



Bockhanger Monkeys

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY292262
Inspection date	11 October 2005
Inspector	Clare Stone

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Type of inspection	Integrated
Type of care	Sessional 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 satisfactory.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Bockhanger Monkeys Pre-school opened in 2004. It operates from the main hall and bar area in Bockhanger Community Hall on an estate in Kennington, Ashford. The pre school serves the local area. The pre school accepts funding for 3 and 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The number of children on roll varies. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs, and who speak English as an additional language. The group opens five days a week

during school term times. Sessions are from 09:00 until 12:00. There are five part-time staff and one volunteer working with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from having healthy snacks throughout the morning. They can help themselves to drinks whenever they are thirsty. This promotes independence and teaches children about healthy eating options. Staff gather good information regarding special diets, allergies, likes and dislikes on the registration forms, allowing children's dietary needs to be met. All children have the opportunity and space for daily physical activities. However, children need access to large play equipment to help extend and challenge their gross motor skills. Good procedures ensure children follow hygiene routines. For example, they wash their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet. This teaches children the importance of good personal hygiene and how to incorporate this into everyday life.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children arrive happily and settle well. Staff put out good quality toys and resources that interest and stimulate children. There are some displays of children's work and bright posters make the environment welcoming for all. Children can move around freely and good supervision ensures their safety within the setting. Children have easy access to resources and equipment appropriate for their age. The security of the setting is good and there are effective procedures for the arrival and departure of the children. Daily informal risk assessments are carried out indoors. This means that children can play, learn and explore without danger. Staff are aware of their role in protecting the children in their care and attend regular training to keep up to date with changes in legislation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at pre-school. Staff encourage children to play together and share. Lots of praise and encouragement develops children's self esteem. Children have plenty of opportunity to enhance their social skills. For example, they sit together and chat at snack time, negotiate in the home corner and learn to take turns in table top games. First hand experience, such as visits to the park, allow children to build on their natural curiosity. Children approach staff readily for support indicating trusting relationships.

Nursery Education

Children work well together. They discuss and plan how they can travel round the hall on their bikes and were forward thinking in safety matters. Children have access to the book corner but did not take great advantage of this. Children can name many different colours and the older children know the results of mixing two different colours. Children may benefit from additional use of maths in everyday situations. Children spend time learning about their immediate environment through visits to the local amenities and topics such as Harvest festival. There was plenty of opportunity for children to explore their senses and they responded enthusiastically during music sessions.

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. The staff have a sound knowledge of the foundation stage. Planning is discussed weekly and based on the children's interests. Although staff gather information to move children forward at a pace that is ideal for them, they need to do this in a free play situation.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The pre-school staff know children well and respect children's individuality. Children have the opportunity to learn about themselves and the world around them through suitable planned activities. Children have access to a wide range of multi cultural toys, allowing them to understand the community they live in. This positive approach fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Children's behaviour is good. And children who are settled help younger ones in their play. This results in a happy and caring atmosphere.

Partnership with parents is satisfactory. Staff take time to talk to parents and pass on general information. They keep a contact book so parents can contribute to their child's development. Planning and weekly topics are not displayed so parents would have to ask or remember information from newsletters. Parents said that they were happy with the care their children received and felt comfortable in approaching staff.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All documentation required for the safe and effective management of the pre-school is in place. This contributes to the welfare of the children. The premises and staff deployment are well organised. The space available is laid out to provide appropriate play opportunities for children. Resulting in the relaxed and harmonious environment.

Leadership and management is satisfactory. The children benefit from qualified and experienced staff. The recruitment and induction procedure is generally effective. However, management may benefit from reviewing some aspects of staff absence and in house development such as appraisals.

The setting meets the needs of the children.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report since registration.

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.

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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 there are clear procedures to cover staff absence

The quality and standards of the nursery education

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

- ensure children have access to large play equipment helping extend their gross physical skills

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