

# The Old Barn Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	122748
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<b>Inspector</b>	Carol Patricia Willett
<b>Setting Address</b>	140 High Street, Banstead, Surrey, SM7 2NZ
<b>Telephone number</b>	01737 373715
<b>E-mail</b>	RMBennett@oldbarndaynursery.co.uk
<b>Registered person</b>	Richard Martin Bennett
<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?

The Old Barn Day Nursery has been registered since 1996. It is privately owned and is one of two nurseries. It operates in a converted house. The children have use of one large room which has three separate areas. There is access to toilets and an enclosed outdoor play area. Children attend from surrounding areas.

The nursery is registered to provide care for a maximum of 12 children aged from birth to two years at any one time. There are currently 11 children on roll. As children become steady on their feet at about one year old, they move into the second Old Barn Day Nursery nearby, which accommodates children aged from birth to five years.

Opening hours are from 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday. The nursery is open all year round with the exception of Christmas and bank holidays.

There are three full-time staff who work with the children, all of whom have level 3 early years qualifications. Staff from the sister nursery cover breaks and absences.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected as staff are first aid trained and maintain a well stocked first aid box. They maintain a suitable range of documentation to record accidents, details of which are shared with parents to keep them informed. Staff obtain written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment should they not be contactable in an emergency. They obtain prior consent to give children medicine but staff do not always complete the medication forms effectively. For instance, they do not always record the dosage of medicine or when the last dose was given and this puts children at risk if staff give them another dose too soon.

Children stay healthy because staff ensure the premises are clean and suitable for use. The staff follow good hygiene routines, for example, they wipe down highchairs before and after children eat and after painting activities. All staff and visitors remove their outdoor shoes so the floor stays clean for crawling babies and reduces the risk of infection. Children's health is promoted well as bedding is changed daily. Nappy changing procedures are good, with staff using gloves and aprons.

Staff provide suitable opportunities to develop children's physical skills as they provide a suitable range of equipment, such as soft play equipment and low level tunnels and slides. Children are able to climb and crawl and develop their muscles whilst they are in the nursery. The sofa provides babies with opportunities to pull themselves up to standing and practise their walking skills. Staff praise and encourage children's developing skills and achievements which increases their confidence. Staff develop children's fine motor skills through the provision of activities, such as shape sorters, construction and threading toys and the use of paintbrushes and crayons. Children are able to enjoy fresh air as there is a fully enclosed garden and children are taken out for walks in the local area.

Children develop healthy eating practices as they have a good variety of nutritious food each day. They enjoy freshly prepared food brought to the nursery daily from the sister nursery. Weekly menus are displayed for parents to see what children will be having on the day and to ensure they are happy with the choices. Staff ensure children are given regular drinks of water throughout the day. They follow babies' home routines for milk feeds, respecting parents' wishes so children are comfortable and secure.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play happily in premises that are comfortable and safe as staff take generally good steps to minimise risks. The premises are bright, with natural light and are suitably maintained. The children have use of a secure garden which is accessed through a door from the playroom. Staff ensure the premises and resources are always safe, clean and suitable for the children's use through efficient routines and checking procedures. Staff organise the premises effectively so the children can freely explore the large playroom which is divided into three areas; one for sleeping, one for general play and one for eating and messy play. The comfortable sofas make the room homely and the displays of the children's work and posters make them welcoming so children are settled and secure. There is a broad range of good quality age appropriate toys that staff select daily and children can freely access as they are put out on the floor. These are changed frequently on a rota system to maintain children's interest.

Staff demonstrate a good awareness of safety with regard to the premises and resources. They are vigilant in their daily checking procedures to ensure children stay safe. For example, sockets are covered and a gate is in place across the kitchen door. There are effective procedures and documents in place to promote children's safety and welfare. Good security systems are in place to keep children safe. Visitors are signed in and out and effective procedures are in place for the collection of children. Staff and children's arrival and departure times are recorded. Staff have a sound understanding of child protection issues and there are written procedures in place to follow if they have a concern about a child in their care. Accident and injuries children arrive with are recorded and shared with parents so they are aware of the nursery's responsibility to safeguard children. However, there is no written statement of procedure to follow if an allegation is made about a member of staff, although the manager is aware of what to do. Children are supervised by staff who undergo relevant vetting procedures but the manager on site does not have a clear knowledge of the clearance status of new staff working with her. This means children are not effectively safeguarded.

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

The provision is good.

