

Little Angels Fun Club and Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	301921
Inspection date	08 May 2008
Inspector	Karen Ling
Setting Address	Little Angels Nursery, 1-4 Paradise Row, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 6QF
Telephone number	01670 737274
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Registered person	Little Angels Fun Club and Nursery Ltd.
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little Angels Fun Club and Nursery is one of three provisions run by Little Angels Fun Club and Nursery Limited. It opened in 1999 and operates from a two storey building close to Cramlington town centre. A maximum of 111 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07.45 to 17.45 for 51 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 129 children from birth to under eight years on roll, of these, 18 children receive funding for early education. Older children, aged up to 14 years, are able to attend. Children come from the locality and further afield. The nursery currently supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 28 members of staff who work directly with children; of these, four hold a level 6 qualification including the qualified nursery teacher who leads the nursery education, 15 hold a level 3 qualification and two hold a level 2 qualification. Some staff are working towards higher qualifications and three are working towards a level 2 qualification. The setting

also receives support from the local authority. The nursery received Healthy Pathways accreditation in 2006 and became a designated Children's Centre in 2007.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is promoted exceptionally well throughout the nursery and staff effectively help them to learn how to take care of themselves. Routines, such as hand washing and dental hygiene, are consistently practised and reinforced. Individual facecloths are clearly labelled, regularly laundered and children are encouraged to wash their faces when necessary. The excellent care and guidance provided by staff ensures that children's confidence and self-esteem is nurtured well. As a result children manage their own hygiene with growing independence. A wealth of information is displayed for parents, such as breastfeeding, weaning and sleep routines. Staff are proactive in providing verbal and written advice when sought. Staff consult with parents to find out babies' individual care routines and pay close attention to detail, such as what position baby likes to be held when fed. The very good interaction from staff encourages the development of social and language skills. The key worker system is well established and staff conscientiously plan for the health and developmental needs of each child.

Meal and snack times are most enjoyable occasions. Food, including organic vegetables and fruit, is freshly prepared to a high standard on the premises by an experienced and well qualified cook and assistant. A balanced and nutritious menu is planned and takes into consideration individual dietary requirements and allergies. Children are encouraged to try new foods and learn which foods help to keep them healthy. Fresh drinking water is always available and cups are clearly labelled so that children can recognise their own and help themselves when they like.

Outdoor exercise and fun is given high priority and is expertly planned for. Babies can safely explore their own garden area. The variety of activities and sensory resources provide excellent levels of stimulation and hold their interest well. Older children have a fantastic time in their garden. It has been thoughtfully developed to provide an excellent range of play opportunities. Children show a very good awareness of space as they negotiate their way around the indoor and outdoor spaces. They are confident and show agility as they climb apparatus. Children continuously and happily play either on their own, with friends or in small groups in adult led activities. The wealth of resources and props, such as the 'Bear Cave' and construction area enable children to be imaginative, adventurous and thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are eager to attend the nursery because staff are very caring and provide a welcoming and secure environment where parents are always welcome. The nursery is vibrant and stimulating and reflects what children learn about. Children are cared for in rooms according to their age and stage of development. Careful consideration has been given to providing a homely and welcoming environment. The thoughtful layout of each room prepares children for the next stage in their development. For example, the two baby rooms enable free movement whilst maintaining a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere. Babies can rest safely and a separate sleep room is provided to enable individual sleep patterns to be facilitated. They sleep safely and comfortably and are regularly monitored. Rooms increase in size and challenge to meet

individual needs and stages of development, culminating in a vibrant classroom layout which prepares children very well for their move on to school. An excellent variety and choice of resources are very well presented and easily accessed in each room. Children use an extensive range of toys and equipment, including imaginative use of everyday household items. They are of good quality and condition. These support and challenge children and babies very well.

