



Leap Frogs

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY240219

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Inspector Karen Cooper

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Registered person Leap Frogs

Type of inspection Childcare

Type of care Full day 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?

Marston Green Leap Frogs operates as a day nursery and out of school care from premises located at Marston Green Infant School. The nursery is situated in a single storey building with an enclosed outside play area. There are two playrooms, a baby unit, kitchen and staff facilities. Out of school care is provided from two classrooms within the main school building and children have access to toilets, kitchen and outdoor play facilities.

There are currently 83 children aged from 3 months to 8 years on roll. Grant funded 3 and 4-year-olds are accepted. The provision supports children with special

educational needs and who speak English as an additional language. Both full and part-time places are available.

The nursery opens five days a week, Monday to Friday 07:30 - 18:00 all year round. It is closed for statutory Bank Holidays. School holiday care operates from 07:30 -18:00 . The provision also caters for children before and after school in line with the nursery opening times. There are 14 child care staff employed in the provision. Of these 50% hold an early years or play work qualification. Domestic staff are also employed.

The provision receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. The out of school provision has gained a Level Three, Aiming High Quality Award.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a clean and comfortable environment where they enjoy regular physical exercise. They are provided with plenty of opportunities for physical play through well-planned indoor and outdoor activities. This helps children develop the confidence to enjoy moving with control, for example when using climbing equipment and dancing to music.

Children's good health is well supported, as they have access to the essential items that ensure that they are able to tend to their own personal needs independently. Staff take appropriate steps to prevent the spread of infection by keeping the premises clean, wearing gloves when changing nappies, regular sterilisation of feeding equipment, safe handling of food and providing separate flannels for babies. Anti-bacterial spray is used to clean toys and surfaces and staff operate a 'clean as you go' policy throughout the session. Children are helped to understand that washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet helps keep them healthy. There are good arrangements in place to care for children who are ill and staff are trained in administering first aid. Accident, medication and sickness policies and procedures are clear and are shared with parents.

The children benefit from a nutritious balanced diet. Meals are freshly prepared using fresh fruit and vegetables and menus are produced to give parents information about meal choices. Children are provided with a drink of juice or milk at meal times, however drinking water is not always available. Meal times are sociable occasions, with the children and staff sitting together chatting.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are provided with a warm and welcoming environment, where they are able to move safely and independently and are protected from harm. Indoor and

outdoor space is effectively organised to create a child friendly environment, which enables children to explore and take risks. Children use a varied range of toys and equipment that are of good quality, safe and are able to access most of them independently. Equipment is kept clean, in a good state of repair and is regularly checked for safety.

The children's safety is well protected as staff have assessed potential risks and put procedures and practices in place to minimise these at all times. Appropriate safety equipment is used according to the age and needs of the children attending, including safety gates, radiator and socket covers. Staff have a good awareness of security. They ensure children cannot leave the premises unsupervised and there can be no unauthorised access to children. For example, external doors are secure, fitted with a buzzer and a coded lock and visitors are requested to sign in and out of the premises. There are clear procedures to ensure only authorised people collect children and passwords are used for extra protection. Thorough procedures are in place to ensure children are safe when on outings. Staff take appropriate information with them including parent's contact numbers in case of an emergency or accident. Written consent is obtained from parents at registration for their child to be transported in a vehicle.

The children's welfare is appropriately protected as staff have a good understanding of their role and responsibility to protect children in their care. Staff are aware of signs and symptoms of possible abuse and know the appropriate procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child. Staff update their knowledge and skills through regular training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a good range of toys and activities that encourage them to make progress in their development. Toys and activities are rotated on a regular basis to ensure that all children have equal opportunities to access them regardless of attendance patterns. There is good provision for imaginative and creative play and the children are able to make choices about being active or playing quietly. They often participate in stimulating crafts and tabletop activities and are able to select most of the resources independently. The children respond positively to circle time and eagerly share their 'Weekend News'. They sing and dance with enthusiasm and enjoy exploring painting and other materials when making a Christmas Angel.

