



The Blue Bird Nursery Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY290273
Inspection date	07 November 2005
Inspector	Hazel Stuart-Buddery
Setting Address	430 Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, RG40 3RB
Telephone number	01189 328844
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Registered person	Yellow Brick Nursery Ltd
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 outstanding. 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?

Bluebird Nursery Centre, part of Yellow Brick Nursery Limited opened in 2004. It operates from four rooms in a purpose built nursery building in Finchampstead. There is access to a kitchen, staff room, office, toilets, quiet room and two large playrooms. Outdoor facilities are shared with the school reception class. The nursery serves families from the local community and surrounding villages.

There are 52 places and currently there are 94 children on roll. This includes places

for funded 3 and 4 years olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting makes provision for children with special needs and those who speak English as an additional language. The nursery opens from 08.00 until 18.00, 5 days a week 50 weeks throughout the year.

Currently seven members of staff work with the children, of which six hold relevant childcare and teaching qualifications, including National Nursery Nursing certificate, Montessori qualifications and teaching certificates.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because staff follow highly effective procedures and practices which meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs. The youngest of children understand the importance of washing hands before eating and after using the toilet and are highly independent in this area. Older children have a clear understanding about why they should wash their hands to prevent germs from spreading.

Children are physically adventurous in a resourceful and stimulating outdoor environment. Several children enjoy running around very fast and change direction with ease whilst negotiating obstacles. Staff have excellent knowledge of the Birth to Three Matters framework. Their understanding of each individual child's stage of development means the youngest children are confident to try new skills to promote their physical development. For example, a 2-year-old proudly explains that she can now ride the bike without falling off as she has practised so much. Older children enthusiastically sweep up the leaves and use wheel barrows and dust pans to clear them away.

Children learn about healthy lifestyles and help themselves to easily accessible drinking water throughout the session and enjoy fresh fruit at snack time. Cooked meals are well balanced and the group ensure that those children who prefer a packed lunch receive a healthy, balanced lunch by providing parents with a packed lunch policy. Children understand and can communicate why it is important to eat fresh fruit and vegetables.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn the importance of keeping themselves safe. Older children alert staff to the fact that some play equipment is wet and they may slip. Children are encouraged to independently fetch paper towels to wipe down the equipment. Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff are extremely vigilant and complete comprehensive risk assessments. Staff consistently allow children to have freedom to explore and investigate the outside play area whilst setting safe limits. This helps children to learn some sense of danger and how to protect themselves. Children have a good awareness of their surroundings and actively care for their environment.

For example, one child informs a member of staff that a straw is stuck down the sink and he was worried that the sink may get blocked.

Children have access to an extensive range of good quality equipment that is maintained safely and which is suitable to their age and stage of development. Children relate exceptionally well to staff and each other. They confidently approach staff for support indicating good trusting relationships are built. Children's welfare is supported because all staff have an excellent understanding of child protection issues and the groups policies and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The nursery have a very strong and powerful ethos that puts the individual needs of children and their personal interests first. Children are highly independent, motivated and enjoy their time spent in the nursery immensely. Staff successfully implement the Birth to Three Matters framework and younger children are confident and making excellent progress. For example, three two year olds play together in the role-play area, they use their imagination freely and make up their own scenarios. They confidently re-tell their story and proudly point to the boy on the floor and explain he is their cat and he is very hungry.

All children arrive happy and separate from parents and carers with ease. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing and confidently communicate with adults. They build effective trusting relationships with their carers. Staff skilfully use their time well and know when and how to interact with the children. Children make excellent use of all the resources and express their ideas as they join in a diverse range of exploratory and sensory experiences. For example, investigating what sand feels like if you add water and then exploring what you can do with wet sand.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Children are highly stimulated and inspired by the excellent range of resources readily available to them. Staff observe and listen to the children to identify what their individual needs and interests are. Each activity is directly related to children interests and extended to meet individual needs. All children take responsibility for their own learning and are extremely self-motivated. They are inquisitive and ready to try new challenges. Children listen intently to stories because staff are skilful in using techniques to bring the story alive. Children join in and are visibly excited. They enjoy re-enacting the story 'Goldilocks' in the home corner and use different tones of voice to represent each bear. Excellent communication skills ensure children with special needs can fully participate in the group. Children play exceptionally well together and use good negotiating skills. They make sense of the world around them in the stimulating and exciting outdoor area. Children organise sweeping the leaves up themselves and effective interaction from staff quickly extends the activity. Children have great imagination and constantly play together making up their own scenarios in the home and construction corners.

Children work effectively together. For example, older children explore volume and capacity at the water tray and talk about their findings together. They compare how much water each container can hold. Children gain confidence in using numbers in their play and accurately use mathematical language. Children are very creative and spontaneously use a wide range of materials to express their thoughts and ideas. Their physical skills are constantly promoted. Children have free access to the outdoor area. Children enthusiastically join in the music and movement sessions.

Right from the start, staff seek comprehensive details about children's skills, interests and needs. Regular home observations are sent into the nursery. Staff use this information effectively to help children achieve as much as they can. Staff have a very flexible approach to planning and use daily observations to inform planning for the following day or week. For example, staff closely observe children's obvious interests in exploring the sensation of glue on their hands. They respond to this by offering opportunities the next day to investigate the properties of gloop, which the children mix themselves. This ensures children's specific learning needs are met, interests are acknowledged and allows them to learn at their own pace.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed and valued as individuals. Their behaviour is exemplary. All children play and co-operate well together. Older children have excellent negotiating skills that younger children are beginning to copy and develop for themselves. Staff are positive role-models and constantly praise children. This contributes to the children's strong sense of self-assurance and high levels of self-esteem.

Children have imaginative opportunities to learn about themselves. For example, older children in a small group are asked to look in the mirror and describe what they see. Each child in turn talks about themselves. The member of staff sensitively explains that we are all different and all very special. This helps children to understand and respect differences. The group have regular visitors to the nursery and children go on outings to local places of interest such as the post office and mobile library. This helps them to become familiar with their local community. Indian dancers came into celebrate Diwali and the children made Indian sweets. This positive approach fosters children spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well.

Partnership with parents is outstanding and contributes significantly to children's wellbeing. Staff actively seek parents' views about their children's needs and interests before the child starts and on a regular basis throughout their time there. Parents are strongly encouraged to be a part of their child's learning. They exchange home reading books on a daily basis with their child. Home diaries are completed that record children's progress and achievements and explain how parents can extend their child's learning at home. Staff ensure parents have lots of opportunities to know how their child is getting on. A parents notice board is easily accessible and details relevant information. Children benefit from the involvement of their parents,

particularly with helping children learn about other cultures and religions.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Staff greatly enhance children's care by the exceptional quality of organisation and the outstanding leadership and management.

Children play in an extremely well organised and highly stimulating environment. Indoor and outdoor space is presented well and maximises play opportunities for children. All required documentation is comprehensive and shared with parents. Policies and procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure changes to regulation are taken on board and implemented within the nursery.

Children and staff benefit from outstanding leadership and management. Their clear vision for the nursery is shared passionately with staff and parents. Staff benefit from an effective induction programme and a mentor for the early days. Staff work exceptionally well as a team and show enthusiasm and commitment. The leadership and management are committed to on-going development for themselves and their staff and have regular in-house training. The high quality of the provision means that the nursery meets the needs of the range of children who attend extremely well.

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.

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

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

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