

The Little House Day Care

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY320354
Inspection date	26 February 2008
Inspector	Angela Ramsey
Setting Address	Napier Hall, 1 Hide Place, London, SW1P 4NJ
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Registered person	Colin Shaw
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.

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 good. 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?

The Little House Day Care was registered in March 2006. It operates from a building in the London borough of Westminster. There is an outdoor play space.

The group is registered to care for a maximum of 50 children. The day nursery, which is situated upstairs, is registered for 20 children aged six months to three years. Opening times are Monday to Friday 08:00 to 18:00 for 50 weeks of the year.

The nursery school, which is situated downstairs, was registered in 1998 to care for 30 children aged three to five years. Opening times are Monday to Friday 09:30 to 12:30 term time only.

There are currently 54 children on roll. 16 members of staff are employed at the setting. Over half of whom have a child care qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Suitable procedures are in place to ensure that children's safety is ensured in the event of accidents or illnesses. For example, members of staff have attended training in first aid and well stocked first aid kits are available for use when required.

Parents are contacted if their child becomes ill. The child is comforted and well cared for until their parents arrive. Written parental consent is obtained, for staff to seek emergency treatment or medical advice should this be necessary.

Although children are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and after messy play, and before eating their meals and snacks. However, there is only one communal towel at any one time, available for children to dry their hands. Also, the nappy changing procedures are not always effective in promoting good hygiene. This is because members of staff wear only one disposable glove when changing nappies and disposable aprons are never worn. Therefore, children's health is compromised as there is a risk of cross infection.

The nursery is cleaned daily, in spite of this the kitchen on the upstairs of the premises is cluttered and mops used to clean the bathroom areas are stored in this kitchen.

Staff follow babies and young children's individual routines for eating and sleeping. They receive regular drinks and staff monitor and record their food intake and nappy changes. This information is shared with parents. This ensures continuity of care and contributes to their physical well-being.

Snacks are provided partly by parents upstairs and completely by the school downstairs. These are appropriately stored to ensure they remain fresh. Water is available and children are able to help themselves to prevent them from becoming dehydrated. Meals are prepared by a company and heated through by staff. Meals and snacks provided by the nursery are organic. Children enjoy meals such as chicken dopiaza and vegetable lasagne, menus are displayed for parents.

There are opportunities for children to develop their physical skills, for example there is a swing, they ride wheeled toys, and play with balls either in the outside area at the rear of the premises or inside the premises on the ground floor.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Staff have taken positive steps to promote children's safety within the nursery setting, in the outdoor play area and when children are taken on outings. For example, the security of the premises ensures children are unable to leave unattended. Also, the entry system protects both staff and children from unauthorised persons. Visitors sign the visitors' book and when the children are taken on outings, parents provide written consent.

As children sleep they are monitored by a member of staff to ensure their safety. Babies and young children sleep safely and comfortably, either in cots or on mats depending on their age. Children are protected from potential harm as socket covers are in place.

Fire equipment, such as a fire blanket and extinguishers, are provided and are regularly checked to ensure they are in good working order. Fire actions are displayed and exits are kept clear. Children learn how to keep themselves safe as staff regularly practise the procedure for evacuation in an emergency with them. This enables the swift evacuation of the premises should an emergency situation arise.

Risk assessments are completed. This ensures that any risks or hazards are identified and the actions required to eliminate or minimise the risk or hazards are taken ahead of time.

Staff are aware of the signs and symptoms of possible abuse and know the appropriate procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child. A clear child protection statement has been devised and there is a named person responsible for ensuring that child protection concerns are dealt with promptly, appropriately and sensitively. This serves to protect vulnerable children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the setting and they have fun. The staff team are friendly and this contributes to creating a relaxing atmosphere where children feel a sense of belonging. Babies are able to explore resources and toys by using their senses. For example, when playing with activity centres they enjoy pressing buttons, listening to sounds and looking at what happens next.

As the younger children become mobile they are able to pull themselves up to a standing position using the furniture. Young children practise their language skills by having pretend conversations on toy telephones. Children also enjoy looking at books.

Staff have attended training in relation to the 'Birth to three matters' framework and incorporate this when planning activities. Children under three years enjoy taking part in creative activities. They use glue sticks to apply glue and stick coloured paper on to shapes.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Staff support the children in their learning and play. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage curriculum. Staff meet regularly to discuss medium and short term planning. A Key worker system is in place. Each member of staff is responsible for monitoring children's individual progress and make plans for their next steps.

