

Oak Nursery School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	110026
Inspection date	02/12/2008
Inspector	Coral Hales
Setting address	11 Long Lane, Holbury, Southampton, Hampshire, SO45 2LF
Telephone number	023 8089 2976
Email	oaknursery@aol.com
Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Description of the setting

Oak Nursery is a privately owned setting offering full and part-time day care. It opened in 1991 and operates from a converted house in Holbury, Hampshire. There is a fully enclosed area for outdoor play.

The nursery is registered on the Early Years register and is open five days a week all year round, except for Bank Holidays, from 08.00 to 18.00. Children attend for a variety of different sessions and are cared for on two floors. The nursery is registered to accept 30 children at any one time and there are currently 47 children on roll. A number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and English as an additional language are supported. The nursery employs nine members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

The nursery is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance and the Hampshire Nursery Network. Staff are supported by advisory staff from the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are extremely happy and well settled and really enjoy their time at the nursery. The provider and her staff have a very clear understanding of how to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. Children are very well supported in their play and are making excellent progress towards the early learning goals.

All children are recognised as individuals and this allows them to feel special and they are keen to be involved in the life of the nursery. This fully inclusive and enabling environment, along with the competent, sensitive and calm approach of the staff, helps all children to feel safe and secure.

The provider and her staff show commitment to ongoing development and have a good understanding of the need for reflective practice. Some effective systems have been developed that allow for continuous improvement to be monitored and noted.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- continue to develop the systems used to monitor and evaluate the provision to ensure the current high standards are maintained

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Management and staff create a stimulating and challenging environment where the atmosphere is positive and children have fun. Children's individual needs are met

very well and they are given excellent support. For example, those new to the setting are provided with gentle and sensitive care to allow them to settle into nursery life in their own time.

Parents are extremely well informed and this excellent partnership is a key strength of the setting and contributes significantly to ensuring the needs of the children are met and continuity of care is well promoted.

Clear and effective procedures are in place for the recruitment and vetting of staff and this ensures that all adults working with children are suitable to do so. All the staff have appropriate early years qualifications and work together very effectively as a team. All documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the service provided is well maintained and organised. Policies and procedures are comprehensive, regularly reviewed and shared with parents and staff.

Arrangements for safeguarding children are robust, regularly reviewed and well understood by staff. Additional training is attended to ensure they are clear about the procedures to put in place if children are identified as being at risk of harm. Staff are vigilant throughout the day about maintaining children's safety and suitable precautions, such as gates are used as necessary to protect the children. Very effective risk assessments are in place and include any outings undertaken. These together with daily monitoring ensure all children play and are cared for in safe and secure premises, both inside and outside.

Partnerships with outside agencies including local schools are generally good with staff continuing to build relationships with other settings that children attend.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are highly motivated and they access a broad and balanced curriculum and make rapid progress in their learning and development through enjoyable, well supported, purposeful play. Qualified and experienced staff encourage them to take part in topical and challenging activities that support and extend their learning. Key persons effectively observe and monitor children's progress and this ensures all their individual learning needs are noted. Planning is shared and the observations are taken into consideration to ensure all needs are extremely well met.

Playrooms are bright and interesting with lots of colourful displays of children's work on the walls. Resources interest the children and are well organised at suitable levels and this creates a welcoming environment. Children are active, curious and positive learners and have excellent communication skills and this allows them to interact well with their peers and with the staff.

Throughout the nursery children show excellent levels of concentration and confidence as they join in eagerly with all activities. They sit in 'Santa's Grotto' and are keen to share information about the contents of their wish list letter, whilst others sit wrapping up presents having lots of fun with a roll of Sellotape.

Younger children also enjoy the same area and they make marks, listen to Christmas songs, put on funny hats and enjoy looking at the lights and are extremely well supported and enthused by the staff. Others sit together in another room using instruments to accompany favourite songs. All children enjoy stories and listen avidly and join in with enthusiasm when asked.

Pre-school children show an excellent understanding of technology, and quickly respond when asked about the computer the inspector is using. 'What is it called? "a laptop" they answer, but it has no wires they are told, how can it work? "it has a battery" they answer confidently.' Children continue to show skill and concentration as they use the computer, completing programs with ease.

Pre-school children have continuous access to the outside area, which is well used and resourced and this provides excellent opportunities for learning and enjoyment. The younger ones also use the garden on a regular basis to ensure they have plenty of opportunities to enjoy being out in the fresh air as well. This effectively contributes to children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle and the benefits of regular exercise.

Healthy and nutritious snacks are given to the children and they sit together at lunch time to eat the meals provided by the parents. This is a relaxed and social time for the children, which they all enjoy. Drinks are available throughout the day, which the children can access at will. Daily routines provide regular reminders of the importance of good hygiene practices and children are becoming independent with their skills. Home care routines are followed and effective nappy changing and sleeping procedures are in place.

All children behave well and are extremely well managed by the caring staff who help them to understand boundaries and expectations. Sensitive reminders are given if issues arise and children are kind and considerate to each other and respectful to the staff.

Staff are extremely skilled at helping the children to understand about keeping themselves safe. They practise emergency evacuations with them and routinely talk to the children as they play. Staff gently remind them not to walk around with scissors and to be careful of others around them.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.