

# Bloomings Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 315293

**Inspection date** 13 December 2007

**Inspector** Sylvia Cornock

**Setting Address** The School House, Off Gainsborough Road, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 6ZE

**Telephone number** 01925 636616

**E-mail**

**Registered person** Lisa Heaps, Alan Thompson and Rona Thompson

**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](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 satisfactory. 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?

Bloomings Day Nursery is privately owned. It opened in 1997 and operates from a detached property in Stockton Heath, Warrington. The accommodation consists of five rooms. A maximum of 55 children aged from birth to five years may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08.00 until 18.00 throughout the year. There is access to a secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 68 children from birth to under five years on roll. Of these 15 children receive funding for nursery education. The nursery currently supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities, and children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 19 staff who work directly with the children. Of these, 15 including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications and four are working towards a qualification.

The setting receives support from a local authority pedagogue. The nursery is a member of Warrington Independent Nurseries Network (WINN).

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health and well-being are promoted as very good health and hygiene procedures help to prevent infection and cross contamination. Staff have clearly established routines for cleaning surfaces, toys and equipment. The clear nappy changing routine is followed appropriately by staff. These measures help to protect children's good health. Older children are developing a good awareness of simple hygiene procedures, such as hand washing at appropriate times and explain this is to remove germs.

Children are well protected due to good sickness, medication, accident and emergency procedures. A clear sickness policy helps protect children from the spread of infection as parents' are requested to collect children who become unwell whilst in the nursery. Staff are careful to ensure that medicines are appropriately administered so that children's health is protected. Many staff hold up to date first aid qualifications, helping to meet children's needs in the event of an accident or emergency.

Children are well nourished and are developing an awareness of the importance of healthy eating. Menus are carefully devised taking into account dietary requirements. Children's particular dietary needs and preferences are well catered for. As a result, children benefit from the provision of excellent quality menus, offering children a balanced and nutritious diet. Children learn to develop a healthy lifestyle through daily outdoor play. They are offered and can access drinking water on a regular basis, further promoting their good health and development.

Children's physical development throughout the nursery is promoted exceptionally well. Children have daily access to an excellent range of outdoor play equipment both in the nursery outdoor play area and the adjoining park to develop their skills. For example, as the older children climb and balance on the apparatus and equipment they show great skill. They have fun as they take equipment into the park and use the large play equipment. Younger children show confidence in exploring their physical capabilities using the wheeled toys, weaving in and out. There is an excellent and broad variety of both indoor and outdoor equipment provided which extends children's progress and capabilities appropriately.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure indoor and outdoor environment. They are eager to attend and relish their time in the vibrant and safe setting. Children are cared for in a highly innovative planned and organised environment which is conducive to their very good learning and development. The individual rooms are well set out and prepared prior to the children's arrival offering them access to excellent activities and opportunities which are supported by an extensive range of resources and equipment.

Staff ensure the environment is safe as they employ rigorous safety policies and procedures ensuring children's safety at all times. Staff are extremely diligent in their care of children and the provision of a safe environment through the use of suitable safety equipment, high staff ratios and supervision. Staff hold regular meetings to raise or discuss any issues or concerns.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through discussion with staff, for example, about the importance of not running indoors or using toys and equipment safely.

Children have access to an extensive range of toys and equipment on a daily basis and which is continually built upon. This wide range of resources supports an excellent programme of themes and activities. Equipment is of a very high standard and checked regularly for safety and hygiene ensuring children are safe at all times. Children are independent as they make choices and self select toys and equipment from those on offer.

Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff are extremely vigilant and assess possible risks to reduce potential hazards. Staff have an excellent understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits, and how to involve children effectively in organising their environment. This allows children to learn some sense of danger and knowledge about how to protect themselves from harm. Regular evacuations of the premises are practised to ensure children know the procedure to follow in an emergency.

A parent's notice board with detailed information, colourful posters, photographs and children's work displayed, creates a welcoming atmosphere. Children benefit from a good amount of space indoors which is arranged effectively to provide them with good levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Children's welfare is given a high priority because staff have an understanding of recognising possible signs and symptoms of children at risk. Staff know who the identified member of staff is with responsibility for child protection issues. This staff member along with some other staff has undertaken child protection training. Good well written policies and procedures are shared with staff, parents and carers at all times. Staff very clearly understand their responsibility in maintaining a safe environment for all children.

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

The provision is good.

Children throughout the nursery arrive excited and ready to participate in the excellent activities and experiences which await them. Children's ability to relate to others is quite striking; not only do they relate well to adults, but they have developed very good relationships with each other. This is evident when they tell staff and each other about their news, such as the older children talking about Christmas and their visit to the theme park. Children throughout the nursery enjoy listening to stories and enjoy looking at books. Children are happy and contented and are extremely confident and self-assured.

Those who are new are helped to settle by staff who are sensitive towards their individual needs. The youngest children make excellent progress because staff recognise the uniqueness of each child. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. Children under three benefit greatly from the planning of activities that are specifically geared to enable them to become fully involved and engrossed in an exciting range of highly innovative activities. Staff have an excellent understanding of 'Birth to three matters' framework which supports children's learning effectively.

Babies and toddlers enjoy many worthwhile activities including art and craft, building with construction kits, completing jigsaws, using programmable toys and listening to music. They have daily outdoor play which extends their physical learning and capabilities as they use the large selection of outdoor apparatus.

## Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Children are captivated and greatly inspired by an extensive range of stimulating, relevant activities related to their needs. They access a very broad range of high quality resources, which supports children across all areas of learning. Staff consistently make excellent use of their time and resources to support children's learning. Teaching highly motivates the children who are eager to learn, self assured in their play and confident to try new experiences.