Children relate well to the staff, who have good childcare skills and are warm, friendly, caring and attentive. As a result, children are confident and secure in the nursery. They are happily occupied throughout the day and they play and explore freely and enthusiastically. The staff provide a wide range of good quality resources for the children and encourage their development through lots of praise. The staff enjoy the children's company and join in with their play, responding well to the non-verbal communication of the babies. Staff give good attention to meeting the individual needs of babies and toddlers and to exchanging information with their parents. They observe the children and know when they are tired or need a nappy change or sleep. The nursery is well organised and provides a homely environment which is warm and welcoming to parents and children. Space is used well. Babies and toddlers have access to a good range of easily accessible toys and equipment. They access a range of natural materials, such as those contained in treasure baskets and water play in the garden. Staff plan activities linked to the Birth to three matters framework. Children experience a wide range of activities and resources so they make good progress in their all-round development. Children have access to messy play, enjoying painting sat in their highchairs and like to make marks on paper with chunky crayons. They explore cornflour gloop and musical instruments. They enjoy joining in as staff sing nursery rhymes and look at books with them. The children freely choose from a variety of toys suitable for their age and stage of development as staff select and put a range of resources on the floor for them to explore. They enjoy the soft play, tent, tunnels and slides.

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

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and secure and develop a sense of belonging in the nursery as staff are caring and attentive. New children settle quickly as staff take time to make them feel at ease and get to know the parents and children well. They obtain a good range of information from parents prior to the children starting and use this effectively to follow children's own routines so they are secure and happy. Staff offer good support to children and provide inclusive practice where all children are encouraged to participate in all activities, including painting.

Staff use age appropriate strategies to manage children's behaviour. They act as good role models to the children and manage them well. For example, they gently distract children where

necessary. They are kind and gentle and provide a consistent approach, for example, to biting, as they discuss all aspects of the children's care and behaviour at the end of each day. Staff provide a positive environment and are very attentive, providing a good range of activities, toys and experiences so the children are busily occupied and behave well.

Relationships with parents are friendly and supportive as staff make them and their children feel welcome. Children receive good care and attention as parents share relevant information, for example, if children are tired and need an early sleep. This ensures children's needs are known and met. Parents receive useful information about the nursery as a variety of information is displayed on the notice board, including the registration certificate. Parents are made aware of the policies and procedures through a parent's pack. Staff and parents exchange information daily. Parents also receive written information about the children's day. There is an open door policy where parents can discuss the children with staff and view their records.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are confident and secure in the nursery because staff are kind and caring. Staff organise the premises and resources efficiently so children settle well and play happily and ensure children's needs are effectively met. Children play and explore freely in the nursery and choose what to play with as staff organise the space effectively and ensure a range of resources are easily accessible. Staff are well deployed and work together as a team. Ratios are maintained at all times, with cover provided during the day from the sister nursery a few minutes away. Staff develop good relationships with parents. They share information daily to make sure the children's needs are well known. This ensures the provision effectively promotes the welfare, care and learning of the children.

Staff have relevant childcare qualifications and there are systems in place to ensure staff complete vetting procedures. However, staff records are not shared effectively from the other nursery to ensure the manager has all the information about the vetting status of the new staff in place.

Most policies and procedures are in place and work in practice to keep children safe, promote their well-being and support their development. However, the safeguarding children policy does not contain a statement about what to do if an allegation is made about a member of staff. Staff recording on medication records is not always consistent and sufficient and this puts children at risk. Induction procedures for new managers are not fully effective. The new manager is not sufficiently aware of her responsibilities under the requirements of registration in order to effectively evaluate and improve the provision. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the nursery was set actions to improve its practices.

The nursery was required to have a named manager in place with responsibility for the daily management of the nursery. The owner has appointed a suitably qualified and experienced staff member from the sister nursery to manage the provision.

The nursery was required to ensure staff records were kept on site. The nursery now keeps a copy of children's details and records and staff names and addresses and disclosures. Due to

the limited storage facilities at this nursery, other records are stored securely at the sister nursery, but they can be easily accessed if needed. However, the sharing of information between the nurseries is not always effective, for example, information about the vetting of new staff. A recommendation has been made at this inspection for further improvement in order to effectively safeguard children.

A further requirement was to make sure staff and children's attendance was accurately recorded to show their time in the nursery. The manager has effective systems in place and all staff, children and visitors are consistently signed in and out of the premises. This ensures children's welfare is safeguarded.

The staff were required to ensure all potential risks to children are identified and minimised. The owners and staff have taken good steps to identify and minimise risks, for example, the fridge has been replaced and smoke detectors are now in place. The garden has been cleared of building materials and the boiler has been serviced. These measures promote children's welfare and safety.

### **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):

- ensure staff use medication records effectively so they contain sufficient detail in order to promote children's welfare
- further develop the safeguarding children procedure, providing a written statement of procedures to follow in the event of an allegation of abuse against staff or volunteers
- develop effective systems for sharing information, documentation and records between nurseries in order to meet the requirements of registration
- ensure robust induction systems are in place for all staff and in particular for new managers to support the development of managerial skills so they have a good knowledge of their responsibilities.

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