Children use numbers in their play and during conversations. For example, they count the number of steps as they climb the stairs, they also tell the inspector how old they are. When completing number puzzles children recognise numbers up to 10. Opportunities for sorting and sequencing are provided as children can self select from a variety of resources such as knobbed cylinders that graduate in size from small to large. However, everyday situations are not always used to further children's concept of numbers. For example, during this inspection children were not encouraged to help with setting the tables at lunch times. At these times there are opportunities for children to calculate how many plates, cups and how much cutlery is required. Children's independence is not further encouraged as they are not provided with opportunities to pour their own drinks or serve themselves at meal times.

Toys and resources are available and accessible to enable children to make choices independently. Children are excited, interested and motivated to learn. Exciting activities are planned, for example, planting seeds. During this activity the children were encouraged to feel the texture of the compost. The member of staff talked to the children about seeds and how to care for plants. This activity was interesting for those taking part.

Children are given lots of opportunities to express themselves creatively. They have great fun as they experiment with different colours as they use paint brushes. Children are developing their imagination as they engage in role-play; for example, they dress up, 'cook meals' and care for their 'babies'. They also have opportunities to participate in ballet sessions which help them to listen to instructions and move imaginatively and gracefully.

Children are confident speakers and converse with their peers and staff members through their everyday play, for example, when talking about themselves and their families as they participate in activities. They develop their thinking, listening and concentration skills as they sit and listen during story telling sessions. Children are learning to match letters to sounds and they are able to recognise the letters of the alphabet, for example, they know which letter their names starts with. They are encouraged to write their names on their creative work and they are able to help themselves to mark making equipment during their everyday play.

Activities to assist children in their knowledge and understanding of the world are planned. The current theme is 'Ourselves and our family'. Photographs of children and their families are displayed. There is also information of where family members were born. This helps children to be aware of different countries. Children are also able to participate in French classes.

Children learn to gain control over their bodies through physical activities such as riding wheeled toys and using climbing equipment in the outdoor play area. Children also have opportunities to practise fine motor skills as they experience paint, use cutlery, use spades to scoop up sand whilst engaging in sand play and cut with scissors. Optional activities are also available such as yoga and drama.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcome and staff acknowledge and respect children's individuality. Children's behaviour is good. There are currently no children attending who have learning difficulties and or disabilities.

Children have access to a varied selection of toys and resources that are age appropriate and reflect diversity. This enables children to develop an awareness of those in their community.

Prospective parents are encouraged to visit the nursery. Parents receive information about the setting and have access to the groups' policies and procedures. The nursery encourages an open door policy. Parents are kept up to date about their child's day and are encouraged to speak to staff about their child's progress.

Parents are made aware of the groups' complaints procedure which enables parents to contact the regulator should the need arise.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care and learning is enhanced due to the effective deployment of staff. Policies and procedures have been devised and implemented. These successfully promote children's care and well-being. However, at the time of this inspection the manager was unable to locate the policy regarding uncollected children.

Records are well kept with the exception of the schools attendance register as the system does not show children's hours of attendance. Records are stored securely to maintain confidentiality.

Children benefit because staff are suitably qualified and enhance their knowledge and skills through regular training opportunities.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint that required the provider or Ofsted to take action in order to meet the National Standards. This complaint related to National Standard 1: Suitable Person, National Standard 2: Organisation, National Standard 3: Care, learning and play, National Standard 4: Physical Environment, National Standard 5: Equipment, National Standard 7: Health and National Standard 12: Working in partnership with parents and carers.

Ofsted conducted an unannounced visit to the setting and as a result actions were set under National Standard 1 and National Standard 2. A response was received from the provider detailing the action they had taken to meet the National Standards. Ofsted was satisfied with the response and took no further action.

This provider remains qualified for registration.

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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):

- provide suitable and hygienic hand drying facilities
- ensure all members of staff wear protective clothing, such as disposable gloves and aprons when changing nappies
- ensure the kitchen areas are cleared and buckets and mops are hygienically stored
- ensure the schools attendance register shows children's 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):

- provide further opportunities to develop children's self help skills. Use everyday experiences to increase children's concept of numbers

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