

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY353264
Inspection date	17 April 2008
Inspector	Lesley Boyle
Setting Address	Yarl's Wood IRC, Twinwoods Road, Clapham, BEDFORD, MK41 6HL
Telephone number	
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Registered person	Serco Ltd
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?

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre Nursery was originally registered in 2005 and operates from two dedicated rooms within the Immigration Centre. It serves the needs of resident families at the Centre. The rooms are divided into several play areas and there are en-suite children's toilets. Children also have access to a secure outdoor play area.

The nursery is registered for a maximum of 20 children aged from six weeks to under five years. It is open seven days a week, all year round, closing on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Opening times are 09.00 to 12.00 and from 13.30 to 17.00. Children can attend a variety of sessions. The setting is able to care for children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and currently supports children who have English as an additional language. There are five full-time staff working with the children, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from cross infection by rigorous procedures, for example, when staff change nappies they follow consistent guidelines. For example, staff use anti-bacterial spray on changing mats, wear disposable gloves and dispose of nappies in a hygienic way. Children are actively involved in maintaining good hygiene and learn about germs as the staff explain why washing and drying their hands is important. Children receive appropriate treatment if they are ill or have an accident. Policies ensure that exclusion periods for illness are adhered to, therefore staff promote children's continued good health. The manager ensures that all staff hold a current first aid certificate and new staff are booked on to a course as soon as they take up their post. A well-equipped first aid kit is accessible and the contents are regularly checked.

Children learn about healthy eating during discussion with staff at snack time and they are provided with fresh fruit or other healthy options at snack time each day. Children are able to help themselves to a drink of water when they want one.

Children take part in physical activity every day. Music and movement helps children stretch and move with enjoyment and confidence indoors. The outdoor environment is under continuous development and new equipment is carefully planned so that children of all ages benefit from it. Balancing and climbing equipment develops older children's physical abilities and provides excitement and challenge, whilst smaller equipment is available for younger children. Children learn to steer and negotiate obstacles through the wheeled toys that are available and in good weather staff regularly take children to a field where they have space to run around and participate in team games such as football. They have access to a gymnasium for organised activities like parachute games. Children who prefer quieter activities develop their small muscle groups through playing with small world toys, cutting, sticking or making marks outside with chalk.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Risks to children are identified because staff review and maintain a daily risk assessment that takes into account all aspects of safety, both indoors and outdoors. Children benefit from spacious play areas, where toys are carefully organised so hazards are minimised and as a result children feel safe to move around with confidence. Accidents are minimal due to the effective supervision of the staff. The manager ensures children are safe because she takes her management responsibility very seriously. She has a collated log of all accidents, however minor, identifying all areas where accidents occur more regularly. Children learn to keep themselves safe through role-play. Staff chalk out zebra-crossings and children wear high visibility jackets and act out the green cross code.

Children enthusiastically select their toys and equipment in the well-resourced nursery, which is appropriate for their ages and stage of development. These are regularly checked so they are clean and well-maintained. Children are positively encouraged to be self-reliant and tidy away their own toys or, for example, pick up any dropped pencils, or tuck in chairs in order to keep themselves safe.

Children's welfare is well promoted because staff have good knowledge of current procedures. There is a detailed safeguarding children policy and all relevant records and contact details are in place, to ensure staff are able to act promptly when identifying and reporting any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children enjoy their time at the nursery. Very new children come into the start of the sessions happily and they enthusiastically participate in the range of activities and play opportunities provided. A gentle settling-in process at the children's pace is carried out that gives staff time to get to know and understand each child's particular need and the best way to support them.

Staff sit at the children's level and join in enthusiastically with their play and conversations, showing their genuine interest that further enhances children's confidence and self-esteem. Their personal development and self-confidence is consistently promoted because staff treat all children as individuals, interacting and offering appropriate support. Staff help to develop children's understanding of everyday words by reinforcing them in their play. For example, while children are starting to use the new outdoor equipment and how to use it staff use language such as 'up and over, along and down'. This helps children to understand the meaning of such words.

