

# Little Unicorns Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	152800
<b>Inspection date</b>	27 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Margaret Moffat
<b>Setting Address</b>	2 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4HD
<b>Telephone number</b>	0207 7519 6519
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<b>Registered person</b>	Fran n Bru Limited
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<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

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.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little Unicorn Day Nursery opened in January 2001 and is one of four nurseries owned by Fran n Bru. The nursery is situated in the Docklands area and is close to Westferry Docklands Light Railway. A maximum of 26 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery opens five days a week from 07.30 until 18.30.

There are currently 28 children aged from three months to three years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs nine members of staff who all hold appropriate relevant childcare qualifications.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because staff follow appropriate health and hygiene policies and procedures. For example, adults are requested to take their shoes off before entering the nursery rooms and nappy changing procedures are effective to prevent the spread of infection. From an early age children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines. Children who are old enough are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times and brush their teeth after meals. Younger children and babies are assisted by staff as they wipe their hands before they eat and after messy play.

Children enjoy daily physical exercise that contributes to keeping them healthy. They are beginning to negotiate space well when pushing prams, riding cycles and sit and ride toys, manoeuvring around obstacles. They have opportunities to play on soft play equipment in one of the other nurseries in the chain and although there is no outdoor play area, staff ensure the children have access to fresh air as they take them for daily walks in the surrounding area.

Children receive healthy and nutritious meals, which include a balanced diet and vegetables and fruit daily. Staff discuss children's allergies and special dietary needs with parents and these are adhered to. Menus are available for parents so they are aware of what their children will be eating when they are in the nursery and alternative options are available to meet children's individual needs. Meal times are social occasions as staff sit with the children chatting to them and offering assistance if required. Children are encouraged to be independent as staff encourage them to use the cutlery and praise them for their efforts.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure within the environment and staff follow procedures to keep children safe. For example, daily opening and closing checks are completed to ensure the premises remain safe and hazards are minimised. They regularly practise the emergency evacuation procedure and this helps children understand how to leave the building safely. Outings are undertaken on most days, ratios are maintained and staff ensure children have appropriate restraints to keep them safe. Notices are displayed to inform parents not to open the doors to visitors, however, on the day of inspection parents disregarded this and opened the door and allowed a visitor to enter. This does not effectively promote children's safety. Children are beginning to learn how to keep themselves safe through the nursery rules and staff gently reminding them to walk indoors.

Staff have a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues. They are aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and what action to take if they have concerns about a child in their care. However, some staff are unaware of the procedure if allegations of abuse or neglect are made against them.

Children have access to a good range of toys and resources appropriate to their age and stage of development. Staff check toys and resources regularly to ensure they remain safe and clean. Children move around safely and independently within their rooms, which are warm and inviting, and displays of their work and photographs help children feel a sense of belonging.

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

The provision is good.

Children arrive at the setting happy and are content to leave their main carer as they go into their rooms and play with the activities on offer. Staff comfort babies who arrive unsettled and try to rock them to sleep as they are aware they are tired. Children are beginning to form relationships with staff and each other. They have many opportunities throughout the day to be active, quiet and rest. Staff have a good understanding of the Birth to three matters framework and use this to plan activities for the children and update their records of development. Babies enjoy their time in the nursery. They have opportunities to be active as they freely crawl on the floor stopping at activity mats touching, feeling what is on them and picking up telephones and holding them to their ears as staff encourage them to say hello. Children respond as they try to copy the sounds. Babies have fun as they paint, they hold brushes and sponges to paint on the paper and use their hands to spread it all around. They look at their hands and smile as they show them to staff. Toddlers enjoy listening to stories and singing. They join in familiar songs and do the actions and have opportunities to choose what they would like to sing. Children are beginning to link letters and sounds and develop their number skills. For example, at circle time they talk about which children are here today and which children are at home and they place the cards on the notice board on the picture of the nursery or a house. Staff hold up name cards and children recognise the names from the first letter, which staff emphasize to them. Children then count to see how many children are in the nursery today and how many at home. Children are beginning to recognise colours and shapes as they play with the magnetic blocks. Staff encourage the children to name the colours and re-iterate the words the children are saying. They further develop the activity by informing the children the shape names which they copy. Staff use flash cards and visual displays to help children understand the routine of the day and the behaviour rules of the nursery.

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

The provision is good.

All children are warmly welcomed into the nursery and staff value and respect their differences and individuality. Children have access to a good range of toys and resources to promote positive images, such as, dressing up clothes, books, puzzles, wheelchairs and walking aids. Children are involved in many fund raising activities and recycling within the nursery. This develops their understanding of the needs of others and the world around them.

Children are well behaved and show kindness to each other. Staff are good role models and use positive praise and encouragement to increase children's confidence and self-esteem. There are appropriate strategies in place to manage children's behaviour and these are shared with parents.

A good partnership with parents contributes to children's well-being at the nursery. Relationships with parents are friendly and supportive and staff work effectively in partnership with them to ensure children's individual needs are met. For example, parents are encouraged to come into the setting during the day to feed their children. Parents receive good information about the nursery through the handbook and notice boards. Staff and parents exchange information about the children verbally on a daily basis and parents have opportunities to discuss their children's development more formally through planned meetings.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The nursery is in breach of regulations as children's hours of attendance are not accurately recorded at all times. All other regulatory documentation, policies and procedures which contribute to children's health, safety and well-being are in place. Staff work well as a team and are confident in their individual roles within the nursery and this helps with the smooth running of the day. There is an effective recruitment and vetting procedure which includes an induction process and staff are committed to ongoing training. Children are happy and secure in the environment and play space is well organised to maximise the play opportunities for the children. They receive good support from staff who know them well. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection the setting were asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and that positive images of disability in books and toys are available. They were also asked to provide a suitable range of toys and activities in order to meet the developmental needs of children aged from three to five years and to produce written procedures for allegations made against a member of staff or a volunteer. Children over the age of three no longer attend the nursery. Documentation has been updated and a procedure for allegations of abuse or neglect made against a member of staff or volunteer is in place. Children have access to a good range of toys and resources to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and to reflect disability.

## **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 satisfactory. 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**

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- update staff knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures to ensure they are aware of the procedures if allegations are made against them
- ensure procedures for allowing visitors access to the premises are robust

- ensure children's hours of attendance are recorded accurately.

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)