

Minus Fives Childrens Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique reference number | 305965 |
| Inspection date | 25/09/2008 |
| Inspector | Eileen Grimes |

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| Setting address | William Crosthwaite Avenue, Teeside Industrial Estate, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 9LX |
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| Email | nunthorpenurseries@callnetuk.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

Minus Fives Day Nursery opened in 1989 and is part of the Nunthorpe Nurseries group which run several groups in the Cleveland area. They are currently registered on the Early Years Register and the Compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The nursery is situated in the borough of Stockton on Tees in a quiet road on Thornaby industrial estate. It serves the local and surrounding areas. The nursery operates from a purpose built one storey building with four activity rooms plus a room equipped with soft play materials. Children have free access to outdoor play.

The nursery is registered to provide full and part time care, which includes an out of school and holiday club. The nursery provides care for sixty children aged between six weeks and eight years. There are currently 72 children on roll. This includes seven children who receive nursery education funding. There are systems in place to support children with English as an additional language and children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round excluding bank holidays. Sessions are from 07.30 until 18.00.

The setting employs 12 members of child care staff. All hold an appropriate early years qualification. In addition the setting employs a cook. The nursery receive support from the local authority early years advisory team.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Staff have a very sound understanding of the individual needs of children within the group. This ensures that they are able to promote all aspects of children's welfare and learning very well. The effective management of the nursery has developed a strong staff team which provides a happy environment in which children thrive. The continuous self evaluation ensures, that staff are encouraged to reflect on practice, identify strength and weakness and plan for future development. Partnership with parents and other agencies is a strength of the nursery, this ensures that they are able to meet the needs of all children well. Children are safe and secure at all times and enjoy learning about a range of topics.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure young children's cups are clearly labelled
- develop the use of the outdoor play area and activity rooms to enable children to move freely between activities
- develop the range of resources to promote a positive image of diversity.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

There is a well established staff team within the setting. All staff are qualified and have a wealth of experience with young children. Management have rigorous procedures in place for recruitment, and selection and there are ongoing appraisals and one to one chats. This ensures that staff are happy and settled as well as identifying areas for development. Through staff accessing training they have implemented the Early years Foundation Stage well in the first month and have adapted planning and assessment to ensure they are meeting the individual needs of children. Staff are conscientious about ensuring risks are minimised at all times, through completing risk assessments and being alert to issues of safety. However, attention should be given to the risk of cross infection with young children. The management has a firm commitment to the development of the group. The Self Evaluation is completed with key areas for development and actions plan in place. It is acknowledged that this is an ongoing tool to assess constant development, with areas raised at the last inspection addressed and highlighted. This ensures that children receive a high standard of care and education.

The nursery has developed very strong partnerships with both parents and other agencies. Parents are kept informed through a variety of methods with staff taking time to talk with parents about their child's progress. The nursery has asked parents to complete questionnaires and taken any action required. The manager has liaised with the local schools to further develop their working relationship. This ensures continuity for children in the nursery.

There are a wide range of policies and procedures in place throughout the nursery which relate to keeping children safe. Staff are aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and are have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Staff have a very sound understanding of child development and how children learn. This has enabled them to embrace the Early Years Foundation Stage. They clearly understand how activities they plan link to the progress towards the early learning goals. Planning is based on the individual needs and interests of the children. Staff use observations to assess children's progress with a clear picture of their next stages of development and how this will be achieved, through a balance of activities which are both child and adult led. All children are fully included within the setting. Staff ensure child are able to access a range of activities and achieve this through equipment being accessible for children.

Throughout the setting children are happy and settled. They have formed very good trusting relationships with both staff and peers. Children are keen to participate in activities which are interesting and fun. Older children are beginning to understand sharing and taking turns, and all children within the setting are developing independence. For example younger children begin to feed themselves at lunchtime, whilst older children are beginning to serve themselves. The successful implementation of the key worker means that staff know the children. Activities are

appropriate to the needs of the children and cover all the areas of learning. Children develop interests in books from a very early age, staff read books to the youngest child and their excellent story telling skills means that even the youngest child sit engrossed in story time. Print and numbers are displayed in areas for older children, with all equipment labelled. Children's work is attractively displayed in all areas of the nursery including the office, and child take pride in showing parents their work. The group celebrate festivals and have some equipment which reflects the diversity of society. However, this is limited and should be further developed.

Space within the setting is mostly well organised, with children grouped according to age. Children are able to move freely between activities. However, older children would benefit for being able to access all areas of the rooms and having the freedom to access the outdoor area.

Throughout the setting there is a high standard of hygiene practices. Staff wear blue aprons for nappy changing and wear disposable gloves. Staff are vigilant about hand washing and ensure children wash hands after toileting and before meals. Throughout the setting there are clear routes for evacuation marked on the walls, this ensures all adults in the building have a clear understanding of evacuation procedure. Evacuations drills are regularly practiced and recorded. Behaviour within the nursery is exceptional. Children understand and know what is expected. They treat one another and staff with respect. Staff manage behaviour in a calm quiet manner and provide positive role models. The skills they develop through their time in the setting ensures they are prepared and will contribute to their future economic wellbeing.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

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

Overall effectiveness

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

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

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

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

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.