



Ham Drive Neighbourhood Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector Christine Slaney

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Registered person Plymouth City Council
Type of inspection Childcare
Type of care Full day 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.

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?

Ham Drive Nursery is located in Plymouth and has been operating as a nursery school for almost 25 years. The day care was registered in 2005 to supplement the local authority maintained nursery education. It offers a variety of provision, including a breakfast club, lunch club and after school club, as well as full day care for children under 3 years. The nursery is open for 50 weeks of the year from 08:00 to 18:00. It is closed for a week at Christmas, a week in summer and for all bank holidays. The nursery serves the local community and children come from a variety of economic backgrounds.

The building is shared with the maintained nursery school and children have use of all the rooms in the nursery, including three playrooms, baby sleep room and three teaching rooms. There are also toilets, a baby changing room, kitchens, laundry area, milk preparation room, two offices, parents' room and staff room. There are two separate outdoor play areas for use by the nursery and a car park at the rear of the building.

There are 104 children on the day care register. The nursery supports children with special educational needs. There are no children currently attending who have English as an additional language.

There are 21 staff members presently employed, 16 of whom work directly with the children. The majority of staff are qualified. The child care manager holds an NNEB and has recently completed a post graduate course in early years childhood studies. Other staff qualifications include teaching qualifications and child care qualifications at NVQ levels 2 and 3.

The nursery receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have good opportunities for physical play. They thoroughly enjoy physical activities, such as rolling inside a big tunnel. As a result, children are developing good large muscle control.

Children are actively encouraged to develop a good understanding of personal hygiene and self care routines, for example, staff support younger children to wash their hands and older children do this independently. The older children show a good understanding of thorough hand washing routines and question staff about the amount of lather on their hands.

Children's needs are met if they have an accident because staff have a good knowledge of first aid and the procedures to follow; for instance the nursery has recently introduced an effective new system to record accidents. There is also evidence of completed medication forms.

Children have good opportunities to enjoy fresh fruit at snack time and tea time. They are actively encouraged to prepare their own snacks, which they thoroughly enjoy. They cut fruit with good control and are developing a good understanding of sharing in meaningful situations as they distribute equipment and prepare fruit. More able children freely access and pour their own juice.

Staff are clear about the importance of nutritional foods. They have worked hard to improve the catering arrangements and have challenged successfully some inappropriate menus. Salad is now offered at most meals. Consequently, children are starting to make good choices about their eating for example, some children choose

salad as an option at lunch time. Staff are aware of children's different dietary requirements and there is a vegetarian option available.

There is provision for younger children to sleep in a dedicated sleep room. Older children are able to rest in the book area where they share books with each other and receive one-to-one support from members of staff.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled within the bright and clean environment. There are many examples of children's own work displayed and this helps children and parents feel welcome. Children show a good understanding of keeping themselves safe, for example older children replace scissors in the appropriate place after they have finished using them. Younger children are also actively encouraged to tidy away resources like books when they have finished playing.

Space is organised well, for instance there are quiet areas for sleep and rest. Staff are vigilant about children's safety and also check that outdoor play areas are safe before children play outside each day. Consequently children benefit from secure and safe premises, which ensure they are protected from harm.

There is a wide range of toys and resources, which children freely explore and access. These include a mixture of manufactured toys and natural materials; for example, children thoroughly enjoy playing with cardboard boxes and rice in the sand tray. Younger children also have opportunities to enjoy sensory equipment such as a 'rain bubble'.

Children regularly go on trips, which are carefully planned, and have in the past included visits to places like Plymouth Hoe. This is helping children develop an understanding of the local and wider community. The nursery obtains written consent from parents for outings and children enjoy these experiences.

Children's safety is further supported by the staff's good understanding of child protection procedures. They are clear about their role and they have an understanding of possible signs and symptoms of abuse. However, there is no system to record existing injuries.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and relaxed. They settle quickly to play on arrival and freely select from a range of well planned activities. These include activities for younger children based around the Birth to three matters framework and other appropriate research.

Children enjoy a stimulating range of interesting play activities and experiences. These are appropriate and meet a range of children needs well, for example,

younger children thoroughly enjoy a singing session. The well supervised activity ensures all children are able to participate, including young babies who bounce up and down with glee during the session.

Children and staff interact well together and as a result children enjoy a warm and close relationship with their key staff members, who listen attentively to their needs. Staff are skilled at asking suitable questions and use key words appropriately in meaningful situations; for example, the words 'half', 'blunt' and 'sharp' when preparing fruit for sharing. As a consequence, children are acquiring new knowledge and skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The relationship with parents is good. Staff, parents and external agencies all work together to meet the needs of all children. Children feel valued and staff support children well to ensure they feel included within the setting. The care of children with special educational needs is particularly good and the nursery has strong links with other professionals. As a result children benefit from specialist help, which includes speech therapists and health visitors.

Parents receive appropriate information through regular newsletters and displays on notice boards. There are both formal and informal systems for sharing children's development, which are helping parents understand their children's progress. The prospectus includes relevant policies and procedures, although there are some minor omissions to some policies, for example the complaints procedure does not include the regulator's address.

Children are clear about nursery routines and respond well to safety rules and basic care routines. They respond confidently to expectations and staff are positive role models. As a consequence children feel secure and behaviour is good.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting is meeting the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children are cared for by staff who are suitably checked.

The committed and dedicated staff team work hard to support a variety of very different needs and ensure children's welfare is promoted. The required adult-to-child ratios are maintained and staff are suitably qualified. Staff regularly attend training and are due to attend a workshop on Birth to three matters. They are clear about the limitations of the space within the under-three area. Nevertheless, they organise space and resources well to meet the needs of all the children effectively. Staff meet regularly to discuss planning and children's progress.

There are good systems in place to help children settle and feel secure. There is a detailed operational plan, which includes all necessary policies and procedures. However, some policies, like the procedure for uncollected children, lack some detail.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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):

- devise and implement a system to record existing injuries
- review the complaints policy and ensure parents are fully aware of regulator's address
- review the uncollected children's policy to ensure parents are aware of the procedure to be followed should a child not be collected from the nursery.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk