



Once upon a Time (1)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139139
Inspection date	26 October 2005
Inspector	Susan Mary Rolfe
Setting Address	Friends Meeting House, 150 York Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1QW
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Registered person	Lorna Hackland - Crowther
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?

Once Upon a Time Day Nursery operates from the Friends Meeting House in Uxbridge, Middlesex. The building is convenient to Uxbridge station, shopping precincts and schools. The nursery have sole use of the premises during the hours of operation. There are two play rooms, nappy changing areas, toilets, which include disabled access, kitchen and office. Children have use of two gardens which surround the building.

The nursery is registered to provide care for 26 children age 3 months to 2 years. There are currently 24 children on roll. With the exception of bank holidays the

nursery is open from 08.00 until 18.00, Monday to Friday throughout the year.

Including the manager there are 12 staff who work with the children, 6 of whom have a level 3 childcare qualification; 4 hold a level 2 and 2 trainees are working towards their level 2 in childcare. The nursery also employ a cook, cleaner and handy person.

The "High-Scope" approach is practiced within the nursery. The setting receive support from the Local Authority.

Parking within the close vicinity is restricted to parking meters or the nearby supermarket. Multi-story car parks are within walking distance.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children gain a good understanding of the ways to keep themselves healthy as staff promote excellent practice. Children wash their hands prior to eating and clean their teeth after lunch. Children's well being is enhanced by the provision of a very wide range of healthy eating options. Menus displayed to parents, provide them with clear information relating to the food their child receives. The meals are attractively presented, of good quality and plentiful. Clear guidelines ensure that staff involve parents fully in the weaning process for young babies. Parents receive a substantial amount of information in relation to the foods on offer during this period. Children benefit considerably from the fact that staff have a good knowledge of the types of foods to avoid at this time. During weaning, the same foods are on offer for a few days to identify possible allergies. Drinks are readily available at each meal time and throughout the day.

All staff are suitably qualified and very well organised to deal with accidents efficiently. They are fully aware of children's individual medical requirements and ensure any medical items, such as inhalers, are in easy access at all times. Excellent systems of communication between the staff and parents ensure that children are well cared for after minor accidents. Staff closely monitor children and maintain an accurate record. The spread of infection between children is minimised as staff regularly wash the toys and equipment. The effective exclusion policy for infectious illness also protects children from the spread of infection.

Children delight in the outdoor activities on offer and relish the fun and physical activity. They push toy prams, sit in large cars, climb and use the small side and negotiate obstacles well. Younger babies sit and watch with interest, the antics of their peers whilst chewing on a variety of interesting toys which are bought out for them to play with.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are well organised and brightly decorated with interesting posters and children's art work. Staff care for children in two age related rooms, which offer a good amount of space suitable for a wide variety of play opportunities. Children choose from a very good range of toys and play materials, which are of a high quality and cleaned on a regular basis.

Children are cared for in a generally safe environment. However, on the day of the inspection, the front door was not completely closed and it was possible to access the nursery unattended. Staff generally follow good safety procedures, although there are times when they do not shut the safety gate and door in the toddler room that leads to the kitchen. Staff monitor the children at all times. They ensure that the garden is secure and protect children from possible hazards by completing daily risk assessments on all areas.

Staff safeguard children's welfare and have a clear understanding of their responsibilities in relation to child protection. They record accidents that occur at home and ensure parents are aware of their duty to report concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well entertained during their time at the nursery. They are very happy and confident in the setting and enjoy the wide range of activities. Staff plan effectively to promote children's learning and development. Children have regular use of the garden, in which to run, climb and use wheeled toys. They play ball inside and out and go on trips within the local community, such as the library or feeding the ducks.

Children make good use of role-play items such as dressing up clothes. Staff compliment children as they dress up and stroll around the room in full regalia. Toddlers sit and warmly cuddle their 'babies' as they feed them with milk. Babies explore the varied range of hand held toys such as wooden shakers, plastic coloured bottles and items of various materials. All children participate in craft activities such as painting and drawing.

Staff extend children's language as they talk to them about the activities. They spend a great deal of time playing with the children and extending their knowledge. Through discussion, children learn the names of animals, their natural habitat and the sounds they make. Staff question children and reinforce their understanding of colour and numbers.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely happy; their emotional security is exceptionally well promoted. Children are motivated and sustain their interest in play activities. All children have equal access to the toys and both boys and girls enjoy playing in the home corner

and dressing up. Children are equally competent in the garden and are encouraged to take risks in a safe environment, which enhances their self-esteem. For example, staff support very young children in their quest to reach the top of the small slide.

Staff, who give much praise and warm physical contact, considerably enhance children's self-esteem. Each child has a turn to be the centre of attention by imaginative use of a display board. Children contribute photographs from home of people who are of importance to them; these and other pieces of information are on the display board for all to share. A check list ensures that all children have their week of fame.

Staff have a good knowledge of children's individual needs. They work cooperatively with parents and other professionals to enhance the development of children who have additional requirements. Children learn about others in the community through planned topics, discussion and equipment on offer.

Partnership with parents is exceedingly strong and contributes significantly to children's well-being. There are extremely effective systems of communication. The views of parents are very important and staff ensure they gain a great deal of information from them relating to the care of each child.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The management of the setting is very organised. Documents relating to the care of the children are extensive and promote good childcare. Staff constantly develop their knowledge and skills to benefit the children. They keep up-to-date with good practice through comprehensive training such as assessment, diversity issues and health and safety.

Constant reviews of working methods enhance children's learning. For example, staff monitor the work of each other, as they observe colleagues working with the children and give feedback. This highlights good practice and offers suggestions for improvement.

The procedures to ensure that all staff undertake the required reference checks are fairly robust. However, in some circumstances the time period to complete these is not adequate. There is a sound induction programme which ensure that new staff are fully conversant with the policies, procedures and ethos of the nursery.

An exceedingly wide range of effective and well thought out policies and procedures enhance children's well-being and strongly promote their all round development. The strong commitment to further improvement ensures children benefit from continual high standards. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous inspection did not highlight any required improvements.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection, there have been three complaints relating to National Standard 2: Suitable Person regarding deployment of staff and staff changes, and National Standard 6: Safety regarding use of hot water in close proximity of children. Ofsted made an unannounced visit on 30 June 2005 to investigate use of hot water in rooms used by children and staff changes. The provider agreed to meet the actions raised.

Ofsted made an unannounced visit on 7 December 2004 to investigate deployment of staff. The provider produced a comprehensive action plan detailing how they would meet ratio requirements. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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:

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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):

- ensure that the premises remain safe and secure at all times
- review recruitment procedures to ensure that the appropriate references are completed within a reasonable time period.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk