Acre Wood Day Nursery
Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number 229126
Inspection date 06/04/2009
Inspector Carol Johnson

Setting address 394-396 Clay Lane, Birmingham, West Midlands, B26 1EU
Telephone number 0121 764 5169
Email acrewood394@aol.com
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

Acre Wood Day Nursery opened in 1999. It operates from ground floor rooms of a converted building situated in Yardley and serves the local area. The front entrance of the building is accessed via one step. The nursery opens five days a week all year round except for bank holidays and Christmas. Opening hours are from 07.30 to 18.00.

The setting is registered to care for a maximum of 21 children under eight years. There are currently 26 children on roll, all of whom are within the early years age range. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery is registered on both the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The nursery has suitable systems in place to provide care for children with English as an additional language and for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The nursery employs nine staff, including the manager, who work directly with the children. Most staff hold a recognised early years qualification. The nursery also employs a cook. The setting receives support from the local authority.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate. Children are making satisfactory progress in their learning and development but their welfare is inadequately promoted. Staff recognise each child's individuality and offer all children a variety of experiences that help them to develop new skills, knowledge and have fun. Partnerships with parents and others are suitably established and adequately assist staff in supporting individual children. However, systems for monitoring staff practice and the effectiveness of policies and procedures are insufficient to ensure continuous improvement and to protect children's welfare and safety.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- ensure that children are not at risk of infection by ensuring that staff are aware of and follow health and safety legislation; this specifically refers to nappy changing arrangements, the storage and use of toothbrushes and the cleanliness of all areas of the nursery (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 13/04/2009
- ensure that the daily record of children's hours of attendance is accurately maintained (Documentation; 07/04/2009)
This inspection was carried out under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006
setting also attend a local school and the provider is aware of the value of working in partnership with other settings and is looking at ways to forge links with them in order to benefit children and provide coherence and consistency.

Resources are suitably deployed and children have easy access to a wide range of developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. Suitable procedures are in place to ensure the suitability of staff and management encourage all staff to access ongoing training and development; all staff are first aid trained. However, staff are not fully conversant with how to effectively meet all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Some training has been attended in this respect and support has been sought and received from the local authority but staff are still unclear as to how to effectively observe and assess children in order to help them reach their full potential. Management has begun to evaluate the provision as a whole but systems to do this lack vigour and do not take into account the views of others. The strengths and weaknesses of the provision have not been accurately identified and priorities for improvement are insufficiently targeted to promote the best outcomes for children.

Children are happy and having fun but their welfare is inadequately protected because suitable systems to protect their health and safety are either not in place or are ineffective. Appropriate nappy changing procedures are not consistently followed by staff and hygiene routines are not thorough enough to prevent the risk of infection. Children show a general awareness of safety and know what areas of the premises are out of bounds and understand why they shouldn't run inside or walk around with food and drinks. However, they are at risk because some threats to their safety and welfare have not been suitably identified or minimised by staff, for example, toys with small parts that are accessible in the area used by babies and radiators that are very hot to the touch. Also, children go on outings and a full risk assessment is not carried out for each type of outing or reviewed before each outing.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are making satisfactory progress in their learning and development. Staff know and understand the individual needs and preferences of the children in their care because they talk to their parents and observe and assess them on a regular basis. They plan experiences based on what individual children enjoy, need and show an interest in. Staff have begun to develop a ‘Memory Book’ for each child that contains brief observations, photographs of them involved in play and examples of their work. These books will help to inform parents of what their children have been doing and create a record of children's achievements and progress. However, since the implementation of the EYFS there have been many changes to the methods used by staff to record planning, observations and individual assessments. Some staff are less confident in their knowledge of how to do this effectively and are still getting to grips with the new systems. Consequently, children may not be sufficiently challenged and/or supported to reach their full potential.

Staff show a sound understanding of how to promote their learning in all areas and
children have equal access to a variety of resources and stimulating experiences. For example, all children regularly engage in messy play and outdoor play is enjoyed by all on a daily basis. The nursery outdoor area is very well-resourced and provides children with opportunities to climb, run, use wheeled toys and generally enjoy nature and the fresh air. Through a caring and sensitive approach staff help children to settle and engage in activities. They encourage manners and children behave well and listen to what staff have to say. Children know that they must wait patiently for their turn in conversations and they show care and concern for others. Staff reward good behaviour and effort with praise and positive body language. Children show high levels of self-esteem and confidence.

Children are becoming active learners and are keen to participate in activities. Older children are learning to speak and understand simple French words and sentences. This learning is encouraged through fun activities, for example, they learn the French words for various parts of their bodies as they sing and join in the actions for the song 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes'. Staff check their understanding by asking questions and carefully repeating words and phrases; some children can count to 10 in French. Children are also learning to count and recognise numbers in English and they play games and take part in activities that encourage them to identify numerals, count objects and match various patterns and shapes. Whilst playing 'Lotto' children talk about who has the same picture, who has the most counters and who is going to come first.
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? | 4 |
| How well does the provision promote inclusive practice? | 3 |
| The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement. | 4 |

Leadership and management

| How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed? | 4 |
| How effective is the setting’s self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement? | 4 |
| How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others? | 3 |
| How well are children safeguarded? | 4 |

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? | 4 |
| How well are children helped to stay safe? | 4 |
| How well are children helped to be healthy? | 4 |
| 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: Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Records to be kept) 07/04/2009
- take action as specified in the early years section of the report (Suitability and Safety of Premises and Equipment). 13/04/2009
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.