



Grace Owen Nursery School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY283219
Inspection date	25 January 2006
Inspector	Sarah Gilpin
Setting Address	Grace Owen Nursery School, Hague Row, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S2 5SB
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Registered person	Grace Owen Nursery School
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?

Grace Owen Nursery School was registered in 2004 and operates within the local authority nursery. A maximum of 35 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08.00 until 18.00, for 50 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 62 children aged from 6 months to under 5 years on-roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions and come from the local and wider communities. The nursery has provision for children with special educational needs, and those children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 18 staff, including the head teacher, who hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a comfortable, homely environment where staff follow appropriate procedures to ensure that health and hygiene issues are addressed. For example, they take care to clean tables and use a clean tablecloth for each mealtime. They encourage children to learn about good hygiene practices through hand washing routines and the children know that they need clean hands before they eat their lunch. Staff who deal with food preparation have attended relevant training to support their practice and staff have completed first aid training.

Children enjoy a healthy, balanced diet that includes fresh fruit and vegetables. The lunchtime meals are supplied by the local authority catering services and are nutritionally balanced. In addition some children's meals are provided by their parents. The children's individual dietary needs are recorded to ensure that foods provided are suitable. Children sit together sociably with staff, and most have a good appetite, enjoying second helpings if they wish. Staff make effective use of opportunities to talk to children about foods that are good for them and gently encourage them to try new foods.

There are opportunities for children to enjoy fresh air and exercise, which contributes to their good health. The children spend part of each session outdoors where they enjoy riding bikes, scrambling on the large climbing frame and participating in role-play, such as prams which are pushed around. The babies and younger children's rest and sleep needs are managed well, they sleep as required to fit in with their own routines.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and well maintained environment. Staff implement the setting's safety policies and procedures, and as a result, potential hazards are minimised and children are safe. There is an effective system for monitoring the arrival and departure of the children. The children's awareness of how to manage their own safety is raised well by staff who remind the children to take care when using climbing apparatus and through the regular fire evacuation practises.

A suitable range of age appropriate toys and resources are easily accessible to the children. These are carefully organised to allow children safe access, and toys and equipment meet the required safety standards. Outdoor play equipment is safely anchored and staff provide good levels of supervision, recognising the importance of being able to oversee children's physical activities.

Children's wellbeing is safeguarded because the staff have a clear understanding of their responsibilities with regard to child protection and know how to handle concerns sensitively. There is a detailed policy and a clear system for the recording and reporting of concerns. As a result, the staff can act in the best interests of the children in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

There is a warm, happy atmosphere in both areas of the nursery and children relate very well to each other and to staff. Children enjoy attending and some are reluctant to leave when their parents arrive to collect them. Staff plan effectively using the Foundation Stage curriculum for the three and four-year-old children. As a result, the children have free access to a broad and balanced range of play experiences each day, which helps them to learn and develop their independence skills. In the room where the under threes are cared for, staff are beginning to develop their planning using the Birth to three matters framework. However, there are limited opportunities for children under three to develop their independence at snack-time. Children are supported as they explore the range of floor toys and creative experiences, such as painting, which are readily available. Staff respond well to the children's non verbal communications. For example, when a child moves towards the door, she is encouraged to fetch and put on her coat to play outside, as a result, the children's needs are effectively met.

Children show sustained interest in what they do. They concentrate for long periods for example, while playing in the water tray. They use all available resources to extend their play and enjoyment. Children use their imaginations when they try on the Chinese dragon costume and make associated sounds. There are opportunities for them to be creative and the older children's work is effectively displayed. The staff complete regular assessments of the children's progress throughout the nursery, this information is successfully used to plan for the next stages in children's learning and development.

The staff know children and their parents well and are sensitive to children's individual needs. They talk and listen to children, and give effective support to children who are new to the setting or who are feeling a little unsettled. Children play cooperatively together and there is plenty of friendly conversation and laughter.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are cared for by a consistent staff team who know them well. Staff work hard to create a welcoming environment for them and display photographs of them at play. The children's awareness of the world around them and other people is promoted successfully through use of non-stereotypical resources and carefully planned activities, such as children working together to make a Chinese dragon while learning about the Chinese New Year celebrations. The setting welcomes children who have

additional needs and is suitably designed to support children with mobility problems.

Staff are warm and friendly in their interactions with parents and children. They take a positive approach towards the management of children's behaviour, for example, using positive reinforcement to encourage all children to join the singing activity. All children behave well and the older children are able to take some responsibility by successfully negotiating with their peers for a turn at a favoured activity.

Staff work in partnership with parents to ensure that they meet the changing needs of the children. For example, discussions about children's routines, likes and dislikes take place prior to children entering the provision. Information, such as the registration certificate and staffing details, are displayed for them in the day-care room. However, the complaints procedure lacks sufficient detail to enable parents to effectively raise concerns. Staff ensure that they speak to parents at collection times to pass on any significant information and to give general feedback. This helps children to feel secure and to benefit fully from the play experiences offered.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children enjoy their time in the setting because staff are enthusiastic and provide a comfortable place for children to play and relax. They can easily participate in a variety of learning experiences and have opportunity to play independently. All required record keeping systems are maintained appropriately. There are written policies and procedures to support the different areas of practice and these are implemented well by staff to support their care of the children.

The high staff-child ratio means that there are more than enough staff available to provide children with the levels of support and supervision that they need. Children are cared for by a consistent staff team and this helps to maintain continuity for them. Staff work well together as they have opportunities to meet for discussion. There are suitable monitoring procedures in place to ensure that the provision runs smoothly. For example, the person in charge has frequent contact with the head teacher so that any issues can be quickly addressed.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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):

- continue to develop opportunities for the children aged from birth to three years to operate independently
- develop the complaints procedure to ensure that parents know about Ofsted's role in dealing with complaints relating to the childcare provision.

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