The children enjoy a warm and welcoming atmosphere at the nursery and after school club and are interested in their play. They respond positively to staff, each other and are well settled. This enables them to make good progress in their personal, social and emotional development. The children are keen to join in with the activities and play well individually and as part of a group. Younger children are beginning to understand simple rules such as sharing and taking turns. The children benefit from a range of activities outside the setting. Staff plan a variety of stimulating opportunities for children to investigate and explore their environment. They frequently go for walks to the shops, the local park and library. Older children visit

local museums, farms and activity centres.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about equality through their play. They have equal access to a range of resources, play opportunities and activities which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and information is sought regarding the child's routines, likes and dislikes upon commencement of the club to ensure that their needs are met.

Children have formed good relationships with each other and the staff. They behave well, play harmoniously together and respond positively to expectations. Staff have a good understanding of managing the children's behaviour and are consistent in their approach.

Partnership with parents is well established and daily discussions ensures that the children are cared for in accordance with their wishes. Staff operate an 'open door' policy and parents are encouraged to visit the provision at any time.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is suitably promoted through the appropriate use of space, activities and resources. The majority of staff have an Early Years childcare or play work qualification and the children benefit from their commitment to improve their knowledge and skills by attending further training and short courses. There is a high ratio of staff to children present and staff are well deployed to ensure children are always supervised. They work well as part of a team and group children effectively using key workers in small groups. This promotes consistency for children and parents and helps build effective relationships.

Most of the policies and procedures that are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision are maintained, regularly reviewed and shared with parents. However, the child protection policy needs to be brought in line with National Guidance. Records are clear, easily accessible and stored securely. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend the provision.

Improvements since the last inspection

At last inspection, the provider was requested to improve the outside play area, carry out regular fire drills, improve accident procedures and ensure parents sign the record, review menus, improve medication procedures and provide more opportunities for staff to be involved in planning.

All recommendations have been addressed. Children's safety is now promoted as the outdoor area has now been completely revamped with the help of the 'Prince's Trust', resulting in a safer area for children to use. Fire drills are now carried out every six to eight weeks and are recorded. Children's health is promoted by a wholesome nutritious and balanced diet and menus are shared with parents. There are good arrangements in place to protect children's well-being in the event of an accident or illness. Staff have appropriate permissions and records in place, which are countersigned by parents to acknowledge the entry. Activity plans are the responsibility of the key workers, which are shared with parents. All staff plan and prepare activities to encourage the children to develop skills and have fun.

Complaints since the last inspection

There has been one complaint made to Ofsted since the last inspection. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by the parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

Ofsted were in receipt of concerns at the end of January 2005 relating to National Standard 2 (Organisation); and Standard 7 (Health) and concerning allegations that minimum staff:child ratios were not always maintained; that the number of children attending exceeded the registered numbers; that parental wishes regarding the administration of medicines were not always complied with; and that there was a less than adequate response by the nursery to concerns raised by a parent. Ofsted investigated by unannounced inspection within 7 working days and found that registered numbers for some age groups were exceeded, minimum staff:child ratios were not met at all times in some rooms, attendance registers were incomplete, the certificate of registration was not displayed or readily available and parental wishes for the administration of medicines had not always been complied with. Ofsted applied 4 actions requiring the provider to develop and implement an action plan that sets out how staffing levels are maintained at all times; to make sure that adult:child ratios are maintained at all times; make sure the certificate of registration is displayed; and to make sure attendance records are accurate and kept up to date. The provider also agreed a recommendation to ensure the administering of medication is in line with parental wishes. The provider has responded in writing detailing that internal action has been taken in relation to individual members of staff and external appointments will be made to the manager and deputy manager posts. The provider also demonstrated that appropriate action had been taken to meet the requirements of the actions and recommendations agreed. Ofsted is of the opinion that the provider's response to the inspection findings is both appropriate and proportionate. Ofsted will review compliance with the agreed requirements at future inspection and the provider remains qualified for registration.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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 children's well being is promoted by ensuring fresh drinking water is made available at all times
- develop current child protection documentation based on procedures laid out in the National Guidance (What to do if you are worried a child is being abused) and include procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff.

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