

The Wilson Marriage Centre Nursery, Little Learners

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	650154
Inspection date	18/11/2008
Inspector	Sarah Williams
Setting address	Wilson Marriage Centre,, Barrack Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2LR
Telephone number	01206 793810
Email	
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

Wilson Marriage Centre Nursery, Little Learners opened in 1999. It operates from purpose designed premises, opened in 2008, within the Wilson Marriage Centre for the use of learners attending adult community learning courses. There are places available for children from the local community. The setting is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register, the Child Care Register and the Voluntary Child Care Register. The setting is all on one level with accessible facilities.

Currently there are 90 children on roll, all within the Early Years age range. The setting provides support for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those for whom English is an additional language.

The setting opens five days a week during term time. Flexible sessions are offered each day between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm.

Ten staff work on a rota basis with the children. All have an appropriate Early Years qualification.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children within the Early Years age range are highly valued as unique individuals and have their safety, care and welfare needs very well met; all children are supported so that no child or group is disadvantaged. Children make good progress in their learning and development and enjoy their time at the setting. Partnerships with parents and other concerned persons are generally good: some improvement is needed to the information gathered before children begin attending and the development profiles, which are at an early stage. The setting is forward looking and strives to improve the quality of the service it provides by effective, continuous evaluation and reflection.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop and improve the two way flow of information, knowledge and expertise between parents and practitioners by seeking detailed information about children before they begin attending, to enable appropriate care to meet their individual needs (welfare: documentation)
- make systematic observations of children's achievements, interests and learning styles in order to compile a meaningful record of development which challenges children and helps identify the next steps in learning. (learning and development)

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Adults caring for children are committed to maintaining a high quality service. Children's care and development is supported by policies and procedures designed to help the smooth day-to-day running of the setting. Staff are vetted and checked; robust procedures ensure their ongoing suitability to be in contact with children, keeping them safe and secure. Safeguarding procedures are very well understood, keeping children protected from harm or neglect. The setting has written risk assessments in place identifying any hazards; these are dealt with by a maintenance team to keep the environment safe and child-friendly.

Parents are provided with good information about the setting via a prospectus and a leaflet produced by the local authority. There are daily informal discussions with staff regarding the children's care and learning, however, only very basic information is written down regarding home background, family and likes and dislikes. Links are developed with other settings attended by the children and any outside professionals involved in their care, ensuring continuity and support.

The staff and managers are very committed to improving the nursery by keeping abreast of trends and developments in child care and education. They attend training and seek information from a wide range of sources, including the local authority development advisors. Activities and plans are evaluated and adapted where it is seen that this will improve the quality of the provision.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children learn and develop well at the setting, moving steadily towards the early learning goals at their own pace. The environment is carefully structured to allow them free choice from a good, varied range of equipment and activities. They can access the play equipment easily and have space to explore and investigate freely. The doors to the outside area can be opened to allow free flow play when the weather allows. Children wrap up warmly and play outside using the wheeled toys, balls and hoops. There are plans to introduce growing and digging, helping them understand life cycles and seasonal changes.

Children become engrossed in sustained, complex play in the role play area, stimulating their imagination and creativity. Toddlers spontaneously move to favourite music and songs, clapping and dancing gleefully. Story time is interactive and lively, promoting vocabulary and a love of language. Children who have English as an additional language are supported by way of visual timetables, key words in their main language and the use of signing, which is used and enjoyed by all children. In this way all children are included and able to participate and have fun. Staff are sensitive and responsive, and in return children behave extremely well as they are happy and confident.

The key person system ensures children's needs and developmental stages are well known. Their health and medical needs are attended to, for example, any allergies or dietary needs. Medicines are stored safely and the doses recorded to

prevent any accidental overdosing. Staff can administer first aid for minor injuries and there is signed consent in place to cover any more serious medical emergencies. The security system ensures all visitors to the setting are screened before being admitted, also ensuring children are very safe and cannot leave unseen. Any concerns regarding welfare or child protection are monitored and referred if necessary to prevent harm or neglect to any children felt to be at risk.

Overall children are very well cared for and make good all round developmental progress. Parents can be reassured that children are safe, happy and enjoying their time at the nursery. Staff are very approachable and value parents' views and comments.

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?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
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

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.