

Didsbury Village Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY367552
Inspection date	05 June 2008
Inspector	Sylvia Cornock
Setting Address	1 Moorland Road, MANCHESTER, M20 6BB
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Registered person	Total Childcare Limited
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?

Didsbury Village Day Nursery is owned by Total Childcare Limited. It opened in 2008. It operates from five units within a converted Victorian house and is located in the centre of Didsbury, South Manchester. A maximum of 87 children aged from birth to five years may attend the nursery at any one time. The provision is open each week day from 07:30 to 18:30 for 51 weeks of the year. There is access to outdoor play areas.

There are currently 142 children on roll of these 17 receive funding for nursery education. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 46 staff including the manager who work with the children. Of these, 33 members of staff have early years qualifications.

The nursery receives support from an early years pedagogue and an independent early years consultant. The nursery is a member of the National Day Nursery Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health and well-being are promoted as excellent health and hygiene procedures help to prevent infection and cross contamination. Staff have clearly established routines for cleaning surfaces, toys and equipment. The clear nappy changing routine is followed consistently by staff who ensure they wear appropriate disposable aprons. These measures help to protect children's good health. Older children are developing a very good awareness of simple hygiene procedures, such as hand washing at appropriate times. Older children show awareness of the purpose of hand washing in removing germs.

Children are well protected due to good sickness, medication, accident and emergency procedures. A clear sickness policy helps protect children from the spread of infection. Staff are careful to ensure that medicines are appropriately administered so that children's health is protected. Many staff hold up to date first aid qualifications, helping to meet children's needs in the event of an accident or emergency.

Children are extremely well nourished and are developing an awareness of the importance of healthy eating. The kitchen staff prepare and produce excellent meals and snacks, using local and organic ingredients including herbs and spices to give children a variety of tastes. Menus are carefully devised taking into account dietary requirements. Children's particular dietary needs and preferences are well catered for. As a result, children benefit from the provision of excellent quality menus, offering children a balanced and nutritious diet. Children learn to develop a healthy lifestyle through daily outdoor play. They are offered and can access drinking water on a regular basis, further promoting their good health and development. Children learn to develop a healthy lifestyle through daily outdoor play.

Children learn to develop a healthy lifestyle through daily outdoor play. Their physical development throughout the nursery is promoted exceptionally well. All children have daily access to an excellent range of outdoor play equipment to develop their skills. Babies and toddlers enjoy digging, playing in the sand and the older toddlers have fun and show skill as they use the wide range of ride on toys, balls and enact the three bears story. The pre-school children look forward to their weekly visits to the local park where they can swing, climb and balance on the apparatus and equipment they show great skill. They explore the natural environment and enjoy their time in the garden and outdoor play area where they show confidence in exploring their physical capabilities using the wheeled toys, weaving in and out and using very large cardboard boxes in their role play. There is an excellent and broad variety of both indoor and outdoor equipment provided which extends children's progress and capabilities appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a dynamic and welcoming, secure indoor and outdoor environment. They are eager to attend and relish their time in the vibrant and safe setting. Children are cared for in a highly innovative planned and organised environment which is conducive to their very good learning and development. The individual rooms are well set out and prepared prior to the children's arrival offering them access to excellent activities and opportunities which are supported by an extensive range of resources and equipment. A parent's notice board with

detailed information, colourful posters, photographs and children's work displayed, creates a welcoming atmosphere. Children benefit from a good amount of space indoors which is arranged effectively to provide them with good levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Children have access to an extensive range of toys and equipment on a daily basis and which is continually built upon. This wide range of resources supports an excellent programme of themes and activities. Equipment is of a very high standard and checked regularly for safety and hygiene ensuring children are safe at all times. Children are independent as they make choices and self select toys and equipment from those on offer.

Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff are extremely vigilant and assess possible risks to reduce potential hazards. Staff have an excellent understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits, and how to involve children effectively in organising their environment. This allows children to learn some sense of danger and knowledge about how to protect themselves from harm. Regular evacuations of the premises are practised to ensure children know the procedure to follow in an emergency.

Children are cared for within a safe environment as staff employ rigorous safety policies and procedures ensuring children's safety at all times. Staff are extremely diligent in their care of children and the provision of a safe environment through the use of suitable safety equipment, high staff ratios and supervision. Staff hold regular meetings to raise or discuss any issues or concerns. Children learn to keep themselves safe through discussion with staff, for example, about the importance of not running indoors or using toys and equipment safely.

Children's welfare is given a high priority because staff have an understanding of recognising possible signs and symptoms of children at risk. Staff know who the identified member of staff is with responsibility for child protection issues. This staff member along with some other staff has undertaken child protection training. All staff are aware on how to implement the policies and procedures in the absence of the designated member of staff. This enhances children's safety and well-being. Good well written policies and procedures are shared with staff, parents and carers at all times. Staff very clearly understand their responsibility in maintaining a safe environment for all children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children throughout the nursery arrive excited and ready to participate in the excellent activities and experiences which await them. Children's ability to relate to others is quite striking; not only do they relate well to adults, but they have developed very good relationships with each other. This is evident when they tell staff and each other about their news, such as about the rainbows, going to Scotland and what they did there, new baby in the family, going swimming and going to London in my car. All children throughout the nursery enjoy reading appropriate books for their age for pleasure with enthusiasm in the comfortable book areas, where books are of superb quality and quantity captivating their interest. Children are happy and contented and are extremely confident and self-assured.

