



Victorian Lodge Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY274018
Inspection date	13 December 2005
Inspector	Christine McInally
Setting Address	St Johns Park Lodge, Park Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8HQ
Telephone number	01444 250531
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Registered person	Carole Benson
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Victorian Lodge Day Nursery operates from a converted lodge on the edge of a park in Burgess Hill. It is divided into five individual rooms. These include areas for play activities and also quiet areas for babies and toddlers to rest. There is an enclosed outdoor area.

The nursery provides full or sessional day care. It is open from 08:00 to 18:00 each week day, for 49 weeks a year. There are currently 45 children on roll, of these 10

receive nursery funded education. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery serves Burgess Hill and the surrounding area. There are 11 members of staff who work with the children. All staff have an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 or are working towards this level.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a worthwhile range of activities which help to promote their good health. They learn about the importance of good personal hygiene and understand why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating food. Children know to drink more water when the weather is hot and to wrap up warm when playing outside in the winter.

Children enjoy regular physical play both indoors and out. A stimulating variety of activities helps children gain increasing control of their bodies, for example, as they pour water from container to container or as they put the clothes on the dolls. Staff have a sound knowledge of Birth to three matters; they use the guidance extremely well to provide a range of physical play experiences for babies and young children. All children are able to rest and be active according to their needs.

Meal and snack times are sociable; children sit at the table with their friends and staff. Children are provided with a range of healthy snacks including fresh fruit and vegetables encouraging them to develop healthy eating practices. Children enjoy varied and nutritious meals which comply with all special dietary requirements to ensure they remain healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy their play in an extremely safe environment because staff are exceedingly vigilant and use thorough risks assessments to reduce potential hazards. Space within the well-designed nursery is effectively organised, allowing children to move around safely, freely and independently. Children are enthusiastic explorers when playing outside with a variety of challenging physical play equipment.

Children use a wide range of high quality toys and resources appropriate to their age and stage of development. They particularly enjoy using the Montessori equipment which is specifically designed to offer ever increasing challenges. Staff have an excellent understanding of how to use this equipment to help children learn to keep themselves safe while challenging their own capabilities. This allows children to learn some sense of danger in a safe environment. Children begin to develop an understanding of keeping themselves safe as they practise fire evacuation procedures. When on outings in the local area staff ensure children know why they

need to stay close, hold hands and learn about road safety helping them to begin to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe. They also learn about safety through staff's clear and simple explanations as to why a rule is in place, for example they know not to run inside the nursery as they might fall and hurt themselves.

Children are well protected by staff that have a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures. All of these measures contribute to the safety and welfare of the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children arrive happy and eager to participate, enjoying their time at the nursery. They enthusiastically participate in the interesting, stimulating and exciting range of activities provided. Staff are accomplished in extending children's learning and they are extremely well motivated by the challenges set throughout the day. They achieve well because staff are skilled and use their understanding of early years guidance, such as Birth to three matters and the Curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage, to provide good quality care and education. Staff are skilled in using children's assessment records to help inform the planning. Children show considerable independence and make choices about the toys and resources they want to play with. A wide range of appropriate resources and activities effectively promotes children's development.

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, as they sit together and chat at meal times or negotiate and co-operate during role-play.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Children are fascinated by an extensive range of imaginative, relevant activities related to their needs. They access a comprehensive range of well chosen resources which support their progress across all areas of learning. Children form good relationships with each other and the staff, they show concern and are sensitive to others needs. All children are eager to learn, self-assured in their play and confident to try new experiences. Children develop a healthy interest in books, they enjoy sharing stories with adults and peers and delight in predictable endings. They are confident speakers, and understand they can use writing for a variety of purposes and are beginning to write for themselves. Children skilfully use and recognise numbers in everyday activities. Children count confidently and recognise numbers that are important to them. They choose number activities during free play and enjoy number rhymes and songs.

Topic work and practical activities arouse children's natural curiosity and develops their exploration and investigation skills. Children use their own ideas to make things by building and joining. They use everyday technology in their play and learn about the world in which they live through outings in the local area. Children move confidently showing a good awareness of space and others in both the indoor and

outdoor space. Children express themselves creatively using all of their senses to actively explore a stimulating range of new experiences.

As children begin in the nursery staff find out about their skills, interests and needs and build on this information to help them achieve and progress. Children flourish as the balance between adult and child-led activities allows them to learn at their own pace. Staff observe the children during free-play and focussed activities using their notes to assess children's achievements. This information is used extremely well to plan the next steps in each child's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with respect helping them to feel good about themselves. Staff have very positive attitudes towards diversity. Children are developing an awareness of their own and other cultures through an extensive range of resources, planned activities and as they celebrate a variety of festivals. All children are highly valued as individuals; their needs are effectively met using the information gathered from the parents, and children themselves, when they first start at the nursery. Good use of visual symbols and dual language labelling helps bilingual children to develop a positive self-image. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered well.

Children behave exceedingly well, they are extremely enthusiastic and well motivated; they benefit from the consistent praise and encouragement offered. Staff support younger children in sharing and turn taking. Children learn about themselves and their own capabilities. Staff set consistent boundaries for older children which helps them learn to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own behaviour. Excellent displays of children's work adorn the walls helping to develop their self-esteem. Children gain confidence as staff acknowledge them as important individuals.

Partnership with parents and carers is outstanding and this contributes considerably to children's well being while at the nursery. Parents receive wide ranging information about Birth to three matters, the Foundation Stage and the Montessori method. Staff are friendly and approachable; they ensure that all parents know how their children are progressing and developing through daily discussion and regular parents evenings. Children's learning is enhanced from this sharing of information between staff and parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the good quality of organisation and the outstanding leadership and management of nursery education. Staff work well as a team and clear communication and guidance allows them to provide a stimulating well-balanced programme. There are regular appraisals that identify training needs

and staff are actively encouraged to enrol on relevant courses. This supports staff in their role and ensures they have the latest and most relevant information available.

Children feel at home and are at ease in the well-organised environment. All children receive good support from a staff group that enjoy their company and know them well helping them feel secure and confident.

The management team work well together; they have a vision of where they are going with the nursery and have put in place systems to help them achieve their goals. Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. However, the administration of medicine within the nursery is recorded in such a way that confidentiality is not maintained. All aspects of the children's care and learning are discussed with the parents, who are kept well informed of their child's achievements. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection the use of the outside play area has been extended and is used effectively to support children's learning.

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 made 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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

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 confidentiality is maintained in the administration of medicine record.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of nursery education are outstanding.

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