

Simba's Den

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY396725
Inspection date	02/02/2010
Inspector	Sarah Measures

Setting address	Memorial Hall Main Street, Bulwick, CORBY, Northamptonshire, NN17 3DY
Telephone number	01780 450937
Email	sambutterwick@hotmail.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 0300 123 1231, 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: 0300 123 1231
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

Simba's Den is a privately owned day nursery which was registered in 2009. It operates from the Memorial Hall in Bulwick, a village situated near to Corby, Kingscliffe and Oundle. There is a main play room for the over 2's and a base room and sleep room for under 2's. There is an office, kitchen and staff rest area along with toilets for staff and children. There is also a secure outdoor play area and disabled access to the rear of the premises.

The nursery operates nursery sessions during term time and a play scheme for school age children during school holidays. It is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The nursery may care for a maximum of 24 children aged between birth and eight years at any one time including no more than six children under the age of two years. The nursery has support from the Local Authority and has links with local schools, nurseries and pre-school groups. Three staff work regularly with the children, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery also employs a cook and the owner has gained the Early Years Professional Status qualification.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Very good policies and procedures are being established to meet children's welfare and their learning and developmental needs. The owner of the nursery is also the manager, she is well qualified and communicates clear aims and intentions to offer children and parents a high quality provision. Various methods of self-reflection and evaluation that are carefully linked to action plans and wish lists make effective methods of ensuring continuous improvement. Staff are well-motivated and supported which helps to provide a nurturing and positive learning environment for the children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve the two-way flow of information with parents, with regard to obtaining information from parents regarding children's starting points as they start at the nursery
- make sure that risk assessment cover anything with which a child may come into contact.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are effectively safeguarded because the owner takes care to make sure that they are suitable to work with the children, through her processes of

recruitment and induction. Staff are confident with how to recognise the possible indicators of abuse because they have studied different scenarios during training sessions organised by the owner, who has good experience in this area. All staff know how to refer concerns in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board policies and procedures. Secure systems are used to ensure children are safely collected by appropriately identified persons. Information regarding how to make a complaint is shared with parents that includes details of how to contact Ofsted if they wish. This promotes a safe and transparent provision for parents and children. Overall, risk assessments thoroughly consider and help to promote the safety of the children. However, they do not fully consider all potential risks to children with regard to the introduction of new heaters into the setting.

The premises is secure and well organised to promote children's independence and to make sure they feel welcome. Staff are well deployed to supervise and support the children. Overall staff work well with parents in order to get to know children well. Staff gain thorough information regarding children's individual routines and their likes and interests in order to plan to help them settle easily. However, staff do not obtain information specific to children's starting points in order to plan effectively for children's progress towards the early learning goals as they start at the setting. Effective systems are in place to share information regarding children's progress with other settings they attend that also deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. This helps all those involved to plan cohesively to meet the individual needs of the children.

Good systems are in place to support and monitor any children who have disabilities or special educational needs. This is because the owner is experienced in this area and seeks professional support and works with parents to support individual children. Thorough systems of observing and assessing children mean that any special needs are identified in order to gain support at an early stage. The owner's commitment, supported by enthusiastic staff and effective methods of self-evaluation mean the nursery is able to drive forward improvement effectively.

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

Children are very much valued as individuals by staff. This is supported by the comprehensive system of observing and assessing the children in order to plan for the individual needs. All children choose from a varied range of fun activities that covers all areas of their development. Babies and very young children develop a keen desire to explore because of the stimulating environment organised for them. Planning for the children is very much based upon their interests and abilities and children learn more effectively as a result. Older children have been out and about collecting bugs to identify. They look at different countries around the world and think about different cultures and languages. They have also learnt about animals that live in different countries. Children learn to value those that are different from themselves because positive images of difference and diversity are well integrated into the play environment. Children feel involved in the setting and develop a secure sense of belonging because of staff's caring interactions and because they make choices about their care and learning. Such principles and procedures,

supported further by staff's planning for the individual child help children to feel safe and secure.

Children are well behaved because they are well supported by staff and because they are well stimulated. Staff act as good role models to the children, listening to them carefully and treating them with consideration and respect. This encourages the children to behave responsibly and with consideration for others. Children are encouraged to share and make friends as they progress throughout the nursery. Children look at letters and sounds and solve problems as they go about their daily routines. For example, they work out what cutlery they need to eat their meals and they select their name cards by searching for names beginning with certain sounds.

Children benefit from regular opportunities for outdoor play. They use a varied range of equipment to develop their physical strength and control. They develop healthy habits as they enjoy different activities planned for them across the areas of learning, in the outdoor play area. Children enjoy healthy and nutritious meals and snacks and the nursery has recently been awarded the 'heartbeat' award for healthy eating. Suitable systems are in place to ensure any dietary needs are safely met.

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	2

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	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
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