

# Clifton Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique reference number** EY293142  
**Inspection date** 27/07/2010  
**Inspector** Christine Snowdon

**Setting address** Clifton Day Nursery, 5 Sutton Way, York, North Yorkshire,  
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**Type of setting** Childcare on non-domestic premises

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## Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

## Description of the setting

Clifton Day Nursery is a privately owned facility, registered in August 2004, which runs in a sole use, single-storey building, in the York suburb of Clifton. The day nursery serves both the local and wider community. Children have the use of the open-plan playroom which has a separate area for babies. There is a fully enclosed area for outdoor play. The nursery is open all year, excluding bank holidays and weekends, from 8am until 6pm.

The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare register to care for a maximum of 25 children under eight years. There are currently 31 children on roll in the early years age group from three months to five years who attend the nursery. Continuity of care is also available to older children during school holidays.

There is a well qualified and experienced staff team, consisting of six members of staff plus the owner/manager. The manager along with several others are working towards a higher childcare qualification. The nursery receives support from the local authority's early years advisors and is a member of the Clifton Early Years Partnership.

## The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

All children are warmly welcomed and their individuality is truly recognised and valued by the staff who care for them. They are offered a very broad range of interesting activities, with the excellent opportunities for outdoor play being a particular strength of the nursery. Parents are recognised as key partners in their children's care and learning and excellent relationships are fostered. The nursery's policies and procedures are generally used effectively to support its good practice and most contain all the required information. The management and staff team are currently working on their self-evaluation system in order to monitor and evidence their own practice. Excellent progress has been made since their last inspection, demonstrating their utmost commitment to improving their provision and the outcomes for children.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop further the risk assessments to ensure all aspects of the premises are included
- develop further the complaints log so that the required information is confidentially recorded
- develop further the strategies to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the nursery, promoting continual improvements in the outcomes for children.

## **The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision**

Effective recruitment and vetting procedures are in place to ensure that all staff are safe and suitable to work with children. The manager has attended additional training and uses these skills to complement and improve their own systems, resulting in a more robust employment and induction programme. Children are well protected as the staff have a sound understanding of child protection procedures. A detailed safeguarding policy is in place along with additional information and contact details for the relevant agencies. There are effective security arrangements which ensure no one can access the premises or outdoor play areas without staff's permission. All visitors identification is checked and their attendance recorded. Overall, children are safe and secure in the nursery due to the close supervision of staff and the basic risk assessments already in place; these act as a daily check list to ensure the building is ready for children's arrival. However, not all aspects of the premises are included. All trips and outings are well planned, parents' permission is sought and detailed risk assessments undertaken to ensure children's safety when off site. Detailed written policies and procedures are used effectively to assist in the management of the nursery. The complaints procedure is in place and demonstrates how the management investigates and responds in accordance to the requirements. However, the information recorded contains too many personal details and therefore is not fully confidential.

The nursery management team provides a strong motivational leadership to the staff. They are very much hands-on and work effectively alongside the staff to support and complement their practice. The staff team are well qualified and very enthusiastic in their approach to training and keeping up-to-date with new childcare initiatives. Following recent training on play therapy, staff are highly successful in implementing new systems and approaches to behaviour management. As a result, children are exceptionally well supported and benefit from the staff's highly positive praise and encouragement. The nursery demonstrates a very clear commitment to improving outcomes for children. They have worked hard to address recommendations raised at their last inspection. For example, through successful funding bids, they have transformed the outdoor area into a wonderfully resourced and exciting learning area for children. The management has only recently started to complete the Ofsted self-evaluation format to help them to identify their strengths and priorities for future development.

Excellent working relationships are in place with the parents and carers. Effective key worker systems and settling-in visits ensure all new parents feel confident in leaving their child in the nursery. A wealth of written information is provided to parents along with leaflets, notices and an abundance of wall displays demonstrating the activities and topics their children take part in. The nursery actively seeks parents' feedback and comments through parent evenings and questionnaires. These are very complimentary and demonstrate parents' utmost satisfaction. For example, parents say the staff are 'extremely professional' and that they are '100% confident in leaving their children at the nursery'. Children's

progression into school and other early years settings is well supported with the use of the nursery's transition system. This ensures all relevant information is successfully shared to ensure children's individual care and learning needs are provided for.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children**

All children are very happy, settled and confident. They are highly motivated and eager to learn due to the highly stimulating and child-orientated environment, which is rich in signs, symbols, letters, numbers and children's artwork. Children benefit greatly from the wonderfully resourced, well organised areas both indoors and outside. The wide range of top quality, age-appropriate toys and equipment are easily and safely accessible to all children. As a result, children make independent choices and develop and extend their own interests and ideas. Knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff use their skills and expertise as they interact with the children, encouraging children's thinking and learning in the supportive and challenging environment. Staff closely monitor children's learning and this is well documented in their learning journeys. These are regularly shared with parents and they are encouraged to add information themselves. Staff recognise that every child is unique and ensure that all children are fully supported in their care and learning. As a result, children make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

A clear strength of the nursery is the excellent opportunities for free-flow play for all children. They are very keen and eager to be outdoors and develop their skills and imagination in this exciting and fun environment. Through effective organisation of resources, staff ensure all the six areas of learning are equally promoted both outdoors and inside. Children thoroughly enjoy the role play experiences and this is clearly a firm favourite. Working cooperatively together supported by staff, they build their own den with covers and crates. Children run around excitedly saying, 'quick there's a fire'. They put on their helmets, pick up the hosepipe and pretend to spray the den with water. Children explain the house now has two bent chimneys and hold up two fingers to signify this. They say it needs mending and fetch hammers and yellow helmets. They tell the inspector that firemen wear white helmets and builders yellow. Children's understanding of language and literacy is very well supported. They see their name written on their coat peg and again at circle time. Books and labels are in abundance throughout the nursery. For example, there is a good selection of books in their den and all the fruit and vegetable plants grown by the children are clearly labelled. Equality and diversity are fully reflected throughout the provision through topic work, posters and resources. For example, all parents have sent in photographs to display as part of 'My family' topic, reflecting and valuing the uniqueness of the children's families and lifestyles.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their physical skills and benefit from the fresh air and regular exercise. They pedal and steer the wheeled toys in the outdoor area, developing their understanding of road safety and the danger of traffic as children hold up the 'Stop' and 'Go' signs and other relevant symbols.

Children's good health is further promoted from the highly effective and rigorous hygiene routines in place. This has been acknowledged by the recent 'five star award' from their local environmental health department.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

### The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

<b>How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

### The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

<b>The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	1

### The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
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### Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

<b>Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	1
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	2

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## Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met