The setting has developed a highly comprehensive system to track both the delivery and receipt of the curriculum. Assessments of children's achievements is good and securely linked to the stepping stones, resulting in children who make very good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning. From the start, staff find out about children's skills, interests and needs and build on this information effectively to help children achieve as much as they can. A flexible approach to planning and an excellent balance between adult and child-led activities allows children to learn at their own pace. Staff are perceptive of children's interests during self-initiated play and use questions very successfully to challenge children's thinking and developing language skills.

Children experience a language rich environment where they develop very good speaking and listening skills. Children excitingly use good language skills to tell their friends and adults about their visit to the theme park, seeing Santa, choosing a gift and how to use the special dust on Christmas eve. Children enjoy listening to stories and participate well at story time. They know how to use books appropriately, however, the presentation of the books does not encourage children to freely access them or captivate their individual interests. Most children very successfully recognise letters of the alphabet and many are confident in writing letters on their pictures. Pads and pencils are freely used in role play helping children understand that words and print have meaning. Children demonstrate a thorough understanding of number and shape recognition. When using the computer children listen to instruction and confidently select the correct item. They count the number of children and adults present and recognise numbers through a range of purposeful songs, stories and activities.

Many good opportunities to make music are enjoyed by children. They enjoy listening to the tape recorder and singing Christmas songs as they rehearse for their nativity which they are performing for their parents. They have opportunities to experiment with musical instruments. Children enjoy meeting people from the community as they visit the nursery during the theme 'people who help us', for example, the police, fire men, a vet, doctor nurse and dentist. They celebrate many and varied festivals throughout the year, they sponsor a child in India and use the good resources within the nursery. These experiences help children understand diversity.

Children are inquisitive, fascinated by how things work, such as how the colour changes as they add more food colouring to their play dough they have made. They show skill and concentration as they make paper aeroplanes and create pictures in black and white to reflect on their visit to the theme park on the previous day. Children explore a wealth of natural items as they take walks in the adjoining park, they use magnifying glasses to observe insects and items of interest. Children's sense of discovery is exceptionally well supported and their physical skills developed well through very good outdoor and indoor activities.

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

The provision is good.

Children's equality of opportunity is given a very high priority and is very well addressed. All children are included in all the activities provided, their individual needs and circumstances are well known and provided for by staff. All children are welcomed and play a full part in the setting because staff value and respect their individuality and the family context for each child. Children have access to a rich and varied range of resources, play opportunities and activities which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. They have extensive opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them through planned activities, visitors to the setting and outings to local places of interest. Staff work very effectively with parents, carers and outside agencies to ensure that children who have learning difficulties and disabilities are appropriately cared for and given support to enable them to participate fully in all activities. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. Their very good behaviour is a direct result of highly effective staff interaction and involvement with children in their activities. Children receive lots of positive praise and encouragement for their efforts, attempts and achievements aiding the development of their self confidence and self-esteem. Staff are excellent role models, showing respect and consideration for children, each other, parents and carers. Children are extremely polite, well mannered and show care and concern for each other. A very positive behaviour management strategy encourages children to be polite, have respect for oneself, others and the environment.

Partnership with parents and carers is good. Children's well-being and development is significantly enhanced by the excellent partnership with parents and carers. Parents and carers have access to and receive plenty of very good information about the setting and what it has to offer in terms of care and education. They also have access to detailed information on themes, along with access to information on the educational provision. Staff make excellent use of wall displays of children's work making this welcome to children, their parents and carers. Staff report excellent support from parents and carers including their commitment to sharing home-links with the nursery which enhances children's learning and development. Those parents and carers spoken to were very positive and supportive of the provision and what it offers their children. This highly effective communication between parents, carers and staff helps to promote children's learning and progress towards the early learning goals along with their overall development and well-being.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The quality of leadership and management is good. Children's care is significantly enhanced by the exceptional quality of organisation and the good leadership and management of the setting. The manager's clear sighted educational vision is founded in an in-depth understanding of the needs of young children. The commitment of staff promotes an inclusive environment in which every child matters. Regular staff meetings and very good staff training effectively contributes towards the professional development of the staff. There are high staffing levels in place, which contributes significantly to children's care and development. Comprehensive staff induction and staff information is available to all new and existing staff.

All legally required documentation, policies and procedures are individual to the setting and fully support the good practice of knowledgeable and highly skilled staff. However, the system

for recording the hours of children's daily attendance is not secure. This breaches the requirements of the National Standards.

The premises are well organised. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to provide children with realistic and challenging play opportunities. Parents are valued and the excellent systems in place to share information contribute to the children's confidence and well-being.

All staff are committed to continuous improvement and development. Qualified and experienced staff use the curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage and 'Birth to three matters' framework guidance extremely well to provide high quality care and education. They regularly reflect, monitor and improve the quality of their care and education this means that children thrive and make very good progress.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last child care inspection the provider was asked to ensure that a first aid box is accessible in the pre-school room. A first aid box has been provided and is easily accessible. This enhances children health and well-being.

At the last education inspection the provider was asked to provide opportunities for the use of number and the children's own work in displays to further enhance and consolidate their learning. Staff plan and provide many activities for children to use number and all walls within the setting display children's work. These measures help children to progress in their number work and revisit their contribution to the many and varied displays which enhance the walls.

### **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 satisfactory. 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 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 system for registering children on a daily basis shows the hours of attendance.

## **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):

- review the presentation of books to enable children to freely access the books and support children's interests.

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)