

# The Ark Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique reference number** EY377952  
**Inspection date** 17/03/2009  
**Inspector** Lynne Milligan

**Setting address** 4 St. Patrick's Street, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2PL

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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

The Ark Day Nursery opened in 2008 and operates from three rooms within a refurbished single storey building within Stafford Elim Christian Centre in Stafford. Children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area, with ramp access to the main building which is all on one level. The nursery is situated on the edge of Stafford town centre and serves the local community and surrounding areas. It is open each weekday from 07.30 to 18.00 throughout the year.

The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of 73 children may attend the nursery at any one time. There are currently 25 children aged from two to under five years on roll, some in part-time places. The nursery currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those with English as an additional language.

There are seven members of staff, six of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications to at least NVQ level 2. One member of staff is a qualified teacher and another is working towards qualified teacher status.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The experienced and skilled staff are helping children to make good progress in their learning and development. Children's progress is carefully monitored to ensure all children move forward from their starting points. The nursery routinely supports every child to ensure their individual needs are met and that no child is disadvantaged. Children's welfare is well promoted, good arrangements are in place to ensure children's safety and well-being. The setting effectively uses self-evaluation to understand their strengths and to put steps into place to improve any weaknesses.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- promote further the opportunities for children to develop their understanding of the world around them through meaningful activities and experiences in their play and learning.

## The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's health, safety and well-being are successfully promoted because the setting maintains all the necessary records, policies and procedures, including comprehensive risk assessments and thorough complaints procedures. The nursery uses robust recruitment and employment procedures to ensure the suitability of all staff. Any staff that have not completed this process are not allowed unsupervised

access to the children. The staff team is experienced and suitably qualified with staff effectively deployed; ensuring children are well cared for. All the staff are very confident in safeguarding children and are able to quickly put the correct child protection procedures into place if necessary.

The attractive outdoor areas are kept safe and secure. Access to the building is via an intercom system and all visitors are signed in and out. The indoor play areas are bright, welcoming and safe with a wide range of interesting and varied resources on offer for children to access with ease. The nursery has good systems in place for self-assessment. All the staff have opportunities to contribute to the evaluation process; this leads to the staff and management clearly identifying targets for improvement and therefore enhancing the outcomes for the children. The nursery is beginning to promote inclusive practice, this means they strive to meet children's individual needs and ensure all children achieve regardless of their backgrounds. The setting is proactive in developing further links with other providers and services to fully promote the integration of the children's care.

Parents are given excellent information about the setting, as they receive a well presented pack that keeps them extremely well informed around the policies and procedures and about the curriculum that the children follow. They receive regular monthly newsletters, daily care sheets, attend parent's evenings and complete questionnaires to offer their opinions. Staff value and respect the relationships they have with the parents and warmly welcome all into the nursery. In addition, parents have free access to the development records kept on the children and are encouraged to contribute to these and to share what they know about their children's learning and progress.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the nursery; they play freely in a very welcoming and child-centred environment. The friendly staff and comfortable surroundings encourage children to feel relaxed and confident. In the larger playroom there are set areas that are organised to promote children's progress in the different areas of the learning outcomes; such as a well resourced mark-making table. Babies are content and stimulated as staff encourage their crawling and walking skills. Babies are extremely responsive and feel safe as they stretch, trying to stand up and manoeuvre around the room. Staff help them to explore their facial features in the low safety mirrors, giggling as they press their noses up against their reflections. Children enjoy activities outside, for example, exploring for bugs under the wood pile and painting the wheels of their bikes with water and paintbrushes. The outside area is used to its full potential as children access the area every day and in all weathers as they wear appropriate clothing.

Children are moving on in their learning extremely well because staff plan interesting and worthwhile activities that are designed to meet the individual learning requirements of each child. Children's progress and achievements are well recorded in their development files, and from the observations they make the children's key person plans a specific next step for their learning. If children have special learning needs these are noted and met by the Special Needs

Coordinator(Senco), who if necessary works with the area Senco.

The children's good health and well-being are significantly promoted and staff use excellent hygiene practices in the daily routines, such as when changing nappies. Children learn to follow superior hygiene and health routines, they wash their hands when necessary and learn about healthy eating. The nursery provides nutritious meals and snacks across all the age groups. Children of all ages self-select from the platter of fresh fruit, eating as much or as little as they wish. Drinking water is always available to all the children. They have excellent opportunities to develop their physical skills, for example, when climbing and balancing outdoors, as they skilfully wheel their bikes up the ramps or play with cardboard boxes pretending they are in a car. The babies go out into the fresh air regularly, experiencing sounds, textures and smells as they safely explore their environment.

Staff value and encourage the children's excellent behaviour, they constantly offer praise, and acknowledge all their achievements. Children understand the rules and routines of the setting well, use manners and help each other as they tidy away. They have made firm friendships amongst themselves. Their independence is extremely well fostered and they are beginning to develop the habits and behaviour of confident learners.

## 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

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

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	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?	2

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	2
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
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](http://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 registration.

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.