilities and supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week for 45 weeks. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 08.30 until 17.15, Wednesday from 08.30 until 16.00 and Friday from 08.30 until 17.00. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

There are five members of staff who work with the children, of whom four have a recognised early years qualification and one is on a training programme. The setting receives support from

the Local Authority. The nursery is an accredited member of the Quality Improvement in Learning and Teaching (QUILTS) quality assurance scheme.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from playing in a beautifully clean environment. They develop an excellent understanding of the importance of good personal hygiene through well-planned topics and explanation from staff. Children automatically wash their hands after visiting the toilet and cover their mouths when sneezing or coughing. Very effective procedures for the care of sick and injured children ensure that their welfare is given high priority. Staff keep parents fully informed of any health concerns or accidents through extremely well-maintained documentation.

Children receive a wide variety of healthy snacks, many of which they prepare themselves, such as vegetable soup, sandwiches and fruit smoothies. They learn about nutrition through topics such as 'Healthy Eating' and learn about food from other countries. Children also learn about different dietary needs as staff introduce foods that exclude certain ingredients. Staff ensure parents provide well-balanced packed lunches by giving advice and monitoring the contents. Staff are careful to ensure their own meals and snacks reflect current healthy eating guidelines. This ensures children develop good eating habits from an early age. Cooking activities involve children in discussion about healthy foods and those that are eaten as a treat.

An extensive range of activities keeps children healthy and supports their physical development. Indoors they love music and movement. Staff make space for children to enjoy physical role-play inside. Outside they play on climbing frames, ride on wheeled toys and enjoy digging. Easy access to the enclosed outdoor play area ensures children get plenty of fresh air. Staff use the outdoors for all activities that take place indoors giving children different experiences that nurture a love of the outdoors.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in a wonderfully inviting environment where they can move around easily. The vibrant posters and colourful displays make the nursery extremely stimulating and welcoming. There are areas for relaxation and children enjoy sitting on child-sized sofas and armchairs to read or chat to friends. The dedicated messy play area allows children the freedom to explore their creative skills. Children choose freely from an extensive range of well chosen, good quality toys and resources.

The premises are extremely secure with a very effective entry system which ensures only known visitors can gain access. Regular fire drills ensure staff and children can evacuate the building quickly in the event of an emergency. Staff are extremely proactive in assessing all areas of the nursery. They use the accident book to identify problem areas and adapt procedures to keep children safe at all times. Children learn how to keep themselves safe through excellent explanation and gentle reminders from staff.

Staff have an excellent understanding of their role in protecting the children in their care. They know how to proceed if they are worried about a child and are fully aware of their responsibility to report any concerns. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children relish their time at nursery. They are extremely happy, confident and enthusiastic. Staff create a wonderful atmosphere where everybody is welcomed and valued for the contribution they make. Staff use the Birth to three framework and take account of the different kind of support that children under three years need. A wonderful variety of activities delight and stimulate the children.

### **Nursery Education**

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Staff have a superior knowledge of how children learn and plan extremely well to create an exceptionally well balanced curriculum that enables children to excel in all areas of learning. Staff are exceptionally creative and naturally talented and their enthusiasm ensures children develop a real passion for learning. Staff skilfully use 'Lola the tiger' to develop children's listening and social skills. This is a huge success as children sit together, take turns to speak and listen intently to each other. Extremely well-supported role-play allows children to act out a range of scenarios that help them make sense of the world.

The programme to support children's personal, social and emotional development is excellent. Careful attention is paid to ensuring children are happy, secure, confident and independent. Children have such a positive attitude to learning, which guarantees success. Staff value conversation and constant interaction with the children builds important language skills. Labels around the room help children understand that print carries meaning and children are keen to demonstrate their knowledge of letters and numbers. As staff read favourite stories children listen intently and comment on the pictures. Children love to 'write' and spend time writing letters and invitations and making shopping lists. They learn about different forms of communication, such as Braille, sign language, emails and texting.

Children count confidently and use mathematical language while playing, demonstrating a real understanding of number. They develop a very good understanding of early calculation through everyday activities such as singing 'Five Aliens in a Flying Saucer' and 'On Monday, one dinosaur came up to me'. Children look at car number plates, clocks, road signs and telephone numbers. Seeing how numbers are used in every day life makes their relevance clear.

Children love to play in the 'office' where they use a range of information and communication technology. Visitors to the nursery help children understand the world around them and the importance of things such as recycling. They learn about the role of the emergency services in helping the general public. They design and create their own collages and models using a fabulous range of materials. They paint, draw and colour showing remarkable observational skills. They demonstrate excellent fine motor skills as they saw wood and use hammers and nails to construct complex designs. While learning about American Indians they work collaboratively to make their own tepees.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Staff gather detailed information about every child before they start at the nursery. An initial assessment completed with parents ensures staff are well prepared to support individuals right from the start. Staff value individuality and extend activities based on children's preferences.

Resources and activities encourage children to develop a positive attitude towards others and understand the value of diversity. Children learn to appreciate a wide range of cultures by finding out about each other's backgrounds. Parents contribute by sharing information about festivals and cooking food from their home country. Staff and children use sign language as a way of enhancing understanding for all. Close liaison with parents and outside agencies ensures all children's needs are well planned for and met.

Children behave exceptionally well. They are kind to each other and constant praise from staff reinforces positive behaviour. Staff's consistent approach and clear explanation ensures children learn right from wrong and the consequences of their actions. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

The partnership with parents and carers is outstanding. Parents are exceptionally pleased with the service provided. They find staff friendly and genuinely interested in their children. Parents receive detailed information about the Foundation Stage of learning which is clear and easy to understand. There are both formal and informal systems in place for staff and parents to share information about children's individual progress and development. Regular newsletters and information about how to support children at home contribute towards children's progress. A constant two way flow of information ensures every aspect of a child's needs is met.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from an extremely well-organised environment. Staff show a clear understanding of their role as they work directly with the children at all times, ensuring excellent supervision and support. Effective procedures for recruitment and induction ensure that staff are suitable and have a good knowledge of the working practice of the nursery. All required documentation is regularly reviewed to ensure it meets requirements. Policies and procedures reflect practice and staff's knowledge of these ensures the smooth running of the nursery.

Leadership and management are outstanding. Management have very clear objectives and defined roles and responsibilities. They evaluate practice constantly to ensure they are meeting every child's developmental needs. A very secure management structure supports and guides staff, allowing them to meet the nursery aims and provide a child-centred quality service. Staff work exceptionally well together and focus on the children's welfare and enjoyment. Excellent communication allows staff to plan and implement an exciting and fun-packed curriculum. The nursery meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last care inspection, the nursery agreed to amend their registration system and to ensure children's privacy when using the toilet. The registration system clearly shows times of arrival and departure. A stable door has been fitted in the children's toilets allowing children complete privacy.

At the last education inspection, the nursery were asked to include differentiation in their planning. Staff make excellent use of their observations and the children's records of achievement. They plan exceptionally well and include differentiation for groups or individuals. This ensures every child is suitably challenged to help them make progress in all areas of learning.

## **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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

## **WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?**

### **The quality and standards of the care**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

### **The quality and standards of the nursery education**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of nursery education are outstanding.

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)