

Midland Road Nursery School & Children's Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY349769
Inspection date	19 May 2008
Inspector	Ingrid Szczerban
Setting Address	Bateman Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD8 7DJ
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Registered person	The Governing Body of Midland Road Nursery School
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care, Crèche

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?

Midland Road Children's Centre Day Care is part of Midland Road Nursery School organisation. It is run by a board of governors and a sub-group committee. It operates from three main rooms in a purpose built building. One of the rooms is used for a creche and for children receiving wrap around care. Outdoor play is provided for all children. It is situated close to Bradford City Football Stadium.

A maximum of 60 children may attend at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08.00 to 18.00 for 50 weeks of the year. There are currently 46 children on roll. No children receive funding for nursery education as they attend the school nursery, but children age three to five years currently use the wrap around care facility. The setting supports children with over half speak English as an additional language. The nursery employs 14 staff. All hold relevant early years qualifications, most to level 3 or 4 and one holds a degree level qualification. The setting receives support from the local authority (LA) and an early years teacher.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a spotlessly clean and well maintained environment. Good support and guidance is provided so that children develop a good understanding of personal hygiene. They wash their hands before eating and after toileting. Oral hygiene is promoted through brushing teeth after lunch. Children are effectively protected from cross infection through the use of good hygiene practices and procedures. Staff use aprons and gloves when changing children's nappies and paper towels are used by children. The regular washing of equipment and a sickness policy containing exclusion periods for various childhood illnesses, safeguards children's health. All accidents and medication are recorded, and written consent from parents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice, is obtained. Children rest and sleep according to their individual needs so that they remain healthy.

Healthy snacks are given to the children, promoting their health and development. They have fresh fruit and milk or water to drink. Individual dietary needs are fully considered to promote children's well-being. Mainly fresh food is used in the preparation of meals and some foods from around the world are given. Parents receive information about menus when their child is collected, however, weekly menus are not displayed.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities, which contribute to their good health. They have free access to physical activities outdoors, such as the use of wheeled toys, bats and balls.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe as potential risks are identified and minimised by staff through good practices. Staff comply with health and safety requirements to keep children safe. Access to the provision is monitored well through use of CCTV, coded door locks and vision panels on doors, to protect children from unknown visitors. Children learn how to remain safe and keep others from harm, as they practise the fire drill and are reminded not to climb on shelves.

Children move around safely and freely in the well-organised setting. They play safely outdoors because the area is enclosed. The surface is suitable for them to play out all year round and the area is partially covered by a canopy. Children can choose to play inside or outdoors for prolonged periods of the day. However, climbing facilities are not constantly available to them which prevents more able children from extending their physical skills. Bright, colourful posters, displays, photographs and artwork make the environment interesting and welcoming for children. Photographs of children above their coat pegs and the prominent display of their free artwork help to increase children's sense of belonging and boost their self-esteem.

Children use an excellent range of safe, good quality, developmentally appropriate toys and equipment, which helps to keep them from harm. Toys are rotated regularly to sustain children's interest. Children initiate their own play freely because their toys and resources are stored and set out at child height, to enable high levels of decision-making and independence.

Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and a suitable policy is in place, in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance. Staff have undertaken training,

ensuring that children are protected and their well-being is enhanced. Parents are informed, prior to admission, of the setting's duty to report any child protection concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are greeted on arrival by a warm and affectionate staff team who ensure children feel secure and confident in the setting. Children are extremely happy, settled and achieve well. They benefit from having their individual needs met within excellent, warm and caring relationships which contribute to their sense of belonging. Children gain supreme levels of self esteem in the highly effective child orientated environment where they experience consistent support, praise and encouragement. Children make rapid progress in self care skills. They brush their teeth, take off their own coats and hats and hang them on their own peg. Children benefit from regular routines that are planned entirely around their individual needs which increases their emotional well-being.

Staff are skilled practitioners who plan a range of fun and stimulating activities for children in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework. The current theme on mini beasts has captivated children's interest entirely. They make their own spiders using clay and matchsticks. Children anticipate their imminent outing to see mini beasts in real life, with great excitement. They talk animatedly of spiders, butterflies and caterpillars.

Children are keen to share home experiences. They delight in recalling past events in great detail, such as travelling with family members in an aeroplane. Children display advanced fine physical skills. They draw around their own hands with crayons and can manage knives and forks well. Children are gaining a good awareness of numbers and calculation as staff use everyday situations to promote mathematics. Staff and children count out the number of cups and bowls together at snack time.

Exemplary care is given to babies. Staff have high regard to individual babies sleep patterns and tailor care to suit these. Some babies are pushed to and fro in buggies, whilst others are cradled to sleep in the arms of staff. Babies have ample space to move around and are clearly delighted to practice their newly found skills of walking. They listen well and can communicate their needs most effectively through sounds and gestures.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff promote an inclusive provision, so that all children are positively welcomed and their individual needs catered for. Satisfactory arrangements can be made to support children with learning difficulties. Children learn about themselves, each other, and the world around them through well planned activities and by using a wealth of resources, which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. High value is placed on languages. Some of the staff are bi-lingual and speak the first language of many of the children attending. All staff take great care to learn the correct pronunciation of each child's name.

The staff have a very good awareness of positive behaviour management techniques to enhance children's well-being. A strength of the setting is the extent to which children learn to share and take turns. Children are provided with excellent role models by staff who are polite and respectful. Thus children too, are polite and very well behaved. Lots of praise and encouragement is given to children, which boosts their confidence and self-esteem.

Parents are warmly welcomed into the setting. They receive clear information about the setting and its policies and procedures. Notice boards contain detailed information about how to complain, planning, themes and activities. Parents are kept well informed about their child's progress. They receive written and verbal feedback from staff each day, and children's development files are always available to them. Parents express their satisfaction with the setting, complementing the friendliness and approachability of the staff. They also tell of the rapid progress their children make in overall development and the high levels of confidence they have gained since attending the nursery.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The well organised and welcoming environment allows children to exercise choice and promotes their increasing independence and confidence. Resources and activities are attractively presented and children are able to freely select further resources to support their play. Children receive very good levels of individual support from staff.

All the required documentation is in place and policies and procedures are successfully adhered to in practice. Rigorous recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are well protected and cared for by staff with good knowledge and understanding of child development. Induction procedures are excellent and ensure that staff have a good awareness of expected practice.

Staff are extremely enthusiastic and have a high level of commitment towards continuously improving practice and their individual learning. Staff enhance their skills by attending regular training. They work very well together as a team and each has a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The manager gives good support to the staff, through constant guidance, staff meetings and appraisals. She provides constant guidance and sets a good role model for staff as she regularly works in the playrooms. The setting is pro-active in identifying their own areas for development and regularly seeks and acts on the advice and support from the local authority. This demonstrates a willingness to continually improve and has a positive impact on the care, learning and play provided.

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

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.

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 QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- develop the provision for children to extend their large physical skills in continuous provision
- display weekly menus for parents.

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