



Charlbury Railway Children

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY289049
Inspection date	15 November 2005
Inspector	Jill Milton
Setting Address	The Inspectors House, The Old Pill Factory, Forest Road, Charlbury, Oxfordshire, OX7 3HH
Telephone number	01608 810698
E-mail	
Registered person	Leanne Akers
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Charlbury Railway Children registered in 2004 and is a privately owned day nursery. It is located in the village of Charlbury and the intake of children is from the local rural communities. The nursery operates from a detached house with an enclosed outdoor play area.

The nursery opens on weekdays, from 07.30 to 18.30 for 51 weeks of the year. A maximum of 30 children, between the ages of 3 months and 8 years, may attend at any one time. There are currently 52 children on roll.

There are 12 members of staff working at the nursery and 5 have appropriate early years qualifications. There are 5 members of staff currently completing training courses. The nursery receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children have regular snacks and drinks during the day to meet their growing needs. They eat hot nutritious, freshly prepared meals and staff are aware of any special dietary requirements. Babies are fed according to their own routines and staff carefully prepare and store their food ready for use.

The children enjoy time outside in the garden area of the nursery. They have a good range of equipment and use their developing skills to climb, balance and move around. In warm weather, the staff think about protecting the children from hot sun and ensure the use of hats, sun creams and a gazebo help to keep children healthy. Babies and toddlers are developing mobility as they use equipment in their rooms to encourage bouncing and crawling.

The children play and eat in clean areas since staff frequently wipe surfaces with anti-bacterial spray. Staff follow appropriate procedures to maintain suitable hygiene standards when changing nappies. The older children are becoming aware of the need to wash their hands after toileting and before eating lunch, although this good practice does not always extend to snack times. Staff ensure they receive training to administer first aid to children but they do not have parental permission to obtain emergency treatment for a child. First aid supplies and documentation to record accidents are available in the nursery, though not quickly accessible for all staff.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The nursery has a homely, welcoming atmosphere where children play and rest in comfort. Staff ensure rooms are at an appropriate temperature and that the environment is fresh and light. Children can see colourful examples of their artwork around the nursery and the pre-school room has posters to encourage letter and number recognition.

Children of all ages have access to a broad range of good quality equipment that includes some toys made from natural materials like wood. Many resources are new and throughout the nursery staff successfully monitor the cleanliness and safety of equipment the children are using.

Children play safely in both the indoor and outdoor areas because staff think about how to minimise potential hazards. There is consistent use of items like safety gates to help prevent accidents and staff monitor adults entering the nursery. The children are becoming aware of how to leave the nursery quickly in the event of fire and staff

regularly practice an evacuation routine. Staff protect children's welfare since they know the steps to follow if they have concerns regarding child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children enjoy a balanced variety of activities through the day and staff in all rooms ensure that resources change frequently to stimulate fresh interest. The babies and toddlers have access to equipment suitable for their growing needs and they engage in play alongside each other. There is an appropriate emphasis on active play with the youngest babies learning to clap and bob up and down to taped music. The children are developing an interest in books and toddlers select titles from their bookcase and sit down to look through them. All children have opportunities to play with different textures and explore paint, clay or flour and water mixtures.

The staff record daily care routines to inform parents of how the babies have spent their day. However little recording of development takes place for children under three and some documents used are not fully relevant to the ages of the children. Since the numbers attending the new nursery have been low, staff do not yet allocate a key person to monitor development and plan the next steps to aid progression.

In the pre-school room, the children enjoy a busy and varied day. They have access to a good range of resources to interest them and stimulate their learning. They are beginning to develop their writing skills, recognise letters and enjoy shared stories. Children are progressing socially in this small and friendly group. Staff use the Foundation Stage curriculum to plan the daily activities with a good emphasis on each of the six areas of learning. Staff successfully monitor the development of the older children with dated observations and examples of children's work.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning to be part of a group whilst at nursery. They are developing appropriate social skills, as they play together, co-operating to make a seesaw move, for example. Children demonstrate their growing independence as they prepare for outdoor play by putting on their coats and changing shoes. They are developing the confidence to speak in front of the group or sing their favourite song.

Children learn about the wider world beyond nursery as they collect used items for recycling in their room. They also have a suitable introduction to cultures and backgrounds different to their own, when they share festivals and celebrations. Staff have a positive attitude to welcoming children with special educational needs to the nursery. However, their background knowledge of the legislation and procedures to support children with special needs is not very strong.

Children behave appropriately throughout the nursery and staff intervene with methods suited to the different ages of the groups. Older children respond to positive

praise and take an active role in tasks like tidying away resources. Staff are developing good partnerships with parents and carers. They use displays and printed information to share details of the nursery. Daily conversations take place to ensure that staff and parents work well together to meet the children's needs. Parents speak positively about the care their children are receiving at this new nursery.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All regulatory documents are in place and the nursery manager is making good progress in establishing a well-organised nursery. Although some issues require addressing, most aspects of the day are running smoothly and the children appear happy and settled. The manager acts as a good role model to staff, especially in how to interact appropriately with babies to support their play. Some documentation linked to monitoring of child development is quite basic though staff ratios in rooms are appropriate and children receive sufficient levels of attention. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Staff are establishing some sound routines based on the policies of the nursery. They monitor, for example, the regular testing of smoke alarms and the daily temperature of the refrigerator. They work to keep children safe and healthy whilst at the nursery. The staff meet regularly to discuss their work and a good proportion of them are currently attending training. The acquiring of new skills brings benefits to the overall care of the children, for example, with the planned first aid training for the whole team. Staff are aware that their knowledge in some areas is slightly weaker, for example in supporting children with special needs, though they are keen to address the situation and have a positive approach to building up the nursery.

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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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 staff are adequately prepared to attend to situations requiring first aid
- explore the introduction of a key person to co-ordinate the planning and record keeping for each child
- improve staff knowledge of how to support children with special educational needs.

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