

1st Friends Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY312656
Inspection date	09/02/2009
Inspector	Sue Taylor
Setting address	Chapel Path, Barrack Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN40 2AA
Telephone number	01424 730 575
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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

1st Friends Day Nursery is one of two nurseries run by the owners and opened in 2005. It operates from a converted Chapel, with use of four rooms for the children on two floors. There is a staircase between the levels and although there is no lift there is outdoor access to an entrance on each floor. Children have access to the enclosed outdoor play area. The nursery is situated in a residential area on the outskirts of Bexhill. It is open each weekday from 08.00 to 18.00 for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register for a maximum of 53 children. There are currently 57 children aged from birth to under five years on roll, some in part-time places. The nursery currently supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

There are 13 members of staff, 12 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications to at least NVQ level 2 and most are to NVQ level 3. The setting provides funded early education for three- and four-year-olds.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The nursery has clear and cohesive working practices that support children's all round development. Children are kept safe and secure, supported by the good relationships they develop with the staff. All children are making good progress in their learning and development as they participate in planned activities or make their own choices about their play. The partnership with parents and others is effective in meeting every child's need. Effective self-evaluation procedures are in place and demonstrate ability for continuous improvement.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve accessibility to drinks/drinking water throughout the day for all children
- encourage further involvement from parents in supporting their child's next steps
- continue to develop children's learning stories to provide an up to date record of children's progress across all aspects

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The nursery maintains all of the required records and documentation well, for the safe and effective running of the setting. Clear policies and procedures are shared with parents. These are also well understood and followed by the staff. These include child protection, complaints and behaviour management. Robust recruitment procedures are in place, with systems to support staff's continuing

development. Training courses are attended and cascaded to other staff members helping to develop practices. There is a very good ratio of qualified staff deployed across the nursery with each child having a named and involved key person.

The recommendations made at the last inspection have been met and the management continue to develop practices to increase the range of activities aimed at broadening children's knowledge and understanding of different cultures and backgrounds. The nursery has a positive attitude with regards to their future development and this is reflected in their self-evaluation. For example, the outdoor area is being redeveloped to create more exploratory opportunities for children. The staff are involved in the processes through regular staff meetings. This all contributes to the smooth running of the nursery where all children's needs are valued and met.

Staff maintained positive and friendly relationships with parents and carers. Parents have regular opportunities to speak with the staff and their child's key person; daily home contact books are also used well. However, the information shared tends to relate to care issues more than the child's individual learning and development. Termly parent consultations are held where children's progress is discussed and their learning stories shared with parents welcome to contribute. The management are very aware of the necessity to establish communication links, with other providers caring for the children, in delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to ensure progression and continuity of learning and care needs.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The setting is well equipped and organised to enable the children to have easy access to resources. The toilets are easy for the older children to use independently and children are well supported to develop good self care skills such as hand washing. Children's health is maintained with hygienic nappy changes, although the site of the facilities in the baby room offers limited privacy. Behaviour is managed well by the staff and act as good role models to the children. The children play well together and are very cooperative and responsive to staff requests such as, to help tidy up.

The premises are secure and children's safety is maintained, for example with the use of door hinge guards to prevent trapped fingers, a safety gate and high handle to keep children safe from the stairway. Children's good health is promoted with the provision of nutritious meals and snacks. Drinks are available throughout the day, although not all children have easy and ready access to enable them to control their own thirst needs. Although, all children are not able to have free flow access to the outdoor area they use the area regularly throughout the day. For example, they make good use of their wet weather wear as they go out in small groups to play in the rain. The babies are taken out regularly for walks in the local area. All children get to explore different textures such as shaving foam, cornflour and water, paint or pasta. Children's interest in print is well supported through age appropriate books, mark making resources and by creating their own book of

Harry Hedgehog.

Children are making good progress towards the early learning goals, supported by planned and purposeful play. Children's next steps are noted from recorded observations and the staff ensure these are included in future planning. Each child has a learning story that records their progress with related observations under each area of learning aspect. However, some of these records are not up to date and as such do not reflect the true picture of children's progress. Parents and carers are informed about their child's day and given ideas for activities at home. However, these are not normally linked to their own child's particular learning needs. Each group has their own planning system and the staff ensure this takes account of children's individual needs and interests. For example, in the Owls, the planning shows how as the week progresses the activities and use of resources takes more account of what the children want to be involved with.

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?	2
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.