Those who are new are helped to settle by staff who are sensitive towards their individual needs. The youngest children make excellent progress because staff recognise the uniqueness of each child. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. Children under three benefit greatly from the planning of

activities that are specifically geared to enable them to become fully involved and engrossed in an exciting range of highly innovative activities. Staff have an excellent understanding of 'Birth to three matters' framework which supports children's learning effectively.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Children are captivated and greatly inspired by an extensive range of stimulating, relevant activities related to their needs. They access a very broad range of high quality resources, which supports children across all areas of learning. Staff consistently make excellent use of their time and resources to support children's learning. Teaching highly motivates the children who are eager to learn, self assured in their play and confident to try new experiences.

The setting has developed a highly comprehensive and robust system to track both the delivery and receipt of the curriculum. Assessments of children's achievements is rigorous and securely linked to the stepping stones, resulting in children who make very rapid progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning, given their capability and starting points. From the start, staff find out about children's skills, interests and needs and build on this information effectively to help children achieve as much as they can. A flexible approach to planning and an excellent balance between adult and child-led activities allows children to learn at their own pace. Staff are perceptive of children's interests during self-initiated play and use questions very successfully to challenge children's thinking and developing language skills.

Children experience a language rich environment where they develop very good speaking and listening skills. Children know how books 'work' and enjoy reading in the excellent well stocked and comfortable book areas. They very successfully recognise letters of the alphabet and volunteer to share their knowledge with their friends when looking at the alphabet posters. Pads and pencils are freely used in role play helping children understand that words and print have meaning. Children demonstrate a thorough understanding of number and shape recognition. When using the computer children listen to instruction and confidently use the mouse. They confidently count the number of children and adults present and recognise numbers through a range of purposeful songs, stories and activities. Some are confident as they count to 10 in German.

Many good opportunities to make music are enjoyed by children. They enjoy dressing up and dancing and moving to music with the visiting music teacher on a weekly basis, they use and experiment with musical instruments with great enthusiasm. Children enjoy meeting people from the community as they take walks to the local park to use the large physical apparatus. They celebrate many and varied festivals throughout the year, they enjoy the weekly German session and visits from others who bring in items from Italy and talk about their visit to Italy. The current theme is 'people who help us' with visits from people within the community' They have opportunities to taste different foods from around the world. These experiences help children understand diversity.

Children are inquisitive, fascinated by how things work, such as how certain objects float and others sink and how colours change when mixing coloured paints. They show skill and concentration as they make various objects from large cardboard boxes. Staff read stories as children follow the story with excitement, they use props, such as three different sized beds and three different sized teddies to recite the story of 'Goldilocks and the three bears'. Children explore a wealth of natural items from flowers, leaves and trees, to examining the hedgerows

for insects using binoculars and magnifying glasses. They plant and grow vegetables and flowers as they tend to the garden.

Children show great interest in observing the chicks hatch from their eggs in the incubator, they show a sense of amazement as some are born yellow and others are black. They hold them and feel their soft feathers and complete pictures for the wall about what they have seen. They engage in making a book using their own pictures and photographs of their experiences and are proud to show and talk about the birth of a chicken. Children's sense of discovery is exceptionally well supported and their physical skills developed superbly through excellent outdoor and indoor activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's equality of opportunity is given a very high priority and is extremely well addressed. All children are included in all the activities provided, their individual needs and circumstances are very well known and provided for by staff. All children are welcomed and play a full part in the setting because staff value and respect their individuality and the family context for each child. Children have access to a rich and varied range of resources, play opportunities and activities which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. They have extensive opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them through planned activities, visitors to the setting and outings to local places of interest. Staff work very effectively with parents, carers and outside agencies to ensure that children who have learning difficulties and disabilities are appropriately cared for and given support to enable them to participate fully in all activities. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. Their excellent behaviour is a direct result of highly effective staff interaction and involvement with children in their activities. Children receive lots of positive praise and encouragement for their efforts, attempts and achievements aiding the development of their self confidence and self-esteem. Staff are excellent role models, showing respect and consideration for children, each other, parents and carers. Children are extremely polite, well mannered and show care and concern for each other. A very positive behaviour management strategy encourages children to be polite, have respect for oneself and others and the environment.

Partnership with parents and carers is outstanding throughout the nursery. Children's well-being and development is significantly enhanced by the excellent partnership with parents and carers. Parents and carers have access to and receive an abundance of very good information about the setting and what it has to offer in terms of care and education. They also have access to detailed information on themes, along with access to long, medium and short term plans and information on the educational provision. Staff make excellent use of the walls within the various rooms showing excellent displays of children's work making this welcome to children, their parents and carers. Staff report excellent support from parents and carers including their obvious commitment, involvement and interest in the themes and activities undertaken by their children. Parent's evenings are extremely well supported, this giving children and their families a sense of belonging. Those parents and carers spoken to were very positive and supportive of the provision and what it offers their children. This highly effective communication between parents, carers and staff helps to promote children's learning and progress towards the early learning goals along with their overall development and well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The quality of leadership and management is outstanding. Children's care is significantly enhanced by the exceptional quality of organisation and the outstanding leadership and management of the setting. The manager's clear sighted educational vision is founded in an in-depth understanding of the needs of young children. The commitment and overall ethos of the setting promotes an inclusive environment in which every child matters. Regular staff meetings and very good staff training effectively contributes towards the professional development of the staff. There are extremely high staffing levels in place, which contributes significantly to children's care and development. Comprehensive staff induction and staff information folders are available to all new and existing staff.

All legally required policies and procedures are individual to the setting, robust and fully support the expert practice of knowledgeable and highly skilled staff. The premises are well organised. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to provide children with realistic and challenging play opportunities. Parents are valued and the excellent systems in place to share information contribute to the children's confidence and well-being.

All staff are committed to continuous improvement and development. Qualified and experienced staff use the curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage and 'Birth to three matters' framework guidance extremely well to provide high quality care and education. They regularly reflect, monitor and improve the quality of their care and education this means that children thrive and make very rapid progress.

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 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 parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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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