

# Little Climbers Daycare

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	107470
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Donna Bonner
<b>Setting Address</b>	278 Ivydale Road, London, SE15 3DF
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 7564 4597
<b>E-mail</b>	littleclimber@aol.com
<b>Registered person</b>	Hermin Vinola Marjorie Whyte
<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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little Climbers Day Care Project has been registered since 1994. It is a privately owned Christian provision although children from other faiths are included. The provision was previously established as a childminding project. It operates from three rooms on the ground floor of the owner's premises and is situated in a residential area within travelling distance to Nunhead train station, local shops and public transports.

There are currently 13 children on roll. This includes two funded four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently no children in attendance with special educational needs or who speak English as an additional language. There are four staff working with children of whom half are appropriately qualified in early years and education and one member of staff is currently undertaking training. The setting receives support from the Pre-school Learning Alliance and Southwark Early Years team.

The setting opens five days a week except for Bank Holidays, Christmas, Easter and two weeks in August. Opening hours are from 08:00 to 18:00 term time only.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is inadequate.

Only one staff member holds a current first aid certificate and this means children do not always have a qualified staff member to act appropriately in the event of an emergency. Children maintain their health as they are aware of hygiene practices. They do not attend if they are unwell and this limits the spread of infection. Staff have a clear understanding of their health and dietary needs as they discuss this with their parents and keep clear written records. Written records include permission to seek emergency medical treatment and regularly updated contact details so that parents wishes are respected. Children benefit from regular outdoor play where they develop their physical skills. Children have planned opportunities to be noisy and quiet and this encourages their good health. They benefit from regular drinks of water and enjoy meals including soup with fresh vegetables. Mealtimes are social occasions as children sit in groups and enjoy finger foods when they talk to staff and each other.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children have limited opportunities to practise keeping themselves safe in the event of fire evacuation as infrequent drills are held. A condition has been raised at this inspection requiring staff to escort children through the kitchen at all times when they go to the bathroom, to ensure their safety. Children are cared for in a welcoming environment. They have access to a variety of toys and play materials that are kept clean and in good condition so that they play safely. Their risk of accidental injury is minimised as regular risk assessments are conducted and reviewed. Parents are kept informed as accidents are recorded and discussed with parents. Staff supervise children well as they sit and play where they can be seen at all times. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the manager attends safeguarding training and is aware of the need to share information with staff. Staff understand their duty to protect children in their care and also have access to clear written procedures which includes procedures for allegations against staff.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy caring relationships with staff. Staff promote children's enjoyment and achievement as they provide a suitable range of activities that interest all children. Some staff also have introductory knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and children benefit from activities to encourage their all-round development. Babies enjoy good individual interaction with staff as they talk and copy their sounds which encourages their language. Staff encourage babies in their play as they join in with them when they excitedly point to pictures in books. Children are beginning to gain some independence as they make choices from the resources that are available. Children enjoy playing with activity centres and staff support them as they encourage them to press buttons and join in their laughter.

### **Nursery Education**

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. Children are making basic progress through the stepping stones towards the early learning goals in the six areas of learning. Children are confident when using the computer and manage appropriate programs well. They play at length

in the home corner and this encourages their imagination. They have fun completing puzzles and encourage each other in their play but staff do not always recognise the need for challenge to increase their learning.

Children sit comfortably with staff in small groups and listen to stories. Older children are beginning to count to 10 and make good efforts to count up to 20. They recognise some letters but records show infrequent observations by staff. Children are introduced to letters through play. They enjoy guessing games as staff ask them to guess what begins with the letter 'p' for example but do not reinforce their learning by also showing them the letter. Staff make good use of photographs to illustrate children's learning but the written evaluations show less understanding of children's development. Children have insufficient opportunities for creative play as this is unplanned and uninviting. Furthermore, there are few examples of children's work displayed as recognition of children's creativity and efforts and achievements.

Children have an understanding of time and place as they talk about what they are going to do next and circle time also offers them time to reflect. Children are confident in expressing themselves and are animated in their imaginative home corner play. Staff encourage their speech and language by sensitively joining in their play. Children gain an understanding of the natural world as they plant bulbs in the garden but there is little evidence of their progress.

Staff encourage children's learning as they have some knowledge of the Foundation Stage. They interact with the children as they ask questions that encourage them to think and this offers children good support. Staff have some knowledge about children's achievements but do not consistently plan their next steps to offer challenge. Children benefit from staff carrying out observations but written records are inconsistent although staff share information verbally.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for by the staff who discuss their individual needs with their parents. They benefit from staff who are welcoming and offer support as they are welcomed into the routine. Children gain an introduction to wider cultures as the nursery has ample resources that reflect differences positively. Children play well together and are encouraged by staff emphasising their positive behaviour. Children gain an understanding of appropriate good manners as staff gently remind children and as a result children are courteous to each other. The children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered appropriately. Children access toys and equipment easily and this helps them to develop appropriate levels of responsibility.

The partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. Written information on the Foundation Stage is available for parents and some written plans are also displayed. Parents are also kept informed by meeting with their child's key worker. Staff do not fully promote parent participation in children's learning and so this means they have limited involvement in the nursery activities. Where a child has a learning disability, staff understand the need to work closely with parents and other professionals. The Special Educational Needs Coordinator attends relevant training to keep abreast of information. The complaints policy reflects the most recent changes in regulation which means parents have correct information if they wish to raise a concern.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children are not completely safe as there is no evidence that all persons living or working on the premises are vetted. Ofsted is not informed of significant events and this is a breach of the National Standards. Furthermore, children are at risk of harm as there are inadequate arrangements to ensure there is first aid cover at all times. As infrequent fire drills are held, children do not always practise keeping themselves safe. Children access their bathroom through the kitchen and so a condition is added to ensure children's safety.

Children are comfortable and benefit from a welcoming environment where resources are organised to meet children's needs. Staff are deployed effectively and so they are able to offer individual care to children. Records of staff attendance are consistently maintained and this means staff child: ratios are always met. Children benefit from clear recruitment and induction procedures but there is no evidence that all persons on the premises are vetted. Most documentation is in line with the National Standards.

Leadership and management of the nursery is satisfactory. Staff are building on their knowledge of the Foundation Stage and so are able to encourage children's learning and the manager also has some knowledge in this area. Staff meetings are held and are used to discuss children's progress and so there is some monitoring and support at a senior level so that staff feel supported. However, although staff speak knowledgeably about children's progress, records of children's next steps are not always recorded and so clear aims are not consistently evident.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the registered person agreed to include the procedure to follow for lost or uncollected children in the Outing policy. A written policy is now developed so that children's safety is ensured.

## **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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

## WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

### The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- make sure Ofsted is notified of significant events
- ensure that all persons having regular contact with children are suitably checked, and that records of this are available at inspection
- make sure regular fire drills are practised and recorded
- ensure at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate is on the premises or on outings at any one time

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

### 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):

- make sure written plans and records of children's next steps are improved to encourage children's learning
- improve play opportunities to include creative play and challenging opportunities
- increase opportunities for parents to participate in their child's learning

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)