

Just Learning Nursery Ltd

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	508972
Inspection date	09/03/2009
Inspector	Fran Fielder
Setting address	Larkspur Drive, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN23 8BS
Telephone number	01323 743838
Email	eastbourne@justlearning.co.uk
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

Just Learning Nursery is part of a substantial childcare chain. It was registered in 2000 and operates from purpose built premises. It is situated in a residential area on the outskirts of Eastbourne.

A maximum of 100 children within the early years age range may attend the nursery at any one time. There are currently 122 children aged from six months to four years on roll. Of these, 34 children receive nursery education funding. The nursery supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. This provision is also registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The nursery is open each weekday from 07.30 until 18.30 all year round. Facilities include 10 childcare rooms each with integral toilet and nappy changing facilities for children. There are separate staff facilities including toilets and staff room, a kitchen, hall and office. There are three fully enclosed outdoor play areas with large play equipment for different age groups. There is a staff and visitor car park to the front of the property. There is easy access for wheelchair users.

The nursery employs 28 members of staff including a cook, kitchen assistant and an administrator. Of the 25 childcare staff, 21 have an appropriate childcare qualification and two are working towards a qualification. The nursery receives support from the Local Authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Staff ensure that all children enjoy a wide range of planned activities that are tailored to suit their interests and learning needs. The partnership with parents and carers is outstanding. Staff and parents share valuable information that supports all aspects of the children's welfare and learning. There are extremely effective procedures in place to ensure children's physical and emotional security. The commitment to improving the outcome for children is evident in the self-evaluation and action taken to develop the areas for improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- consider developing the outside play area and resources for children who are not yet mobile

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The nursery is well organised and managed by experienced and dedicated senior staff. All required documentation is in place and carefully maintained. All adults who work with the children have undergone rigorous checks to ensure their suitability. Recruitment and induction is good and ensures staff are aware of their role and responsibilities. Staff are well motivated and confident in their ability to support individuals. Certificates of long service show that staff retention is good. There are regular appraisals to assess staff's ongoing training needs. Staff receive regular training to update and refresh their knowledge.

Staff have an excellent understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. They know and follow the procedures if they have any concerns about a child in their care. The security of the premises is excellent ensuring that only known adults access the areas used by children. Regular risk assessments and daily checks ensure all areas both indoors and out are safe. All resources are checked for safety. Effective procedures within all rooms help prevent the spread of infection. The baby and toddler rooms are 'shoe-free zones' and shoe covers are provided for staff and visitors. The cook has a very good understanding of healthy eating and ensures children enjoy a range of freshly prepared and nutritious meals.

Staff create a stimulating and inviting environment for children and adults. There is a huge notice board for parents that gives a range of information, such as, the adoption of 'Monty the Donkey', local events, dance classes, book clubs and staffing arrangements. 'Hairy Simon', the guinea pig is a popular member of the nursery and 'chats' to children and adults 'asking' for a cucumber treat.

Management and staff work extremely hard to maintain excellent communication with parents. Staff obtain detailed information about each child's welfare, learning and development needs. Staff make observations and use these to plan activities to support individual learning needs. Each month staff and parents assess children's achievement and identify their next steps for learning and development. During this process, parents receive ideas of how to support their children at home. Parents complete questionnaires and staff use the information to improve practice. The nursery has an open door policy and visitors and parents are welcome at all times. There is always a manager or staff member available to discuss individual issues with parents.

The nursery works with outside agencies, such as speech therapists, to support individuals. Some children attend other preschool settings and the nursery has begun to share information to support these individuals.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children play in a clean, safe and very welcoming environment. The walls in all rooms are covered with children's artwork, photographs and interesting posters. These displays make the rooms inviting and show how staff value children's achievements. Toys and resources are in plentiful supply and all rooms provide soft

furnishings for children to relax. There are electronic toys and computers in all rooms and children demonstrate competence as they use a range of educational software.

Children show ability as they use their mathematical knowledge in every day tasks. As they clear away resources, children know they have insufficient party plates and know how many more they need to find. They sort and match colours using pegs and create patterns and follow sequences. They recognise their names and write 'letters' to friends.

Staff are warm, caring and supportive. They talk knowledgably about the children and their talents. Staff plan activities that are fun and suit individual preferences. This ensures children develop a positive attitude to learning. Staff interact well with all age groups, encouraging conversation and free expression of ideas. They ask open-ended questions that encourage children to think creatively.

Children's behaviour is very good and staff use age appropriate strategies. Children in all rooms play very happily and demonstrate trust in their carers who respond according to the children's age and needs. Children are exceptionally confident, inquisitive and enthusiastic. All enjoy a range of freely chosen activities that support development. Activities help children make good progress in all areas of learning. Creative work is especially valued. Children dance using pom-poms, draw treasure maps, create collages, dress up, have tea parties, paint pictures and pack their bags for 'a trip abroad'.

Babies and toddlers love to play with a range of tactile objects that excite their senses. They sit on the floor and smear paint on large pieces of paper and sometimes on themselves! The expressions on their faces show absolute delight. Babies who are not yet mobile get plenty of fresh air all year round. In warmer weather they can sit outside and enjoy a range of activities. In the winter their outdoor play is slightly more restricted but staff take them out in their buggies to visit the other children in the nursery.

Toddlers and older children also love playing outside in all weathers and staff ensure that all areas of learning are covered outdoors. They enjoy games, riding on tricycles, kick balls and whiz down slides. The range of equipment in the garden also gives many opportunities for adventure. Children take trips on the train or sail away on a cruise ship.

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?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

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.