



The White House

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139185
Inspection date	17 January 2006
Inspector	Kim Mundy
Setting Address	97 West End Road, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 6JN
Telephone number	01895 632681
E-mail	
Registered person	Debbie Chilcott
Type of inspection	Childcare
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

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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The White House Nursery opened in 1997 and operates from a privately owned detached house. It is situated in Ruislip in the London Borough of Hillingdon. A maximum of 18 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open from 08.00 to 18.00 all year round. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 21 children aged from 1 to under 5-years on roll. The nursery is not in receipt of funding for 3 and 4-year-olds.

The nursery employs five staff. All of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's well-being is protected and supported by the clear and comprehensive written policies and procedures which are in place and carried out by staff. Children receive appropriate treatment in the event of an accident as two staff are suitably qualified to administer first aid. They are protected from unnecessary illness as they do not attend if they are infectious or unwell.

Children are learning good hygiene practices as staff maintain good levels of hygiene. They wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Children's personal hygiene is promoted. For example, staff use protective clothing when changing nappies to prevent cross infection, individual bed linen and babies drinking cups are provided.

Children enjoy healthy and nutritious snacks and meals such as, cereals, roast chicken, various sandwiches and a good variety of fruit. The cook holds an appropriate food and hygiene certificate and she places a strong emphasis on kitchen hygiene and thorough food preparation. Younger children are encouraged by the older children as they eat comfortably together at child-size tables and chairs. Their individual dietary requirements are met and they enjoy very sociable and relaxed mealtimes as staff encourage them to chat. All children can help themselves to their water bottles when they are thirsty.

Children enjoy daily fresh air and exercise. They are having great fun in the nursery garden as they develop good physical skills. For example, steering trikes, sliding, crawling through the tunnel, throwing and catching balls. Children have lots of fun as they use soft play equipment and play in the ball pool.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are very relaxed in this child-friendly and homely environment. They clearly enjoy spending time together throughout the day. For example, during outdoor play and meal times. Children feel safe and secure in the small and well furnished play rooms.

Children's interest is gained on arrival as staff set out a range of suitable toys and activities. They are well cared for in comfortable surroundings and there is a suitable range of nursery furniture and equipment to meet their individual needs such as, cots and nappy changing facilities.

Children are safe and secure on the premises. Comprehensive policies and

procedures are in place and carried out by staff, for example, daily risk assessments, gas, electric and fire equipment checks. However, children have not recently practised a fire drill.

Children are safeguarded from abuse or neglect. Staff are aware of their role and responsibility in child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and confident. Staff provide a well balanced curriculum to help children to achieve in all areas of their development. Children arrive to find the play rooms attractively set out before them. However, this restricts the children's opportunities to develop independence through making their own choices and selecting from a wide range of materials and resources. Children have close relationships with all staff, especially their key worker who is responsible for coordinating their care. Their progress is monitored to ensure that they are suitably challenged and parents are regularly informed about their children's progress.

Babies are actively seeking and retrieving toys. They are very happy in this environment and especially enjoy socialising with the older children during song time and garden play. Staff respond warmly to their individual needs which are met effectively.

Children enjoy lots of tactile and creative activities such as, play dough, jelly, sticking and painting. They are learning about the world in which they live through visits to the farm and dentist and themes, such as seasons. Children are developing a good imagination as they play in the home corner, hospital and post office. They enjoy dancing, music and singing.

Children have lots of good opportunities to develop their hand and eye coordination to help them to develop their early writing skills. Several children are able to write recognisable letters and their names in the environment. They are encouraged to bring items from home for the 'letter of the week' display table. Children enjoy story time and show an interest in books as they handle them appropriately.

Children explore early mathematical concepts as they weigh during weekly cooking activities, fit puzzles together, thread beads, count and name shapes. They build with increasing control as they construct with various types of bricks. Children are having lots of fun as they learn and develop through play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are learning about the world in which they live and the beliefs of other people as they celebrate festivals such as, Christmas and Chinese New Year. They have access to a good range of toys and equipment which promote diversity. For example, dressing up clothes, books, posters, puzzles and dolls. Children are treated

with equal concern and their individual needs are met effectively by staff.

None of the children have special needs. There is a suitable policy in place and the manager is the named special educational needs coordinator for the setting.

Children are very well-behaved because staff manage their behaviour sensitively and appropriately for their age and stage of development. Children are kind and considerate towards each other and they are learning to take turns and share. Staff offer consistent praise and encouragement, which helps children to feel good about themselves.

Partnership with parents is good. Information is shared about the children's routine and achievements and the nurseries policies and procedures. Parents are made to feel welcome as they participate in fun days and outings.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children's care, learning and welfare needs are met effectively. The staff work well as a team and good communication systems are in place to benefit the children, for example, staff and planning meetings. Staff have a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities.

Relevant policies and procedures are in place to support the good practice carried out by staff. Records are maintained and stored confidentially in the office.

Children are safe and well cared for because rigorous recruitment procedures are in place. Staff have opportunities to extend their knowledge and skills, for example, the 'Birth to three matters' framework and risk assessments. They receive yearly appraisals to consider their skills, practice and future training needs.

Strong emphasis is placed on children's happiness and emotional well-being. The gradual settling in procedure enables children to separate sensitively from their parents until they are happy to be left. As a result, they are making good progress in their development. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the setting has updated the policies and procedures in line with current legislation. Staff continue to develop the planning for children's learning opportunities and their progress is clearly recorded. This improves the children's care, learning and welfare.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 there has been one complaint about National Standard 12:

Partnership with Parents relating to the settings response to a parent regarding an incident. Ofsted investigated the complaint and the nursery invited the parent in to the setting to discuss the incident again. The registered person remains qualified to provide day care.

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

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.

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):

- provide further opportunities for children to develop their independence during their play
- ensure children experience regular fire drill practices.

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