Children are secure and well supervised because staff are vigilant about children's safety. An ethos of enabling children to take risks within a safe environment and with the skilful support of staff pervades. Clear dialogue takes place between children and staff with the intention of helping children to work through the consequences of their actions and the safest way to do things. For example, when a ball was thrown out of reach, children were helped to work out how they could retrieve it safely. Informed independence is the intention and children are clearly learning to problem solve. Thorough risk assessments are carried out and recorded regularly across the nursery including planned activities on and off site. These are monitored by senior staff and prompt action is taken where necessary. There is a clear child protection statement which names the member of staff with responsibility for ensuring that child protection concerns are dealt with promptly. Clear and comprehensive policies and practices are in place to ensure children's safety and this information is shared with parents and carers.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Babies and children are absorbed in high quality play opportunities and clearly enjoy their time at nursery. They achieve so much because staff provide the resources and environment which enable them to explore a wealth of media and materials at their own pace and with increasing challenge. The key to children's achievement and enjoyment at this nursery is the wealth of opportunity they have to explore and find out about things. Their environment is wonderful. Informed planning and staff expertise enables children to become independent learners, confident and have high levels of self-esteem.

Excellent practices are being reinforced across the nursery to enhance the speaking and listening and communication skills of children. Whether babies are playing, resting or feeding, staff pay close attention to them. They explore, watch and become inquisitive about the resources and activities offered. Staff's regular verbal interaction helps them to make sense of their surroundings and identify names with objects. They develop a range of skills because objects, such as rattles, are placed out of reach requiring baby to focus, stretch and grasp. They have freedom to move around safe spaces and develop their senses well. The sensory room is enjoyed very much by all babies. The caring approach of staff helps babies to understand routines. For example, staff explained what was happening while helping to dress them in waterproof dungarees and Wellington boots. They loved playing in the water trough outside choosing implements to splash and scoop the water. Young children begin to make friendships and cooperate in their play. They receive excellent levels of challenge. Staff make careful observations of children and notice what they like to do. This leads to the imaginative introduction of new resources, such as shiny coal scuttles which are used for posting and retrieving objects. The careful organisation of equipment enables children to move between play areas and engage purposefully in a wide range of activities.

Care is also provided after school and during school holidays. Independence and decision making is encouraged well. For example, children are encouraged to be involved in planning activities. They have run their own sport club, enjoyed excursions and themed days. They have access to

a wide range of resources both inside and outdoors. They can be active outside or relax in a quiet area if they prefer.

Nursery education

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding and excellent practice is shared amongst staff. Staff have a very good knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage. Rigorous systems are in place to monitor how well children are achieving and who needs what to help move them on or reinforce skills and knowledge. Children are empowered to think for themselves and work out how to do things independently. All of this is done in a loving and fun way so that each child feels cared for and special.

Children are interested in learning and confident in tackling new things and doing things for themselves. Once involved in an activity children concentrate and persevere with difficult tasks. They seek help if necessary and are motivated by the praise and guidance given by staff. Staff successfully promote shared values and mutual respect. As a result children behave exceptionally well and are tolerant of others. Children are encouraged to express their needs, talk about themselves and listen to others. They listen attentively to stories and instructions, for instance, during baking activities. They learn to distinguish pictures and print and their attention is drawn to the sounds of letters and words. Children learn to form letters correctly beginning with fun activities that instil correct hand movements. Excellent planning ensures that children use writing tools for a variety of purposes in meaningful ways.

Children are taught to count reliably and recognise numbers. They learn through number rhymes, play situations and adult-led activities. Staff conscientiously practise concepts and simple calculation with children to help them solve problems, develop reasoning skills and establish a firm grasp of simple numeracy. Well-established routines give a pattern to the day and sense of time passing. Children become adept at using construction apparatus and show developing dexterity as they handle a variety of tools, materials and resources, such as scissors and paintbrushes. Children have free access to paint and learn to print and create collages. They follow suggestions, such as printing using model dinosaur feet, and develop their own ideas as they explore the mix of colours. They show excellent levels of concentration, for example, when experimenting with pipes and funnels in the water. Their use of information technology is excellent. They confidently use the interactive whiteboard pre-empting what happens next very successfully.

