

Little Paint Pot

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	228911
Inspection date	26 June 2008
Inspector	Karen Cooper

Setting Address	69 Whitehouse Common Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B75 6EY
Telephone number	0121 311 1777
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Registered person	Lindsey Smith
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Little Paint Pots Nursery was registered in 1998. It operates from premises in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. The children have access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area. The setting is open from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays and one week over the Christmas holiday. Opening times are from 08:00 until 18:00.

The setting is registered to care for 31 children at any one time. There are currently 38 children on roll who attend for a variety of sessions. Of these, nine children receive funding for nursery education.

There are nine staff who work with the children. Of these, seven hold a relevant Level 3 childcare qualification and two members of staff are working towards a Level 2 childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is appropriately supported within the nursery through the established daily routines. Children are taught the importance of personal care for example, washing their hands after toileting, craft activities and before eating. However, children's health is being compromised because the procedures for hand and face washing particularly after eating do not ensure the risk of cross-contamination is reduced. Staff wear disposable aprons and gloves when changing nappies and use appropriate cleaning agent to clean toys and equipment. Staff ensure their knowledge of first aid is regularly updated through attending training. They are also trained in procedures to support children with specific health needs for example, to use epipens in case of anaphylactic shock. A suitable first aid box is in place and its contents checked at regular intervals. Appropriate records are in place regarding accidents and medication which are shared with parents.

All aspects of children's individual dietary needs are discussed with parents and their wishes respected. Children's meals are freshly cooked on the premises each day. However, children's well-being is being compromised because staff do not always wear appropriate clothing to ensure food is being hygienically served. Meal times are relaxed social occasions when children and staff sit together around the table to enjoy their food and each others company. Children are provided with regular drinks and jugs of water are always available.

Children are provided with plenty of opportunities to make progress in their physical development through planned indoor and outdoor activities. They enjoy physical exercise and have opportunities to play outside each day. They enjoy the large climbing apparatus where they learn to manoeuvre their bodies in various ways, climb and balance. They also have access to a selection of suitable wheeled toys to promote their physical skills. Young children are able to rest and sleep according to their respective needs. Their individual sleep patterns are discussed and agreed with parents, staff monitor children asleep and keep a record which is shared with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children access a range of toys, resources and equipment that is kept clean and regularly checked for safety; any broken toys are withdrawn from use. Appropriate consideration is given to the organisation of the nursery to allow children to move around freely and safely. However, a section of the garden is uneven and the bark chippings have worn thin therefore children's safety is potentially being compromised.

Staff have an appropriate awareness of security and ensure children cannot leave the premises unsupervised. There are clear procedures to ensure children are collected only by authorised people and a password is used for extra security if necessary. Appropriate fire equipment such as a fire blanket, smoke detectors and extinguishers are provided and are regularly checked to ensure they are in good working order. Fire evacuation procedures are in place, which are discussed and practised with the children on a regular basis to ensure they know where to go to stay safe.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff are aware of signs and symptoms of possible abuse and know the appropriate procedures to follow should they have a concern about a child. The nursery has all of the required procedures and documentation in place to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted, which is shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and well settled, they enjoy all aspects of the nursery and are keen to participate in the activities. The children are sociable and close and caring relationships with staff increase their sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of belonging. Staff have an appropriate understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and use it effectively to involve children and further their development.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching is satisfactory. Staff plan a variety of practical activities and understand what children learn from them. Although space is limited they organise the environment and resources imaginatively to create a interesting learning environment. The outdoor space is used well to promote children's physical skill and understanding of the world, for example, the children have planted seeds and watched them grow.

Children are provided with an appropriate level of support and all children are encouraged to participate fully in the range of nursery activities. Staff develop children's language by maintaining a dialogue with them and asking questions which encourage them to think and talk about what they are doing. For example, during a food tasting activity staff asked 'What colour the fruit is, what it tasted like and what did it feel like?' Children enjoy listening to books and eagerly join in with familiar stories such as 'Duck's key where can it be'. Children respond positively to number rhymes and are learning to count with confidence some beyond 10 with adult support. Activities reflect a variety of opportunities for children to sort, match and understand shapes. However, there are fewer opportunities for more able children to develop their understanding of simple problem solving.

Group activities are presented in an enthusiastic manner but are not always extended to provide sufficient challenge for children to develop their independent skills. Children enjoy designing and constructing using a variety of materials such as sand, collage, corn flour and dough. They have a sense of place and talk about significant events in their lives on a daily basis. Children are developing their imaginative skills through interesting role play activities and both boys and girls enjoy dressing up, taking on familiar roles, such as, mummy and daddy. Children enjoy taking part in music and movement and have developed spatial awareness and good co-ordination.

