

Toad Hall Day Nursery Ltd.

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY219283
Inspection date 25/09/2008
Inspector Cecelia Davies

Setting address @ Wyburns Primary School, Nevern Road, Rayleigh, Essex,
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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

Toad Hall Day Nursery is privately owned and opened in 2002. It operates from four rooms in a purpose built facility within the grounds of Wyburns Primary School in Rayleigh. It is registered on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register and meets the requirements of each of these. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. Access for wheelchair users is good. A maximum of 76 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery opens five days a week all year round, apart from public holidays. Operating times are from 07:00 until 19:00.

There are currently 161 children in the early years age group on roll. Of these, 36 children receive funding for nursery education. Children attend for a variety of sessions or full day care. The nursery serves the local community and surrounding areas. The setting supports a small number of children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities or who have English as an additional language.

The Nursery employs 24 staff, of whom 23, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. There is one member of staff currently working towards a recognised early years qualification and seven staff working towards higher qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority, the National Day Nurseries' Association (NDNA) and the Pre School Learning Alliance (PSLA).

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Toad Hall Day Nursery provides effective pre-school care and education for its children. They enjoy their time in the nursery because all staff know each child well and create a very safe and welcoming environment that promotes positive attitudes and effective learning. Consequently children of all abilities make good progress. The owner and manager are very aware of the strengths and areas for improvement. They have high aspirations and their monitoring of provision is rigorous so that the setting has good capacity for further improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- complete the updating of the operational plan so that it fully meets the requirements of the EYFS
- make more relevant links between the six areas of learning using both indoor and outside environment.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

All adults in the Nursery work well together as an effective team. A good programme of staff training is in place and the manager and owner are very committed to improving their knowledge and that of all staff. Regular monitoring of provision takes place by the manager. Staff also observe each other to support and share best practice. Documentation and procedures are reviewed regularly but the operational plan has yet to be fully updated. Procedures for safeguarding children are robust and meet the current requirements. Thorough risk assessments and regular health and safety checks are conducted. Comprehensive records are kept to ensure staff know children's specific needs. The Nursery provides a secure environment and all staff are vigilant about the supervision of children. The necessary steps have been taken to improve provision since the last inspection with increased opportunities planned for children to 'mark make' using a range of materials.

Parents appreciate the way the staff nurture and care for their children. The staff are welcoming and work well with parents and carers, valuing their contribution to their children's learning. Very good information about the provision is regularly shared, making good use of the nursery web site. Parents are well informed about their children's progress through regular parents' evenings and daily exchanges to share information. These frequent exchanges of information ensure that ongoing care and education meet children's developing needs.

A very successful event was organised recently where parents and carers played with their children and at the same time gained an understanding about the importance of play.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are given good opportunities to help them make progress across all areas of learning and development because a wide range of attractive equipment is provided. Through their play, children are developing an understanding of the wider world. They are happy to come to nursery and at ease with the adults who work with them. Staff have high expectations for children becoming more independent both in their learning and in carrying out tasks. Consequently, children are becoming more self-confident.

The planning of the curriculum is flexible and responds to children's interests. Although staff base their planning on what the children enjoy, opportunities are sometimes missed to develop skills and make meaningful links between the six required areas of learning. Children have regular opportunities to work outdoors but not enough use is made of the outdoor environment to extend skills in all six areas of learning. During activities, staff support children's learning well. In addition to the six areas of learning, children are learning French and taking part in dance activities. These contribute to children's enjoyment.

The Early Years Foundation Stage requirements are met and there is a good balance between adult-led and child-initiated activities. Adults are very proficient at talking to children, questioning and encouraging them to talk and think. Children are keen to express their ideas through discussion, drawing, painting and mark-making. They

enjoy listening to stories but there are not always books available for children to enjoy on their own. Assessing children's learning and development is a strength. Key persons make regular observations, building up a clear picture of children's progress that is regularly shared with parents and passed on to reception classes.

Every opportunity is taken to develop children's understanding of a healthy and safe lifestyle, for example washing hands before eating and choosing healthy food at snack time. Social skills are taught and reinforced at very friendly lunch times when children and staff eat together. Staff are skilled at creating a safe and welcoming environment. There is good emphasis on establishing clear routines and acceptable ways of behaving. Children respond well to the expectations of adults and this helps children contribute positively and prepares them well for the future.

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

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

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?	Outstanding

Quality and standards

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

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary 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.