

Wavendon Pre-School & Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY304881
Inspection date	05/03/2009
Inspector	Susan Marriott
Setting address	Newport Road, Wavendon, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK17 8AE
Telephone number	01908 586 518
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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

Wavendon Nursery is part of a national chain, privately managed by Asquith Nurseries Limited. It opened in 2005 and operates from a large bungalow-style building, situated on the eastern flank of Milton Keynes. The nursery has four rooms for children's activities and there is also an office, staff room, kitchen and laundry room. Children have access to enclosed outdoor play areas to the front and rear of the premises. It is open each weekday from 07.30 to 18.00 for 51 weeks of the year and children attend from a wide catchment area.

The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of 71 children may attend the nursery at any one time. There are currently 68 children aged from birth to under five years on roll, some in part-time places. Of these, 31 receive funding for nursery education. The nursery currently supports a number of children for whom English is an additional language. There are 17 members of staff who work with the children, of whom 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications. The staff team is supported on site by a cook and an administrator. The setting receives support from the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the provision is satisfactory. The new management team have made a commendable start to with an evaluation of the setting's strengths and weaknesses and demonstrate a good capacity to initiate and drive through continuous improvement. However, the process is not yet sufficiently embedded to consolidate recent improvements and secure the highest standards of care and learning. This is a very friendly and sufficiently inclusive setting where the children make acceptable progress in relation to their starting points and capabilities. Children are very safe and secure at all times and mostly enjoy learning, although some aspects of the indoor and outdoor environment are not prepared and presented to best effect to enthuse and inspire the highest standards of learning.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that the policy and procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents is compliant with current legislation and that the action taken as a result of each complaint is recorded in the complaints record
- improve the overall preparation and presentation of both the indoor and outdoor environments to give further support to children's learning and development
- ensure effective continuity and progression by improving partnership working with parents and any other providers delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage

- improve planning and organisation of systems to ensure that every child receives an enjoyable, challenging learning and development experience that is tailored to meet their individual needs
- continue to enhance the planning and assessment system to demonstrate how the activities and observations are used to identify learning priorities for individual children and show their progression.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's care, learning and welfare are being enhanced by the increasingly effective way the setting is led and managed. The manager has a clear vision of how she wishes to develop and improve the nursery in the months ahead and receives genuine support from senior company staff. She has worked with her deputy to identify the setting's strengths and weaknesses and has begun to tackle the areas for development with the new staff team. This systematic approach is making a significant contribution towards raising the standards of quality and education. This also secures the setting's good capacity for continuous improvement.

Most required documentation is readily accessible and effectively underpins the safe, efficient management of the provision. However, the complaints record does not always maintain confidentiality or include an account of the action taken to deal with the complaint and the outcome of such action. Current safeguarding requirements are fully met. Security measures are appropriately robust and ensure the safety of children and staff. Policy documents are up-to-date, signed by staff members and include dates when they should next be revised. The setting is fully inclusive and generally meets the needs of the children who attend.

Staff have worked hard to implement a new observation and assessment system to record the children's progress in a 'Learning Journal' format and identify the next steps to be taken. Key workers establish children's starting points on entry and use their assessments of children's needs to inform future planning. The system is not yet fully embedded and the manager is conducting audit checks to monitor staff progress and achievement.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy generally good but variable support from the staff in relation to their care and learning. The education programme is well organised with weekly themes and activities tailored to the interests and abilities of the children in attendance. These cover most aspects of the early learning goals, ensuring children enjoy a sound range of activities, designed to meet each child's developmental needs. Staff maintain appropriate levels of interaction with children of all ages and effectively meet their daily care needs with care and dedication.

Generally good use is made of space in the four base rooms, where children are able to focus on activities suitable for their age and stage of development. However, staff spend a lot of time cleaning up mud and dirt brought in from the

garden areas and this takes time away from the children. The workshop area of the pre-school room is not attractively set out to entice children to use this area and the garden areas lack imagination. There is insufficient labelling and signage in the pre-school room to promote children's awareness of the printed word and numbers.

Regularly documented observations are maintained on all children. Regular meetings with parents keep them very well informed of their child's development and the staff work closely with them when addressing the next steps for learning. Parents are able to contribute their own observations of their child's learning at home, but many do not yet do so and this weakens partnership working between home and nursery.

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?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
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?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action.

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.