



The French Nursery School

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector	Linda Close
Setting Address	Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, London, SW7 5JS
Telephone number	020 7259 2151
E-mail	marilaurence@thefrenchnurseryschool.com
Registered person	Marie-Laurence Edmonstone
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 French Nursery School operates from the basement of Baden-Powell House which is the scouts headquarters building. The building is situated near the Natural History Museum in South Kensington and the local authority is Kensington and Chelsea. The areas used by the nursery are 2 interconnecting rooms used as classrooms with 2 storage cupboards. There are toilet facilities for the use of children and separate toilets for adults. There is also a walk-in store room accessed from the corridor.

The nursery opens every weekday during school term times offering 2 sessions per

day. The morning session lasts from 09:00 to 12:00 and the afternoon session from 13:30 to 16:30. An area in 1 room is arranged for sleep for the 10 children who are permitted to remain in the setting throughout the day. A person in charge, a deputy and 2 or more members of staff work with the children. Staff numbers are adjusted to provide a correct ratio of adults to children at all times. There are 3 members of staff who hold first aid qualifications. The person in charge, the deputy and 1 other member of staff have appropriate early years qualifications. All sessions are conducted in French and all staff speak French and English. The nursery serves families with strong links to France and French speaking countries. There are currently 40 children on roll, ranging in age from 2 to under 5 years. Most of the children attending speak more than 1 language. None of the children have identified special educational needs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is safeguarded well because a member of staff who is trained in first aid is always present. Children are protected from the unnecessary spread of infection because parents know they must keep children at home if they are unwell. Children are learning good routines for hygiene such as washing their hands before and after eating and after using the toilet. They use disposable hand towels which helps to prevent cross-infection. Medication has not been administered formerly in this setting but with the recent change from sessional to full day care the administration of medication is more likely. At present a clear record keeping system for medication has not been devised or adopted to comply with regulations.

Children have free access to drinking water at all times, which is good for their health. They enjoy suitably healthy snacks and packed lunches that are provided by their parents. Children do not eat anything that does not agree with them because staff consult parents about food allergies at registration. Clearly displayed notices ensure that all staff are aware of children's individual needs. Food is stored appropriately to keep it fresh. Children are carefully supervised to ensure that they do not share their food.

Children have limited opportunities for healthy exercise at the setting. Suitable indoor games are planned together with energetic music and movement activities but there is no outdoor play space in use at present and walks to local parks and gardens are not planned. However, there are plans in hand to develop an outdoor play space for the children which is directly accessible from the playroom.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe in the nursery setting because there are good security measures in place. Staff greet children and their parents warmly at the entrance and

they ensure that the doors are kept locked throughout the day. Children are always escorted to and from the toilet facilities to keep them safe. Children are cared for in clean, well-lit rooms where there is sufficient space for play and rest. They play with good quality toys and resources that are checked daily for safety and stored at a low level so that children can make choices and decisions. Children's furniture is the correct size for them to sit and play in comfort.

Staff ensure that children cannot access store cupboards to prevent mishap. Children cannot access electric sockets or any sharp or dangerous objects because staff conduct safety checks each day before the children arrive. Children have appropriate footwear to ensure they do not slip on smooth floor coverings. Fire evacuation practise is carried out each term and well planned games also ensure that staff and children can leave the building quickly and calmly in an emergency situation.

Children are safe in relation to child protection issues because the manager ensures that staff are aware of their responsibilities in this respect. They know what signs or symptoms suggest ill-treatment or abuse and know what steps to take if they are concerned for the welfare of children in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children enter the setting happily. They are supported sensitively by the staff if they find it difficult to leave their parents. Children benefit from a good range of activities that are chosen with care to meet their developmental needs. They make independent choices in free play and are eager to come together in a large group for circle time. The children know and enjoy the regular routines in the nursery. They gain confidence from knowing what will happen next.

The children show very good listening skills for such a young group. They respond well to songs and discussions with the staff. Children ask many questions and they confidently express their thoughts. Their vocabulary is extended well. For example, the children learn positional words, words for size and quantity and the names of colours and shapes. Staff ensure that the children understand by speaking clearly and by using real objects and mime to reinforce what they say. Children's progress is well documented. Staff make good use of this information to keep track of children's development, to plan worthwhile activities and to share with parents and carers. Children's art work is displayed to make the setting attractive although labelling and notices around the playrooms are insufficient.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff have a secure knowledge of how to support children who have special educational needs although none has been identified in the setting at present. Staff observe children and note their individual learning needs. They work with parents well to find ways to help children move forward in their learning and development.

Children have access to suitable toys and games that suit their age and stage of development.

Children play with an appropriate range toys and materials for imaginative play that reflect different cultures. They take part in enjoyable activities that help them to understand and respect diverse cultures and customs. For example, they celebrate Mother's Day, learn about Japanese Children's Day and enjoy activities associated with Chinese New Year festivities.

The children are content and well behaved in the nursery. They learn good manners and politeness from the staff who are good role models. They are successfully distracted by staff if they disagree. They play well together and are content to share and take turns with favourite toys. They enjoy each other's company and cooperate well when making models with construction toys.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. Children are assured of continuity of care because staff and parents share important information at registration and in frequent exchanges on a day-to-day basis. Children feel secure because their parents are welcome to stay in the nursery, especially when they are settling in when they join the setting. Children's progress is well known to parents because progress books can be taken home and discussed with staff at one-to-one meetings. Parents work with staff well to help children move on in their learning. Newsletters and notices are provided to keep parents well informed about developments and activities in the nursery.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All members of staff are checked for suitability at the time of their employment, which contributes to children's safety. More than half of the staff are appropriately qualified, which ensures that children's needs are understood and well met. Children are always supervised to keep them safe because the numbers of staff attending and their deployment is well planned. Senior staff work beside new or unqualified staff to share their experience and knowledge. Training needs are identified and staff are actively encouraged to attend courses for their professional development to enable them to develop their work with the children. Space and resources in the setting are well organised to meet children's needs. The setting is regularly cleaned and the rooms and resources are checked daily to ensure children's safety and wellbeing.

Records and documents are in place according to regulation and they include most of the necessary details to support the safe and efficient running of the setting for the children. However, the policy for lost or uncollected children is incomplete and the format of children's medication records has not been decided as yet. The setting's procedure for informing appropriate agencies in relation to child protection issues is appropriate but it does not mention keeping Ofsted informed. The setting meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

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):

- adopt a suitable format for recording the administration of medication
- add Ofsted to the list of agencies that must be kept informed about child protection issues
- review and improve the policy and procedure for lost or uncollected children.

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