Children enjoy their time at nursery and make excellent progress because activities are carefully planned to provide high levels of challenge and ensure new skills are learnt. In addition, staff successfully use the information gained from systematic observations and assessments to inform next steps in each child's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children show high levels of confidence in their surroundings and the daily routines. Staff greet them in a friendly manner, are pleased to see them and engage in conversation about things brought from home or special events. Babies settle easily because of the care and attention they receive while older children quickly engage in the variety of exciting activities set out. Relationships at all levels are excellent and this contributes very well to children's enjoyment and self-esteem. Staff know children very well and use information from observations effectively

when writing the recently introduced individual learning plans. These plans are further enhancing the quality of the curriculum and children's experiences.

Interesting activities help children to actively learn about themselves, each other and the world they live in. Visitors to the nursery and outings to places of interest help to make this process meaningful. Staff are patient and kind and set an excellent role model to the children. They treat all children with equal concern and give very good support to those requiring more support in their learning. Effective monitoring of children's involvement in activities ensures that staff provide appropriate challenges that interest and involve boys and girls. For example, the addition of clip boards in the outdoor role play garage has encouraged boys to use writing tools in their play ideas.

Children's behaviour is exceptional. They learn the boundaries of acceptable behaviour because staff give clear explanations and skilfully engage with children to help them understand the consequences of their actions. They are very good at sharing and taking turns. For example, during an activity using the interactive whiteboard, children enthusiastically took turns to be the teacher and invited others to help choose the correct answers. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered well.

Parents and carers are involved particularly well and staff have a very good rapport with them. They are encouraged to spend time helping their child to settle at the start of a placement by gradually extending the length of the visit. This helps the child to get used to staff and feel safe and confident before staying for a full session. Excellent information is provided through a detailed parent handbook, regular newsletters, daily diaries and displays. The nursery values parents' views. Ideas and suggestions are acted on accordingly. The many positive comments from parents are testimony of the high regard they have for staff and the care their children receive.

The partnership with parents and carers is outstanding. Detailed information is provided in respect of the Foundation Stage curriculum and regularly updated. Effective systems ensure that they are regularly informed about how their child is progressing and a written report is provided. Staff find manageable and interesting ways of involving parents in their child's learning. The excellent cooperation and communication with parents ensures that they effectively contribute towards the progress children make.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Leaders and managers have a dynamic impact on the quality of care, learning and development throughout the nursery. Their clear vision, thorough evaluation of practices and consistent attention to detail ensures that the nursery continually improves and develops. Rigorous systems are in place which underpin the day-to-day running and planning of the curriculum across the nursery. Staff are honest and open about what is working well and what is still to be done. The regular staff memos are a reminder to all staff to assess their practices including health and safety issues. The manager gives clear direction to staff and regularly challenges them to review their provision for children and develop it further. One example includes a review of play opportunities and the implications on language development for groups of children.

There is a strong focus on personal development and achievement of all children and staff. Staff are committed to professional development and regularly attend training, workshops and in-house presentations. Children's individual learning plans are developing well and monitored

regularly and staff say they are well supported by senior managers. The nursery has dedicated and enthusiastic staff who articulate well why they are doing things and how they best meet the needs of each child. The excellent practices are recognised beyond the nursery. For example, staff have given a presentation to local authorities on their successful planning systems. Staff cooperate closely with external agencies to ensure the needs of children requiring additional support are fully met.

Leadership and management is outstanding. The delivery of the Foundation Stage curriculum is managed exceptionally well. The drive and enthusiasm of the qualified nursery teacher is infectious and children and staff are positively motivated. Equality of opportunity is at the core of planning and works in practice because of the skilful way in which staff encourage children. Staff are supported very well, included in decision making and their work is monitored effectively. Staff benefit from the many opportunities to develop professional knowledge and understanding and continually evaluate the effectiveness of their work. The result is high quality nursery education where children make exceptionally good progress towards the early learning goals. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of nursery education are outstanding.

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