

# Sixpenny Daycare

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY263887
<b>Inspection date</b>	21/07/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Nikki Whinton
<b>Setting address</b>	Smiths Barn, West Street, Aldbourne, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 2BS
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<b>Type of setting</b>	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 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**

Sixpenny Day Care is one of four nurseries run by Sixpenny Limited. It is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. It opened in October 2002 and operates from four rooms in a purpose built provision in Aldbourne, near Swindon. A maximum of 39 children within the early years age group may attend the setting at any one time. The group is open each weekday from 08.00 until 18.00 for 52 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 49 children aged from eight weeks to under five years on roll. The provision also cares for older children aged from six to under eight years.

The nursery employs eight members of staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications and four staff are working towards either an initial or further qualification.

## **Overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Sixpenny day care offers an inclusive early years provision, which meets the children's needs and where children are treated as individuals. The children progress because the staff offer a varied programme of stimulating, practical activities indoors, outside and within the local community that help to support their learning. The provision is aware of areas of future development and has a very positive attitude towards continuous self-improvement. The nursery has the capacity to further increase the quality of the learning and welfare offered to the children.

## **What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?**

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

- ensure that creative activities for the younger children are routinely child centred and appropriate for their individual stages of development
- review the organisation of the daily routine to ensure that younger children do not have to sit and wait unoccupied for extended periods, prior to being able to experience outside play.

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

The setting greatly benefits from the experience and capabilities of the nursery manager, combined with the positive drive to continued improvement demonstrated by the proprietor. The staffing team has a clear understanding of its child protection responsibilities and knows the correct procedures to follow to safeguard children. The staff are reflective practitioners, who are continually evaluating the effectiveness of the provision and introducing new strategies to

support improvement. For example, the self-service breakfast facility available to older children in the setting, was instigated on the suggestion of one of the children. Nevertheless, the organisation of the daily routine for the younger children, means that on occasions they are required to sit for extended periods without stimulation, whilst all the children within the base room are prepared for outdoor play.

The provision has a positive partnership with the parents. They are invited to become involved in their child's learning, such as by completing 'Wow' notices, taking Buddy Bear on family outings, helping their child to tend and measure the sunflowers they take home or by supporting their child in bringing in articles for 'share and tell'. The parents are invited to attend thrice yearly parents' evening. During these planned meetings the child's parents and key worker review the child's learning journey profile and share their observational assessments of the child's achievements.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Sixpenny day care at Aldbourne is a clean, vibrant, well maintained early years setting, where colourful wall displays, photographs of the children and examples of their art work create a welcoming environment for parents and their children. The base rooms are well arranged, with resources stored in low level labelled storage units. Children have opportunities for independence as they make decisions for themselves regarding the activities they wish to explore. Even babies who are not yet fully mobile, have a range of toys placed within their reach, so that they too can make choices. Most children experience a balanced programme of practical learning opportunities both indoors and within the provision's secure outdoor area. The outside facility has a well resourced, large undercover area, enabling children to enjoy outdoor learning whatever the weather. However, the babies do not always have the same chances to go outside on a daily basis.

The staff are regularly undertaking written observational assessments of the children, which they are using to assess their stages of development throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and to plan the next steps in their learning. The children learn about the natural world through practical means. They tend the nursery's allotment, take part in village wide walks and regularly visit local farms, such as to pick cucumbers or see new born calves. In addition, they observe and interact with the provision's two pet rabbits, as they roam freely in the garden. Children take part in a varied programme of activities. For example, older children undertake observational drawings of the nursery building, whilst considering the range of shapes that make up its design and estimate the final lengths of the runner beans they have sown. Meanwhile, the younger children enjoy exploring play dough, investigating pop-up tunnels and learning action songs. However, planned activities within the toddler room are not consistently child centred or developmentally appropriate, to enable the young children to pursue their own creative ideas.

The provision offers the children a wide ranging menu of freshly prepared, nutritious hot meals and tempting snacks that meet the children's dietary

requirements and comply with parental requests. Children are able to help themselves to drinks throughout the day, which assists in ensuring that they are consuming fluids in sufficient quantities to meet their differing needs. Children learn good health regimes as part of the daily routine. The older children for example, know they need to clean their teeth after meals and confidently wipe their noses before hygienically disposing of the tissue. There is a range of measures to support the children's safety. A detailed record of risk assessments is maintained, the premises are secure and door guards help to protect the children's fingers. Through practical activities, such as tidying away toys after use and taking part in fire drills, children are gaining an awareness of how to keep themselves safe.

## 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

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	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

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	2
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	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

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## **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