

Millfields Nursery School Community Services

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY269206
Inspection date	21 February 2008
Inspector	Susan Rogers
Setting Address	Lichfield Road, Bloxwich, Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 3LU
Telephone number	01922 714830
E-mail	postbox@millfields-n.walsall.sch.uk
Registered person	The Governing Body of Millfields Nursery School
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Millfields Nursery School Community Services opened in 2003. It is a neighbourhood nursery for the community and is situated on the Walsall Academy site in the Bloxwich area of Walsall. The setting offers a nursery, wraparound and play scheme provision. A maximum of 56 children may attend at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08:00 to 18:00 all year round. The wraparound service operates before and after school, during lunch times and during term time. The play scheme operates during school holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 82 children from eight months to eight years on roll. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The nursery employs 12 staff who work directly with the children and all of whom have an appropriate qualification. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from exemplary opportunities that help them understand the purpose of healthy eating. All meals and snacks are very well-balanced and have good nutritional content. The extensive variety of food offered encourages children to widen their palates, sample different foods and includes food that reflects different cultures. Meals and snacks are served at relevant times of the day providing children with a solid structure which promotes their sense of security. A positive environment is provided when children eat their meals encouraging their social skills. For example, younger children sit at child size tables with others and older children eat in the on-site Academy restaurant promoting their self-confidence.

The robust and well presented documentation protects children's well-being and are shared with parents. For example, all dietary requirements and referred to when meals are being prepared and served and accidents are recorded with parents signing to acknowledge the entry.

There are plentiful opportunities for children to enjoy fresh water and drinks of their preference promoting their well-being. For example, children bring in a familiar bottle or cup from home and these are stored so that they are visible. Excellent monitoring and staff supervision ensure that children drink frequently particularly during the warmer months. They are exceptionally well protected as most staff have a current paediatric first aid qualification and know how to react if there are any concerns over children's health. Children's protection in the sun is taken very seriously providing commendable protection for their well-being. They are extremely well protected in the cold weather and during outdoor play as staff encourage children to put on their own coats promoting their independence. Outdoor clothing is supplemented where necessary by the setting which protects children's well-being.

The exceptional hygiene routines protect children from illness and infection. Explanations which are easily understood by children encourage their understanding and how to protect themselves. For example, children are beginning to appreciate that washing hands before eating can prevent illness. The meticulous routines that include cleaning the nappy changing area after each change and stringent hygiene precautions during serving and preparing meals protects children's well-being. Children develop excellent physical skills as they use paintbrushes, pencils, scissors, wheeled toys and climbing frames.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The meticulous risk assessments keep children safe while they play. For example, staff have completed risk assessment training and all areas are subject to rigorous visual inspection. The premises are maintained to an exceptional high standard and all repairs are promptly completed protecting children's welfare. The safety of children is given very high regard which protects their well-being. There is a generous staff ratio and the supervision of children is exemplary protecting their safety. Staff are very aware of children's individual abilities and are consistently alert to their activities protecting children's well-being. Children's independence is promoted as they are actively encouraged to explore the setting. Children have exceptional protection if there are concerns about their care most staff have attended child protection training and parents have been informed of their obligations.

The exciting and stimulating premises provides children with immense learning opportunities. For example, there is a wide range of three-dimensional wall displays that are placed at children's height encouraging their curiosity and investigation skills. The premises are cool, well ventilated and benefit from a great deal of natural light promoting children's well-being. A wide variety of photographs of children engaged in activities, are attractively displayed promoting children's sense of belonging.

That provision of high-quality safety equipment promotes children's welfare. For example, there are gates preventing children accessing the nappy changing room and kitchen, all exit points are securely locked and adults entering the premises are carefully monitored. Children are learning about the dangers of fire through the regular evacuation practices. Their safety is further protected as all fire detection and prevention equipment is meticulously maintained.

Children access a wealth of exciting resources and activities which promotes their learning. For example, there is a sandpit and a variety of wheeled toys and climbing equipment outdoors. High-quality furniture and indoor equipment meets British Standards and provide excellent learning opportunities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their communication skills. For example, younger babies communicate with gestures and noises. Older children are learning to use a wide vocabulary and are very confident in instigating conversations with adults and each other. The rich learning environment includes many opportunities for staff to communicate with children, introduced new words and enjoy stories. Consequently, children regularly involve each other in conversation which promotes their enjoyment of including each other in their play. Staff eagerly engage children in frequent conversations, explaining words and encouraging recall. Interesting questions are presented to children which promotes their imagination. For example, staff ask children what they can taste and what will happen to their ice cream if the weather is hot.

Children's independence is given great encouragement. Their self-esteem is actively promoted, for example, babies are well supported as they are encouraged to feed themselves and clean their hands and faces with damp facecloth following their meal. They enjoy immense feelings of security, for example, younger children frequently enjoy hugs and cuddles whilst they are falling asleep or being bottle fed. Staff have a very thorough knowledge of children's individual needs as and use the information to provide very specific individualised care.

Children learn quickly as the activities are well-planned and thoroughly engaged children's development in all areas. Consequently, children approach the activities with great relish and enormous enthusiasm. For example, children's development is greatly challenged as they enjoy experimenting with shaving foam, corn flour and paint. They enjoy rewarding experiences and enjoy the sensations as they place their feet and hands in the mixture.

Staff excel in their commitment towards meeting children's individual needs promoting a wide range of learning opportunities for children. A higher staffing ratio is employed that ensures that children's needs are always met. A wide variety of both modular and professional training opportunities ensure that staff develop excellent skills so that they can confidently support children's progress. The detailed and meticulous planning and assessment system follows the

'Birth to three matters' framework and ensures that children's development is closely monitored providing first-rate opportunities for their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children wholeheartedly respond to clearing away activities at the end of each session. Consequently, older children demonstrate high levels of responsibility. All children behave extremely well responding positively to praise and explanations. They cooperate very well with routines and are consistently and meaningfully involved in a wide range of activities that engage their imagination and attention. They are learning that play is significantly more enjoyable when they share and include others.

Children's self-esteem is greatly encouraged as they are consistently recognised as individuals. They have their differing needs comprehensively met as staff have a very good understanding of their individual needs and skilfully accommodate and adapt activities. Effective liaison with outside agencies ensure that children flourish as they are given the support and expertise that promotes their learning. Staff take a keen interest in children's individual activities this, therefore, promotes their self-esteem. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities have exceptional care. Proficient liaison with outside agencies and comprehensive understanding of current legislation protects children's individual needs. Staff actively contribute towards children's individual education plans and reviews which ensures they are immensely well-informed of their individual progress and specific needs protecting their well-being.

Children access a wealth of exciting resources which actively promotes their awareness of the wider world and understanding of others. These include, food tasting sessions, creative play and craft equipment, and wall displays. Explanations and the celebration of varied festivals provide wide-ranging opportunities for children to understand the needs of others.

The exceptional partnership with parents and carers promotes a positive environment which promotes children's learning. Their continuity of care is consistently supported as staff regularly communicate with parents through discussion and daily diaries. Every opportunity is taken to involve parents in the care of their child which promotes their welfare. For example, a wide variety of photographic evidence of children's activities and achievements are displayed throughout the setting and assessments accurately inform parents of their child's progress. Children's continuity of care is given immense consideration as the settling in procedure is handled very sensitively. For example, parents are encouraged to either stay or observe their child's activities whilst they are settling.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are very well protected as all staff are fully vetted and subject to a rigorous recruitment procedure prior to being appointed. Careful monitoring of staff and regular performance management reviews ensure that staff develop excellent professional skills which promotes children's learning. The induction of new staff is immensely thorough and is designed to monitor their progress and skills which protects children's welfare.

The organisation of the wide variety of care permutations offered is most thorough, therefore, the setting is able to offer a very wide variety of care options which ensures that children's individual needs are met. This results in a carefully planned and precise registration system

which protects children's well-being. Policies and procedures are robust, frequently reviewed, extremely well presented and are always shared with parents. Children's contracts are regularly updated which protects children's welfare.

The child's day is subject to careful structure providing rich learning opportunities and the organisation of sessions gives high consideration of children's individual needs. The use of the premises and staff is extremely well-managed ensuring children always have generous space provision and staff support which protects their well-being. The very effective organisation gives them immense scope to explore and investigate. For example, a free flow system is frequently operated which allows children to access a wide variety of learning experiences. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. Children are now very well protected as staff have attended child protection training and are able to respond appropriately if there are concerns in respect of children's care.

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 outstanding. 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

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