



Palfrey Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 254477

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Inspector Jan Burnet

Setting Address Palfrey Community Centre, Milton Street, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 4LA

Telephone number 01922 649716

E-mail

Registered person Palfrey Community Association

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Palfrey Day Nursery opened in refurbished premises in July 2006 and was originally registered as a crèche in 2000. It operates from a self-contained unit attached to the Palfrey Community Association Building in Palfrey, Walsall. A maximum of 69 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery serves the local and surrounding area and opens for 50 weeks of the year, Monday to Friday, from 08:00 until 18:00. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 15 children on roll aged from three months to under four years. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports children who

Speak English as an additional language.

A manager and four staff care for the children and all staff hold early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is addressed well because hygiene routines are good. Children are learning how to keep themselves healthy and are aware of good personal hygiene as they wash their hands with anti-bacterial liquid soap before eating and after using the toilet. The risk of cross-infection is minimal because cleaning routines are thorough and because parents are aware that their child should not attend if he or she has a contagious illness or sickness and diarrhoea and that they will be contacted if the child becomes ill. Children's best interests are served by a staff team well informed on accident procedures as all hold in-date first aid certificates. Their emotional well-being is addressed with good support and encouragement.

The risk to children from unsafe food is low because food hygiene is addressed well. Children's individual dietary needs are known and appropriately met. A four-week rotating menu has been agreed with a local company and the lunchtime meal is delivered in a "hot box". Temperatures are checked with a probe before meals are served to the children. These and fridge temperatures are recorded daily. The company also provides tea which consists of sandwiches and salad. Children enjoy meal times as social occasions and food is varied and nutritional. Fruit is provided for snacks. Children are developing confidence and skills with regular use of sit and ride and climbing equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy activities in a welcoming environment. They returned to these premises in July 2006 following a complete refurbishment and their playrooms are well organised, light and bright. The storage of resources on low-level shelving encourages children's independence as they are able to select resources and help to tidy away.

Equipment is generally safe and in a good condition and risks of accidental injury to children are low because staff are vigilant. However, during a recent period of very hot weather a free-standing electric fan has been used and is accessible to children on a low-level cupboard. Other potential risks have been identified in risk assessments and satisfactorily addressed in practice. Staff are aware of their responsibilities with regard to security and supervision of children. The fire drill has been discussed with the children but has not yet been practised.

Children's welfare is appropriately safeguarded by staff who have a working knowledge of abuse and neglect and are aware of local referral procedures. Information for parents on staff responsibility with regard to child abuse is included in child admission forms.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Older children are happy and confident in the environment created by staff. The emotional security of babies, new to the group, is being addressed with a gradual introduction and one to one attention from staff. Children select, enjoy and get involved in activities and they experience an appropriate range of activities on a daily basis. They benefit from a good staff to child ratio, a well-balanced routine and good resources. The routine includes group times for songs and stories, messy and creative play, imaginative play, construction, books and puzzles. Children are developing manipulative skills with lacing, threading and posting toys and with regular use of pencils, crayons and scissors. They learn shapes and colours and they count throughout the day. Children have daily access to the outdoor play area adjacent to their playrooms.

Staff have attended 'Birth to three matters' training and are using their knowledge to plan activities, record observations, assess and then use information to inform planning for individual children. They also have an awareness of the Curriculum for the foundation stage, although the nursery is not registered for Government funding. Three and four-year-old children attend the nursery but they also attend Palfrey school nursery class, which is on the same site as the nursery.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed and their individual needs are known and met by staff. They are encouraged to talk about home and their experiences in order to appreciate and value each others' similarities and differences and they celebrate different religious and cultural festivals. They choose from a good variety of resources that reflect diversity. Some of the children attending are able to understand and speak English but their first languages include Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali and Gujarati. Some of their parents do not speak English and the multi-lingual staff team explain policies and procedures and are able to share information on the child. A nursery prospectus is being developed and so is not currently available and staff cannot be sure that all parents are aware of policies and procedures, except for complaints information, as they are not displayed. There are currently no children who have special needs but staff ensure that all children are valued and included.

Most children play happily and co-operatively but there are times when inappropriate behaviour results in children receiving the individual attention that they crave from staff and staff are not consistent in their management. However, most children

respond very positively to staff who ensure that behaviour is managed with the use of praise and encouragement.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The provider ensures that children are well cared for by an enthusiastic staff team. All staff are qualified to level three and all have completed first aid and food hygiene training. They demonstrate a commitment to improving their knowledge and skills. Procedures for recruitment, selection and induction are clear and an appraisal system is being developed. All documentation that links to children's health, safety and well being is in place. Daily routines are consistent, resources meet the children's needs and activities are varied.

Written and verbal communication with parents ensures that staff are aware of each child's needs. Required policies and procedures have been drawn up but are not currently available for parents to refer to. Required documentation is kept up to date and in good order. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection the provider was asked to devise a system for planning and implementing a suitable range of activities for children, which includes children's choice and is based on their individual needs. This has been satisfactorily addressed as staff are using their knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan and provide age and stage appropriate activities. Children are able to choose from a good variety of resources. The provider was asked to ensure that all accidents are signed by parents and confidentiality is maintained within records. This has been addressed as each child has a separate accident form and parents are asked to sign. The provider was asked to make sure that children's attendance is accurately recorded and ensure that staff are effectively deployed and children are grouped appropriately during lunch time. These recommendations have been satisfactorily addressed. The provider was asked to ensure that staff respond to children's inappropriate behaviour effectively. This has been generally addressed but some lack of consistency results in children receiving the attention they demand as a result of their inappropriate behaviour.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- make sure free standing electric fans are inaccessible to children
- practise the fire drill
- make sure that parents are aware of all policies and procedures.

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