



Usworth Colliery Nursery School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY306214
Inspection date	24 January 2006
Inspector	Lynne Pope
Setting Address	Usworth Colliery Nursery School, Manor Road, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE37 3BL
Telephone number	0191 2193620
E-mail	
Registered person	Usworth Colliery Nursery School
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?

North Washington Neighbourhood Nursery at Usworth Colliery Nursery School is run by the senior management team within an existing nursery school. It opened in 2005 and operates from purpose built accommodation in Usworth. A maximum of 16 children may attend the child care at any one time. The childcare is open each week day from 08.00 until 18.00 for 50 weeks of the year. A maximum of 42 children may attend out of school hours. The out of school is open 08.00 until 09.00 and 15.30 until 18.00 during school term time. During school holidays it is open 08.00 until 18.00.

There are currently 39 children aged from 2 years old to 8 years old years on roll.

Children come from a large catchment area. The nursery supports children with special needs.

The nursery employs seven staff in conjunction with North Washington Neighbourhood Nursery and Concord Nursery. All of the staff, including the manager holds appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is attending further training.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean, well maintained environment. They have a confident understanding of good hygiene practises through well planned routines and timely reminders from staff. Children are kept safe from the spread of infection by an effective sickness policy being in place. Appropriate consents and records are in place for the administration of medication and recording accidents. However, written consent has not been sought from parents and carers to seek emergency medical treatment or advice. This compromises children's welfare. Children's well-being is enhanced as they access healthy snacks and meals, for example, they try healthy options such as different fruits. They enjoy the positive experience at lunch time as they sit in a small group. They are able to discuss what they are having and whether they like it as it is served at their table. Staff set a good example as they eat their meal with the children.

Children develop knowledge and understanding of how exercise helps them to stay healthy. They enthusiastically take an active part in physical exercise, learning about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle. For example, they explore the well-organised outdoor area as they learn to balance on the beams, control a tricycle or use the slide. Indoors they do stretching exercises before their lunch and move their bodies in time to music tapes. Children are able to rest or be active as they need.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to a well-organised environment. The playrooms are made welcoming with displays of children's art work and photographs of activities, giving them ownership of the environment. Children have free movement around the premises as they are able to access the education nursery areas at set times during the day. This broadens children horizons and enables them to use an extensive range of safe, well-maintained toys and equipment suitable to the age and stage of their development. They are stored at child height in each area developing children's independence.

Children are cared for in a very secure environment and are well protected by the procedures in place. All visitors to the building are monitored. Children develop a

good awareness of their own safety through sensitive reminders, such as not to run in the areas. Regular fire drills are carried out with the children so that they are aware of the routine. They learn the importance of being safe on outings. Staff carry out risk assessments prior to the visit and talk to children about safety.

Children are well protected by staff that are confident and secure in their knowledge of child protection policies and procedures. They give high priority to children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Staff in the setting provide a calm, consistent environment where all children are happy and confident. Good, warm and caring relationships have developed between staff and children. They communicate easily, with the result that children enjoy and achieve. Staff have a good knowledge of, and have developed, extensive plans based on the Birth to three framework which helps them to focus on age appropriate steps for the children. The suitable range of activities encourages children to explore the space and develop their physical, early communication and social skills well. Staff carry out regular observations which enable them to plan the next steps in play and learning to provide for their individual needs.

Children show emerging confidence and independence as they select their own activities. They are inquisitive and interested in the resources made available to them. Staff ensure that children are engaged in their activities, joining in with their play, asking questions that extend their learning and experiences. Children talk freely about their experiences outside nursery. Staff develop discussions into stimulating learning experiences as they involve all children in pretending to go on holiday on an aeroplane. Good integration with the nursery education area of the premises broadens children's horizons and gives them access to further activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop a positive attitude towards others and gain a good understanding about the wider world through stories, songs and investigating resources in the nursery. Their awareness is raised through outings into the local environment and trips further a field when they visit the farm, wildfowl park and fire station. Staff are calm and consistent in their approach to behaviour management. They use timely sensitive interventions where they talk to the child, use distraction or clear instruction which protects the child. Positive behaviour is encouraged through praise and rewards such as stickers. Children feel a sense of belonging in the setting. They are learning to co-operate well together as they learn to share resources.

Partnership with parents is good. Children benefit from a two-way sharing of information between staff and parents which enhances their learning. Parents are verbally kept informed about their child on a daily basis. They receive regular

newsletters about forthcoming themes and how they can contribute to their child's learning. Parents receive clear information about the nursery before their child starts. Policies and procedures are discussed in detail with the manager, ensuring that they have a good awareness.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children that attend. Effective recruitment procedures ensure that children are cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. The induction programme and good teamwork ensures that staff understand the policies and procedures. The required policies and procedures are in place which supports the care of the children. All records are kept up to date. Effective planning and monitoring of children's activities enables staff to plan the next steps in children's development.

Organisation of the premises is good, allowing children to become independent as they select their own resources and take part safely. A good balance is maintained between physical exercise and rest periods. Staff are enthusiastic and committed ensuring that children's time is fulfilling and productive. They enhance their skills through access to relevant training and appropriate support, such as staff meetings. In practise they work towards keeping children healthy and safeguard their welfare. Close links are developed with the local nursery centre and primary school to ensure a smooth transition for children.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints 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.

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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.
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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 that consent is sought from parents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice.

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