



# Little Unicorn Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY306794
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 December 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Julia Louise Crowley
<b>Setting Address</b>	20 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5NJ
<b>Telephone number</b>	
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<b>Registered person</b>	Fran 'N' Bru Limited
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Little Unicorns Nursery is one of four nurseries run by Fran 'N' Bru Limited. It opened in 2005 and operates from a purpose built nursery, set within a commercial building situated in the Docklands area of E14. A maximum of 100 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07:30 to 18.30 for 52 weeks of the year. There is no formally designated outdoor area but children are taken out for part of the day.

There are currently 49 children, aged from 3 months old to 5 years on roll. The Nursery will not be receiving Government Nursery Education Grants for 3 and 4 year

olds. Children come from a wide catchment area, most of their parents live or work locally.

The nursery employs 13 staff . The majority of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. 4 members of staff are working towards a qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children have inventive opportunities to engage in daily physical activities, recognise the benefits of participating in regular exercise and know that it contributes to ensuring a healthy lifestyle. They benefit from an interesting range of challenging activities and show strong levels of confidence as they balance along beams, crawl through tunnels and climb a range of apparatus. Children independently choose from a wide range of smaller equipment, such as bats and balls, and enjoy riding bicycles and scooters and pushing buggies and wheelbarrows, negotiating space and developing control and co-ordination.

Staff make good use of the Birth to three matters framework to plan an exciting range of physical play experiences for young babies and toddlers. They encourage babies to reach out for toys, developing their crawling skills and toddlers practise walking holding hands and learn to use climbing apparatus and slides unaided. Babies' physical needs are successfully met, for example: consistent routines with regards to feeding, changing and sleeping are implemented between home and nursery. Staff implement effective hygiene procedures, such as changing nappies and preparing tables for meals, minimising the risk of infection. Children learn about health and hygiene and how to look after themselves through personal routines, including hand washing before snack and after toileting. They confidently recognise the need to wash their hands after playing with paints and glue to prevent the spread of infection.

Children develop a very good understanding of healthy eating as they make selections from healthy options of different fruits at snack time. They benefit from three healthy and nutritious meals each day, including a two course cooked meal at lunchtime, served on a three week menu, which increases their understanding of the importance of eating a healthy balanced diet. Not all staff responsible for the preparation and handling of foods hold a food and hygiene certificate. Staff are effective in supporting younger children to develop their independence, for example, by learning to feed themselves, and older children are actively involved in setting tables and serving their own meals.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children learn to keep themselves safe in welcoming and stimulating purpose-built facility, where they are able to freely move around the environment. Staff are vigilant

about children's safety and ensure this by the effective implementation of thorough daily risk assessments and detailed health and safety policies and procedures across the provision. Children talk about safe practice, for example, they recognise they must tidy a toy away before choosing another in case another child trips.

Children are well protected because staff have a accurate knowledge of child protection issues, recognise their role and responsibilities and know how to implement nursery and local child protection procedures. The recording of all staff, children and visitors, to and from the nursery, detailed policies for the collection and non-collection of children and arrangements for recording pre-existing injuries contribute to ensuring children are safeguarded from harm.

Children benefit well from the well organised and lively learning environment and a wide range of equipment and resources is available, suitable for the ages of children. Effective procedures are in place to ensure equipment is safe and well maintained. Children and babies access their own resources independently across the provision, which helps to develop and sustain strong levels of independence.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Babies and young children build successful relationships with their key workers and peers and thrive in the exciting range of activities and experiences offered to them. Children become competent learners as they explore different materials and textures through creative activities, such as Christmas cards. Babies are helped to explore their senses as they independently access a range of tactile toys. They explore lights, sounds and touch in the sensory room and enjoy creative activities such as painting and exploring sand and water.

Children communicate very well using words and gestures and increase in confidence as staff respond to the noises they make. They babble and squeal with delight as they share stories cuddled in with staff and participate enthusiastically in singing sessions, which contributes to developing their communication skills. Staff working with children under three years have an good knowledge and understanding of child development and make use of the Birth to three matters framework to guide their planning and observations of children's progress. They provide an exciting and stimulating learning environment, in which babies and young children initiate much of their own learning, helping them to develop independence and competence in these early stages of their learning.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children show a positive attitude towards one another and are confident and self assured. They develop in the nursery because they are well supported by staff who encourage them to become independent and competent learners. Children play well together learning to share and take turns and negotiate this with confidence. They

show genuine concern for one another for example one child who was unsettled after the Christmas concert received a reassuring hug from one of his peers.

Children develop a secure sense of belonging and confidently take on responsibilities within the nursery, such as helping to serve snacks. Behaviour is good and children show strong levels of independence, confidence and self-esteem as staff continually praise and value their achievements. All children and their families, receive effective support from staff, enabling them to develop and make individual progress. Children gain a well developed respect for themselves and others as they learn about their local community and the wider world and value and celebrate their differences and similarities.

Babies and young children enjoy cuddles from staff and are very self assured, developing strong levels of independence and a sense of security and belonging. They benefit from a good partnership with parents, ensuring their individual needs are fully met and they make progress in their development. Parents are fully involved in their child's development because effective communication takes place between staff and themselves, for example through informal discussion, open days/evenings and daily information forms.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care and learning is enhanced by the strong organisation of the nursery. All staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the provision and the implementation of the operational plan is effective, ensuring all children are provided with support in this vibrant and well organised setting. Time and resources are well used and the learning environment enables children to reach their potential and play an active role in their own learning. An effective and well organised key worker system operates. This secures the links between home and nursery and enables children's individual needs to be fully met. Detailed policies and procedures are consistently applied across the provision to promote outcomes for children.

All staff working in the provision have a good understanding of child development. They are fully involved in the planning and evaluating of activities and some take lead roles in specific areas. Staff performance is monitored and assessed both formally and informally and ongoing training identified to further enhance the expertise of practitioners and the experiences offered to children.

Management have a very clear knowledge of the strengths within the provision and actively evaluate continually to identify areas in which further development could be made. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable, first inspection since receiving registration.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- ensure all staff responsible for food preparation and handling should receive appropriate training that includes serving food safely and hygienically

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)