

Little Gems Nursery & Pre-School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number 220277
Inspection date 09/12/2008
Inspector Susan Marriott

Setting address Nene Park, Diamond Way, Irthlingborough,
Northamptonshire, NN9 5QF
Telephone number 01933 653144
Email littlegems@briqthorizons.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).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the setting

Little Gems Nursery & Pre-School is part of the Bright Horizons Family Solutions group. It opened in 2000 and operates from purpose-built premises on the site of Rushden and Diamonds football club in Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire. A ramp provides access from the car park to the main doors. A maximum of 52 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07.30 to 18.00 all year round. All children have access to secure, enclosed outside play areas. There are currently 65 children aged from three months to under five years on roll. Of these, 13 children receive funding for early education. Children come from the local and surrounding areas. The nursery currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language. The nursery employs 14 members of staff plus bank staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification. The nursery has completed the first stage of a quality assurance accreditation scheme and receives support from the local authority advisory team. The setting is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

This is a very friendly setting where the children make generally good progress in relation to their starting points and capabilities and learning is actively promoted in a fully inclusive manner. Children are very safe and secure at all times and mostly enjoy learning, although some aspects of the indoor and outdoor environment are not prepared and presented to best effect to enthuse and inspire the highest standards of learning. There is a wide range of activities both inside and outside, with an appropriate balance of those that are led by an adult and those that the children choose for themselves. The positive relationships with parents and with other agencies further ensures progress is made by all children. The management continually look for ways to improve the setting, preparing action plans to address identified weaknesses.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve the overall preparation and presentation of both the indoor and outdoor environment to give further support to children's learning and development.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's care, learning and welfare is greatly enhanced by the effective way the setting is led and managed. Security measures are appropriately robust and ensure the safety of children and staff. The manager has clear vision for leading the

nursery forward and receives genuine support from senior company staff. Her honest identification of the setting's strengths and weaknesses, her resolute determination to drive improvement through action plans and regular monitoring, contribute significantly to the quality of care and education. This also secures the setting's good capacity for continuous improvement. All required documentation is readily accessible and effectively underpins the safe and efficient management of the provision. Current safeguarding requirements are fully met. Policy documents are up to date, have been signed by staff members and include dates when they should next be revised. The setting is fully inclusive and generally meets the needs of most children, including those who have English as an additional language and those who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Photographs and notes of observations are made to record the children's progress. Key workers establish children's starting points on entry and use their assessments of children's needs to inform future planning. Staff compile 'Learning Journeys' for each child and identify the next steps to be taken. The system is not yet fully embedded and three monthly reviews are scheduled to measure progress against age-expected targets. The managers are fully committed to the provision of continuing staff development, resulting in members of staff attending many training courses as well as taking part in schemes for in-house training. Consequently, their enhanced skills and knowledge contribute successfully towards the good progress the children make.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy good support from the staff in relation to their care and learning. The education programme is well organised with weekly themes and activities tailored to the interests and abilities of the children in attendance. These cover all aspects of the early learning goals, ensuring children enjoy a broad range of activities, designed to meet each child's developmental needs. Staff maintain lively levels of interaction with children of all ages and effectively meet their daily care needs with care and dedication. Children are encouraged to become critical thinkers through their regular discussions with caring staff. They make effective progress in their learning and development, as demonstrated by a two-year-old who was eager to show the inspector a tower of plastic cubes and to count them.

Generally good use is made of space in the three base rooms, where children are able to focus on activities suitable for their age and stage of development. However, staff do not always ensure that pencils and crayons are sharpened and ready for use. The workshop area of the pre-school room is not attractively set out to entice children to use it and the garden areas lack imaginative presentation. Damaged labelling and signage in the pre-school room is not promptly replaced to promote children's awareness of the printed word and numbers as labels.

Regularly documented observations are maintained on all children. Regular meetings with parents keep them very well informed of their child's development and the staff work closely with them when addressing the next steps for learning. Parents are encouraged to contribute their own observations of their child's

learning at home through the 'Little Gems' board in each room and this strengthens partnership working between home and nursery.

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?	2
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?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
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?	2

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 B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:

Met

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action.

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.