



## West House Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** EY288576  
**Inspection date** 31 October 2005  
**Inspector** Paula Hunt

**Setting Address** 23 St. James Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, West Midlands, B15 2NX  
**Telephone number** 0121 440 2748  
**E-mail**  
**Registered person** West House School (634981)  
**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** Full day care, Out of School care

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

West House Nursery and out of school care service registered in 2005. It operates from several rooms within West House Independent School in the Edgbaston area of Birmingham.

A maximum of 70 children may attend the nursery at any one time. There are currently 83 children aged from 1 year to under 8 years on roll. This includes funded 3 and 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The setting currently supports a number of children for whom English is an additional

language and has procedures in place to support children with special educational needs. The setting opens 5 days a week for 48 weeks of the year. The nursery is open from 08:00 until 18:00.

Twelve staff work with the children and all but one have an early years qualification to NVQ level 3.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene. Effective daily routines and the staff's own good practice mostly prevents cross infection although, children do not have their own individual wipes and some toilet areas are used for storage. Some nappy changing takes place in a playroom in full view of other children and staff and therefore children's dignity or privacy is not respected.

Mealtimes are social occasions and children eat well. They receive nutritious snacks and meals that help them develop healthy eating habits. Staff take into account all dietary needs to ensure children remain healthy. Topics such as 'healthy living' and 'all about me' also help children understand the need for a balanced diet and sufficient rest. Regular drinks, especially during warm weather, ensure babies and children do not become dehydrated.

All children benefit from daily access to a spacious outdoor area. Children enjoy a good range of well-planned activities that help keep them healthy and develop their physical skills. They are competent when using the climbing frame and move over, under and through with ease. They show good co-ordination when throwing, jumping, running and balancing.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and stimulating environment, which provides them with room for all areas of play and good opportunities to learn. Children's safety is considered a high priority. There are clear risk assessments in place, which help ensure children are cared for in a safe and child friendly environment. Security of the building and garden is good, ensuring that children cannot leave unsupervised and that uninvited persons cannot gain access. Children's safety is promoted in practice by staff and they have clear systems to keep them safe indoors, outdoors and when on outings. They offer clear and fair explanations to help them know and understand the rules of the nursery. This helps children begin to understand safety and why keeping themselves safe is important.

Documentation and policies with regard to child protection are available, safeguarding children's welfare, with staff knowing how to act should they have a

concern.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, confident and independent. Babies and toddlers enjoy lots of positive interaction with their key worker. This gives them confidence to try new challenges. Staff work well with babies and toddlers to support early communication skills. Story time is a popular feature of the daily routine and all children develop an interest in books. Staff use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan meaningful activities for babies and children under three. Young children enjoy many activities that stimulate their senses such as, playing with musical toys, painting and feeling different textures. Older children are progressing well, supported by the staff teams confidence and knowledge of the Foundation Stage. Planning is detailed and covers all areas of learning. Children are involved in play and structured activities throughout the day and are taking responsibility for their personal care.

Staff encourage children to play together and share. Lots of praise and encouragement develops children's self-esteem. All children enjoy plenty of opportunities to develop their social skills. For example, they sit together and chat at meal times, negotiate and co-operate during role-play and learn to share while playing games.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children's individual care and educational needs are well identified and recognised by staff. They are highly skilled in doing this and help children feel valued, supported and well cared for. As a result, children are developing good levels of confidence and independence and are developing an awareness of the wider world. Children are well settled and they have developed good relationships with their peers and staff. Staff set a good example by showing respect for children and adults alike. Staff encourage children to enjoy all resources and activities. The celebration of festivals such as 'Divali', and 'Eid' help children understand other cultures. As a result, children develop a positive attitude towards diversity. There are good systems in place to support children who have special needs or English as an additional language. Close liaison with parents ensures all children's needs are well planned for and met.

Staff manage children's behaviour well using appropriate strategies and approaches. As a result, children begin to understand about acceptable behaviour. Staff are good role models, helping children to learn how to co-operate and show concern for others. Most children play well together and are generally happy to share the toys. All children benefit from lots of praise, encouragement and support from staff. This contributes to helping children feel secure and understand the behaviour rules of the setting.

There is a very good partnership with parents and carers. They are welcomed into

the nursery, with their views actively sought and valued. They receive good detail about the procedures and policies that support the running of nursery. General information on the Foundation Stage, parents' open days, written and verbal feedback and notice boards enable staff and parents to work together to ensure children make progress. Parents have the opportunity to contribute to children's ongoing records and assessments and receive a written report of their child's progress each term.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

An adequate recruitment process is in place, ensuring staff are suitable and vetted as soon as possible, helping to safeguard children's welfare. Staff are further supported with regular supervision and appraisal systems. This ensures that their professional development is constantly reviewed and training needs identified. The effective management structure in place fully supports the staff in their work. The majority of the staff are qualified and further training is encouraged. This helps them provide good day-to-day care for the children.

Staff mostly maintain minimum staffing ratios, and supervise and support children well. However, procedures for ensuring the supervision of students and trainees under 17 years of age are not currently adequate. Staff work extremely well as a team and organise the day well in order to offer children the best opportunities

An organised and accessible set of documentation, policies and procedures is in place. These are easily accessed and stored confidentially although, some policies are in need of updating in line with the national standards and children and staff arrival and departure times are not recorded. The management supports the setting well, and there are clear links between the nursery and school. This helps staff to develop best practices and contributes to a smooth transition between nursery and school for the children.

Overall the nursery is organised and space is used effectively for the children and staff. The staff team work well together; they and the management team are committed to continual improvement and regularly review practices and procedures to ensure children receive good care. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable as this is the first inspection.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

## WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

### The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure children's dignity and privacy are respected when providing intimate care such as nappy changing and individual toiletry items are used to prevent cross infection.
- maintain the minimum adult/child ratio at all times and develop procedures for ensuring supervision of students and trainees under 17 years of age
- ensure children and staff's arrival and departure times are recorded on the daily attendance register and update policies in line with the national standards for complaints, incidents, lost and uncollected children.

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