



The Lawns Early Excellence Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY293622
Inspection date	01 December 2005
Inspector	Jo Blackman / Anne Schurek
Setting Address	The Baulk, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 0PT
Telephone number	01767 312312
E-mail	lawns@deal.bedfordshire.gov.uk
Registered person	The Lawns Early Excellence Centre
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care, Sessional care, Out of School 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 Lawns Early Excellence centre is run by Bedfordshire County Council. The wraparound care provision registered in 2005 and operates from two rooms within the main building. It is situated in the town centre of Biggleswade. A maximum of twenty four children may attend the wraparound care provision at any one time. The wraparound provision is open each week day offering care from 8:50 to 09:00 and 11:30 to 18:00 term time and holiday care, 48 weeks of the year. All children share access with the nursery school to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 59 children aged from 2 to 8 years on roll. Children attend from

the local catchment area and after school collections from the local schools are included. The wraparound care supports children of all abilities including children who speak English as a second language.

The wraparound care provision employs 7 staff. Four of which hold an appropriate early years qualification. Two staff are working towards an early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a comfortable, clean environment. They are learning about the importance of health and personal hygiene, for example, they wash their hands before snack time and often after outside play. Children's special requirements with regard to health and diet are well documented and they are offered healthy snacks. These include foods such as fresh fruit and breadsticks. Children enjoy an range of physical activities, which contributes to their good health. However, the recording of accidents is not maintained effectively and parental signatures are not always asked for. The children develop control of their bodies and improve their physical skills and co-ordination as they participate in adult led activities such as music sessions and action rhymes.

Children use the outdoor play area by choice where they enjoy running through the wooded areas, playing with ride on toys, using the large building blocks in the under cover area and inventing imaginary games. Children also have many opportunities to develop finer skills through the use of a range of small equipment such as scissors, glue spreaders, threading activities and painting which are provided as free choice activities. Children's independence is promoted and they have a good understanding of their own needs, for example, pouring their own drinks during the session from the "snack bar" area as well as visiting the bathroom independently.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment where there are creative displays of their work, resources are very well organised and easily accessible. Their safety is prioritised and staff have a good understanding of this area, taking positive steps to remove or minimise any potential hazards or safety risks. Staff are effectively well organised and ensure that there is always someone supervising children in any area of the nursery, enabling children to move freely and safely around the setting as they choose their play and activities. Children are developing a good understanding about taking responsibility and keeping themselves and others safe. They are consistently given clear explanations by staff and are encouraged to comply with adult requests and instructions.

Children's safety is further promoted by the provision of appropriate equipment such as correctly sized chairs, tables and wooded climbing logs outside. Resources are

well organised and children are able to independently select toys and activities from an extensive range. Children's welfare is promoted as staff have a good awareness for assessing child protection, although they have a limited knowledge of the Area Child Protection Committee guidance of procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, secure and settled. They thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting and are enthusiastic about the activities provided. They are confident in their relationships with each other and with staff. Their personal development and self-esteem is very well promoted through sensitive support and interaction from staff. Children become independent as they freely choose resources and activities during the sessions. They are able to concentrate and persist at tasks such as making Christmas decorations and listening to a story to the end. Children are highly motivated and become fully engrossed in their play and activities as staff pay attention to detail in ensuring that all activities are stimulating. For example, children enjoyed making decorations for the Christmas tree out of dough and then they carefully took the time to ensure that their individual decorations were exactly how they wanted them.

All children spend their time purposefully and they thoroughly enjoy exploring the wide range of activities and resources. They are offered opportunities for regular activities such as reading, role play, crafts and construction. They also participate in more structured, themed work such as a recent topic on tree cutting which was developed from the trees in the outside area being cut. Children were able to use small diggers in real wood chip and talk about what they saw when the trees were being cut. This was further developed in the cut trees being made into apparatus for outside. Staff are skilled in using open questions to extend children's learning and encourage them to think further. Children's creativity is inspired by staff who are skilled in story telling and enthusiastically join in with games and activities including role play. They benefit from well planned activities because staff have a thorough understanding of child development and are able to utilise this knowledge in a very natural way in all areas of their work.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and staff ensure that specific individual needs are met. They are offered a range of activities and resources that help give them a positive view of the wider world and increase their understanding of society. Examples of this include activities associated with Christmas, Divali and Chinese New Year. All children are able to participate fully in the opportunities offered because staff have a clear understanding of the meaning of inclusion. Their understanding and sensitive intervention ensure that children participate at an appropriate and meaningful level. Children's behaviour is very good as they confidently choose their activities and organise turn taking throughout the session.

They respond very well to staff in this positive environment.

Children benefit from the setting's excellent partnership with parents and carers. Parents are given clear information about the setting. They are kept well informed of their children's progress and activities through regular newsletters, photographic displays, open evenings and good use of notice boards to display daily routines and activity plans. Parents views are valued and there is a complaints procedure in place should they have any serious concerns. However, this does not fully meet the Ofsted regulation set out in Standard 12.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of all children who attend. They benefit from an organised, well-planned environment. Their play opportunities are greatly enhanced by the creative organisation of space, allowing them the freedom to move safely between each of the play areas. This clear organisation enables children to feel confident in initiating their own play and learning. Children's welfare, care and safety are promoted through the practical, daily implementation of policies and procedures. These are regularly reviewed and understood by staff, ensuring that they are able to act appropriately at all times.

Children benefit from a well managed setting where staff are enthusiastic, motivated and committed to attending training and improving the service they offer. All sessions are very well planned and children are always given sufficient time to complete their activities. Staff have ensured that all relevant paperwork is in place and is easily accessible so that they are able to promote children's safety and welfare at all times.

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.
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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 that a record of accidents is maintained and signed by parents
- ensure that the complaints procedure is in line with Standard 12 of the National Standards
- ensure that staff have awareness for the Area Child Protection Committee guidance of procedures (ACPC)

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