



Highclare Woodfield Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY287857
Inspection date	03 November 2005
Inspector	Janet Ashcroft

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Registered person	Highclare School (1074596)
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Highclare Woodfield Nursery was registered in 2004. It offers a nursery, which provides for children from 18 months to 3 years and an out of school club, which provides for children from 5 years to 8 years old. It is situated within the grounds of Highclare Woodfield School in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands and serves only those children who attend the school.

There are currently 71 nursery children and 75 out of school club children on roll who attend for a variety of sessions. The setting is open for 48 weeks a year from 08:00 until 18:00. The setting supports children who speak English as an additional

language.

There are 39 staff who work with the children and over half are qualified to level 3 standard. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning about good hygiene routines through the staff's good practice and they are supported in hand washing before eating meals and before engaging in cookery activities. However, nursery children do not routinely wash their hands before snacks and older nursery children are not always provided with appropriate equipment or opportunities to practise self-help skills at snack time.

Children are given frequent opportunities to exercise, with full use made of the outdoor area, the 'Millennium Garden' and the gymnasiums. TOPS children benefit from a wide ranging programme of trips and outings, which provide opportunities for them to develop and refine their physical skills.

Children's health is mostly safeguarded through the setting's policies, procedures and records, which generally meet all required standards. However, children's welfare is not fully safeguarded as parents do not always countersign the accident and medication records.

Children benefit from a very nutritious diet, with meals carefully planned and prepared on the premises from fresh ingredients. Fruit and vegetables are offered on a daily basis and children's individual nutritional requirements are thoughtfully and comprehensively met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The setting is gloriously stimulating, with attractive child-centred posters, numerous items of personal equipment and extensive displays of children's creative work, making it appealing and welcoming for all children. All areas of development are fostered as the children freely access an extensive range of stimulating toys, equipment and furniture.

The staff are very aware of possible risks to children's safety and have taken thorough steps to remove hazards in the setting and as a result the children are able to play, eat and sleep in very safe and healthy premises. All children are learning how to keep themselves safe, for example by participating in regular fire evacuations and TOPS children practise road crossing drills when on outings.

Children's protection from abuse and neglect is promoted through the staff's sound knowledge of signs and symptoms, with scenario questions answered competently

and confidently.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

All children are able to engage in a splendid range of activities and experiences, which helps them make progress in all areas of development. The nursery staff have an enthusiastic and wholehearted commitment to the 'Birth to three matters' framework and actively support the children in their decisions and choices, helping them to become autonomous and competent learners. TOPS children regularly participate in activity planning, which enhances their sense of belonging and effectively develops their skills of negotiation and decision making.

Children's language and thinking skills are enthusiastically and effectively promoted through general conversation and through the frequent questions asked of them by the staff. The children's confidence and self-esteem is enhanced as the staff listen carefully to their responses. Social skills are developed as they encourage the children to take turns in speaking and listening.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The staff have a tremendous commitment to equality of opportunity, they recognise children as individuals and as a result the children benefit from having their differing needs comprehensively met. The staff have experience in caring for children with special needs and carefully plan activities to accommodate particular routines and requirements. Children are able to access a wide and meaningful range of exciting resources and activities to actively raise their awareness of diversity and to promote their understanding of others, for example role play equipment and cookery and craft activities provide exciting opportunities for children to explore other cultures and traditions.

Children behave extremely well and frequently show care and concern for one another. Staff have high expectations and a positive approach to behaviour management and the nursery children respond well to gentle reminders to care for their environment, nursery resources and each other. TOPS children are developing skills of collaboration and compromise as they are actively encouraged to participate in negotiating goals and boundaries for the setting.

Children thrive as a result of the outstanding continuity of care which has developed through the first-class partnership with parents. The staff take every opportunity to involve parents in the care of their children and have an exceptional number of strategies to exchange information on children's progress and on developments in early years care and education.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the good practice of the well qualified and skilled staff team and the setting's commitment to continuous improvement ensures that staff are kept fully informed of current trends in child care practice.

Children's welfare is effectively promoted through the staff's strong organisational skills; most records, policies and procedures are well organised and reviewed regularly, although the departure times of some TOPS children and staff are not always accurately recorded.

The children are able to explore and investigate as a result of the well organised use of space, which has been planned to enable them to participate in a variety of stimulating activities. The effective and consistent adult support and the familiar daily routine fosters the children's sense of security. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable, as this is the first inspection.

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.

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):

- safeguard the children's health by ensuring that all accident and medication records are countersigned by parents
- ensure the children's safety by ensuring that the registration system details arrival and departure times for all staff and children.

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