

Young Discoverers Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY389730
Inspection date 17/11/2009
Inspector Rosemary Beyer

Setting address Unit 7, Escrick Business Park, Riccall Road, York, North
Yorkshire, YO19 6ED
Telephone number 01904 728700
Email ruth@youngdiscoverers.com
Type of setting Childcare on non-domestic premises

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It rates council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 08456 404040, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

T: 08456 404040
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2009

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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the setting

Young Discoverers Nursery is part of a limited company. The provision operates from within Escrick Business Park which is situated between Selby and York on the main commuter route. The nursery is in a brand new two storey building with access to an enclosed outdoor play area. There is no lift but facilities are provided on the ground floor for children and parents with mobility problems.

The nursery was registered in April 2009 on both the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register to provide care for a maximum of 51 children, aged from birth to under eight years. Currently 27 children in the early years age group are on the roll and all attend on a part time basis. The setting operates all year round from opening between 7.30am and 6.15pm, Monday to Friday, and there is a holiday club for children over four years of age. Children attend from the local community but also the wider area.

There are six staff employed at present, all of whom have appropriate childcare qualifications and experience. Most have reached Level 4 qualifications or above. The nursery provides funded nursery education places, and has already started to develop close links with the nearby school, playgroup and church. It receives support from the Local Authority.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

An excellent knowledge of each child's individual needs ensures staff promote all aspects of the children's welfare and learning successfully. Children are safe and secure at all times, although registers are not always completed fully. They enjoy learning about the local area and the world around them. Partnerships with parents and school are a key strength, ensuring the children's needs are met and they receive any additional support they need. This means they make good progress given their age, ability and starting point. A self-evaluation process is being developed to ensure priorities for future development are identified and promptly acted on, resulting in a service which is responsive to the needs of all its users.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- include notification of Ofsted in the lost and uncollected child policies, also the procedure for allegations made against staff
- ensure both staff and children enter their family names in the daily register on arrival
- develop the process of self-evaluation further to include service users to ensure the setting meets their needs effectively.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Well written policies and procedures are in place to ensure the safe and efficient management of the provision. Robust systems are in place to ensure only suitable persons have access to the children. There is a clear expectation that staff will continue to develop their own knowledge and skills to benefit the children's learning and care. Policies and procedures are made available to parents so they are aware of how the nursery operates. However, the lost and uncollected child policies do not include notification of Ofsted, nor does the procedure of notification of allegations against staff; although, the manager is aware she should report any serious events to the registering body. The complaints procedure is discussed with parents and the Ofsted contact details are on display.

The nursery staff are very enthusiastic and keen to provide a well run provision which caters for each child's individual needs. Staff gain an excellent knowledge of the children, their starting points, interests and needs through home visits before they start to attend their settling-in visits. Key persons develop close relationships with the child and their family to ensure their welfare and learning are supported effectively to enable the children to make good progress. Each child has a development record which shows how they are achieving and also highlights the next planned steps and any concerns. Staff work with parents should children have any problems, and discuss how they propose to support the children.

All the staff have a good understanding of their role and responsibilities in protecting the children from harm. They attend regular training courses to keep their child protection knowledge up to date. Staff undertake comprehensive risk assessments which are regularly reviewed to ensure any hazards can be addressed and risks minimised. Steps are also in place to monitor accident recording. The daily register does not consistently include the family names of staff or children therefore does not provide a clear record of their attendance.

Children learn to keep themselves safe while in the nursery, using resources carefully and with consideration of younger children. They also practise crossing the road safely when out in the community and happily discuss the danger of tractors, cars and lorries when near the road. The fire evacuation procedure is displayed and practised to ensure both staff and children are aware of the procedure; the process of moving babies safely from the first floor in an emergency is constantly evaluated.

Staff have started to consider self-evaluation to monitor the development of the provision. They are all involved in discussions about proposed improvements and how care can be enhanced. Action plans are in place to develop consultation with parents and children so the setting can be responsive to their needs. There are also plans to develop the outside area and obtain resources to raise children's awareness of diversity.

Parents spoken to during the inspection expressed great satisfaction with the

provision and the care their children receive. They find staff approachable should they have concerns and know their children are safe and happy in their care. They know they can call at any time and stay to play if they wish, so they can see what their children like to do.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

All the children are settled and comfortable with the staff who take account of their individual needs, likes and dislikes. The children are free to help themselves to resources which support their interests and staff monitor their development very effectively. The nursery provides a positive enabling environment where children are keen to learn and try new things. They are developing good relationships with each other and the staff, and consideration of younger children when they have time together. They share, take turns and support each other in their play, older ones showing younger ones books and giving assistance with equipment outside.

Activities are provided to cover all the areas of learning inside and out. Children have free use of the outside area with equipment readily available to support their physical development and other aspects of learning. They learn how to build obstacle courses so they can balance safely, grow plants and are able to investigate water running down pipes.

The children are learning about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, with fresh air each day, a balanced diet and good hygiene practice. They go for walks to visit the farm and the local woods as well as playing freely in the garden. During the walks they discuss the animals and birds they see, and while watching a hawk hovering, one child said he could see a silver bird, laughing while he pointed at an aeroplane high in the sky. They happily chat about how they have watched chicks develop into hens and foals grow into adulthood. They are also safety conscious, taking care when crossing the road, or when they hear the tractor engine, or the dog barking. Fresh food is prepared on the premises, with menus displayed for parents to see and account taken of any allergies or religious requirements. The children help to prepare the fruit and vegetables for their snack and like to try new things. Meal and snack times are a pleasant social part of the day.

Photographs displayed throughout the nursery show the children enjoying a wide range of activities. They are also used to illustrate how they are making progress in their personal development files. Through observations, recording and planned next steps staff provide a comprehensive record of the children's achievements. Individual plans are created to support children's needs should they have difficulties and the exchange of information with parents and other carers ensures these can be addressed quickly. Staff also make parents aware of activities they can develop at home to support their children.

All children are welcome in the nursery although at present no children with English as an additional language or with special needs or disabilities attend. Access to the premises has been discussed to ensure those with poor mobility can attend. Children learn about other cultures and countries through everyday

activities and resources which are available all the time, including books, dressing up clothes and musical instruments. Photographs of children of different nationalities are on display. They are starting to develop a good awareness of diversity and know they must treat people with respect as individuals whatever their differences. Staff do however have plans to develop the range of equipment available further.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
--	---

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	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