Children are in a stimulating environment where toys are labelled with pictures that are easily accessible. The colourful posters and displays of their work, help children to feel valued and promotes a sense of their own worth. Staff work hard to make the nursery welcoming with colourful displays that creates a stimulating and homely atmosphere. Furthermore, staff have table top displays that encourages children to explore, using their senses, and staff use open ended questions such as 'what does this feel like?' to extend children's thinking.

Babies and younger children benefit from a well-organised environment where they have space to crawl and toddle safely and explore a good range of toys and equipment that is available. They enjoy secure and warm relationships with staff who are kind and attentive to their needs. Flexible routines enable babies to rest or play according to their individual needs and their parents' wishes. As a result they are settled and content. Planning includes 'Birth to three matters', as a result babies and younger children benefit from a wide range of age appropriate activities that promotes their development. Staff follow up on children's particular interests and have devised ways to reinforce these, however, they have not as yet devised a practical way of observing and assessing a child's learning and development to identify their next steps in learning and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Staff are extremely skilled in using positive strategies to promote good behaviour, sensitively working with each child as an individual. As a result, children's behaviour is excellent for their age and developmental stage. Staff always offer children exceptionally clear explanations that they are able to understand and children are learning to take responsibility for their own actions. For example, even very young children are encouraged to tidy up after themselves and staff provide them with support to help them to do this. All staff are excellent role models, remaining calm, polite and attentive, which promotes a peaceful atmosphere where routines and

expectations for good behaviour are consistently established. Children thrive in their environment where they are engaged and nurtured free from any type of stereotyping.

Children have access to a comprehensive range of resources and activities to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity. Children take part in an exciting range of activities of both familiar and unfamiliar festivals and celebrations. The nursery benefits greatly from a religious centre who provide them with activities and resources. For example, to celebrate Lord Rama's birthday a member from the Buddhist religious community visits the nursery with snacks and dressing up clothes. Children also benefit from the enthusiastic participation of the wider community in the centre where, for example, all the staff dress up in costume to celebrate Chinese New Year. Staff are particularly creative in getting children familiar with features in local communities. They take the children to the residential shop and library and children have the opportunity to visit some of the offices. Activities are replicated in the nursery where children role play, using toys and resources that are carefully chosen to represent real life experiences.

Staff are extremely committed to supporting each and every child in order to meet their needs and promote a truly inclusive environment where every child is cherished. The nursery staff forge strong links with parents and other professionals to ensure that the children make the most out of their time in the nursery, however long or short their stay is. Children with special needs requirements are clearly identified and consistently met because there is a detailed, practical policy relating to this and the nursery accessed a broad range of additional support from professionals who work in the centre. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents in detail, using translators when necessary, and consistent communication and information exchange takes place to ensure that parents are well informed and their children's needs fully met.

Parents are given high-quality, practical information about the nursery in the form of a welcome letter and routines, procedures and planning is prominently displayed on the notice board. Staff go to great lengths to get to know the families, for example, by greeting each parent by name and giving parents valuable feedback about their children on a daily basis. Parents are actively encouraged to become involved in their children's learning. The open access policy the nursery has, as well as staff's exceptionally flexible attitude, means that parents bring their children in at any time of the day or they just choose to pop in with their children to use the superb range of toys available. Staff consistently encourage parents to make use of the library, the toy lending facility and the computer suite. Parents' views are actively sought through the use of questionnaires and regular discussions. The comments that parents make indicate how much they value and appreciate staff's commitment to the excellent care of their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by good organisation of the setting where play space is carefully thought out to provide a safe and stimulating environment. Children are well supported by skilful and very committed staff who work hard to promote a warm and caring family atmosphere. Good use of resources and flexible routines ensure children are well cared for and supported during their time spent here. Staff are dedicated in providing for their welfare, safety and care. Staff development is promoted through an annual appraisal system and their skills extended through regular training opportunities to further develop the effectiveness of the service provided.

A rigorous recruitment process ensures staff are safe and suitable to work with children and have the necessary skills. Good adult to child ratios are maintained so children have one-to-one care and action plans indicate that a key worker system is being developed to enable both parents and children to build relationships with individual staff. Policies and procedures are complete and every effort is made to share these with parents to ensure children's health, safety and welfare is maintained. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 the 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):

- observe and record what children do to plan the next steps for their play, learning and development.

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