Planning is linked to the stepping stones and covers the six areas of learning. Staff monitor and evaluates activities to inform future plans. Children progress toward the six areas of learning is monitored using assessment sheets. However, observations of children's progress are insufficiently carried out to ensure they move to the next steps in their learning. Staff with responsibility for children with learning difficulties have an appropriate knowledge of the procedures to follow and ensure that all children are included in all aspects of nursery life.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Through planned activities children are becoming aware of people with similarities and differences. They have tasted food from other cultures and discussed other festivals. Children are treated as individuals and with equal concern and any specific requirements are noted to ensure they are met. A daily diary sheet ensures that parents are fully informed of their babies daily activities and daily discussions ensure all parents throughout the nursery are informed of their child's progress. The nursery welcomes children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and ensures that all children can access and participate in activities offered.

Children play happily and are confident, sociable and secure. They respond positively to the staff who ensure behaviour is managed with the use of praise and explanation. A reward system is used effectively to promote good behaviour. Children are encouraged to show consideration for others and respond with enthusiasm to requests for help from staff at tidy-up time. Children are listened to and the staff value what they say, which helps them to feel good about themselves. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

The partnership with parents and carers of funded children is satisfactory. Time at the beginning and end of each session is made available for parents to talk with staff. All parents know their child's key worker and share information with staff about their children. A range of relevant policies and procedures about the day-to-day organisation of the nursery and educational programme is displayed and shared with parents. Staff encourage parents to share what they know about their children's learning and to work together to help their children make progress in their learning and development.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The majority of staff hold an early years qualification and regularly attend training to ensure their knowledge and skills are kept up to date. Children are grouped effectively to ensure they receive appropriate care. This promotes consistency, enables children to build effective relationships and ensures they feel secure and confident with their carers.

Most of the legally required policies and procedures are in place. However, staff attendance records do not state the time they leave the nursery particularly at lunchtime. Documentation is regularly reviewed and available for parents to view. Children's personal information is stored securely, which helps to maintain confidentiality.

Leadership and management of nursery education is satisfactory. Staff are happy, motivated and work well together as a team. The provider has been particularly effective in developing a committed staff team who have a collaborative approach to all aspects of their work. She acts on advice and has implemented a programme of staff aimed at developing and improving the care and education for the children. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

An Inadequate Two outcome was recorded following a recent inspection. The Ofsted inspector had concerns with regard to the non-compliance of National Standards 1, 6, 7 and 12; an 'Action' was also set against National Standard 4. Compliance notices were served by an Ofsted inspector

on 10 March 2008. A follow up monitoring visit was conducted on 04 April 2008 when the registered person was found to be fully compliant with all of the National Standards.

As part of the inspection for funded children recommendations were made to continue to organise resources so that they are readily accessible to children, particularly during family time; continue to use observations and assessments of children's progress to identify their next steps in learning and use the information gained to inform planning and share this information with parents to help involve them more in their children's learning. Although space is limited staff organise the environment and resources imaginatively to create an interesting learning environment. They have also set up a catalogue of pictures of most of the resources that are stored in the cupboard so that children can choose the toys that they wish to play with. Children progress toward the six areas of learning is monitored using assessment sheets. However, observations of children's progress are insufficiently carried out to ensure they move to the next steps in their learning therefore, as a result of this inspection this has been carried forward as a recommendation to improve practice. Staff encourage parents to share what they know about their children's learning and to work together to help their children make progress in their learning and development.

Complaints since the last inspection

Concerns were received on 3 September 2007 in relation to National Standards: 3 (care learning and play), 12 (Partnership with Parents) and Annex A.6. Ofsted investigated these concerns by carrying out an unannounced visit to the setting on the 6 September 2007 and no further actions or recommendations were made. The provider remains qualified for registration.

Concerns were raised with Ofsted on 10 March 2008 regarding behaviour management, and the physical state of the setting. These concerns related to National Standard 1 (Suitable Person) National Standard 4 (Physical Environment) National Standard 6 (Safety) and National Standard 13 (Child Protection.) Ofsted wrote to the provider on 20 March 2008 and asked them to investigate the concerns. A response was received on 8 April 2008 and no evidence of a breach of the National Standards was identified. As a result no further action was taken. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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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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):

- review and improve procedures to prevent cross infection with regard to hand and face washing
- ensure staff comply with food hygiene regulations
- improve the risk assessment for outdoors to ensure all hazards are identified and minimised
- ensure times of arrival and departure of staff are recorded at all times

The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- review the process for recording observations of children's progress and show how the information gained is used to move children's learning to the next step
- improve the daily routine and activities to encourage children to develop their independent skills and understanding of simple problem solving.

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