



Pelton Nursery School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY303639
Inspection date	09 May 2006
Inspector	Jean Wilson

Setting Address	Pelton Community Primary School, Ouston Lane, Pelton, Chester le Street, County Durham, DH2 1EZ
Telephone number	0191 370 3514
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Registered person	Buttercup Nurseries
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?

Pelton Nursery is one of three nurseries run by Buttercup Nurseries. It opened in 2005 and operates from purpose built facilities within Pelton Community Primary School. A maximum of 68 children under eight may attend the nursery at any one time. There are currently 41 children aged from seven months to under five years on roll. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 07.30 until 18.00, all year apart from bank holidays and for a week over the Christmas period.

The provision operates wrap around care during term time and a holiday club. There are currently 30 children aged from three to eleven years on roll. All children share

access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

All staff working directly with the children have early years qualifications to level 2 or 3.

The nursery receive support and training opportunities from the local Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership and Sure Start.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment where they enjoy the benefits of a routine that ensures the appropriate balance of rest and play. Regular use of the outdoor play area contributes to children's good health and the development of their large physical skills. All areas are well maintained and staff have a clear knowledge of nursery procedures, which are implemented effectively, helping to promote children's well-being. Staff consistently wear disposable gloves and aprons for nappy changing, and maintain the cleanliness of toys and resources to a satisfactory standard, helping to prevent the spread of infection.

Menus are alternated regularly to add to children's variety and choice. They are prepared on the premises using fresh ingredients whenever possible. Healthy eating is not consistently promoted as sweet biscuits are provided at snack times. Staff consult parents regarding children's dietary and religious needs and these are taken into account. Drinks are frequently offered to babies and toddlers. However, drinking water is not freely accessible to older children throughout the session.

Staff follow satisfactory hygiene practice in the nursery. Children begin to develop an awareness of good personal hygiene practice through consistent daily routines, such as washing hands before eating and after visiting the toilet. Older children are encouraged to manage their personal hygiene independently or with little assistance. Children's health is further protected by an effective sickness and exclusion policy. There is appropriate documentation in place for the recording of accidents and medication.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are safe in a secure, welcoming environment, where staff are vigilant and use risk assessments well to reduce hazards. Space within the playroom is effectively organised with clearly identifiable areas created for different types of play. Resources are clean and well maintained. A selection of books and toys are stored at child height allowing children to make some independent choices.

A good range of safety measures are in place, which are supported through a comprehensive range of policies and procedures. For example, the building is secure

at all times and visitors are identified and accompanied when on the premises. Sensitive reminders, such as a request to pick up toys from the floor to prevent someone tripping over, increase the child's awareness of everyday safety in the setting. Smoke alarms and extinguishers are in place. However, children would be further safeguarded if the fire evacuation procedure is practiced regularly and extended to include the out of school facilities and holiday provision.

Children are well protected from possible abuse or neglect. Staff have a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures. All of these measures contribute to the safety and welfare of the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time in the nursery and build good relationships with staff and peers. New children settle particularly well because of the welcoming, warm and individual support given by all the staff. Toddlers are nurtured well and they receive lots of cuddles and attention. A suitable range of activities and toys are set out each session. Children are generally interested in the activities provided and gain enjoyment from being with each other and the staff. Older Children develop and practise their personal and communication skills well. For example, staff provide a role play area and ask questions to develop conversation and imaginative play. However, craft activities are adult led and opportunities for children to paint or use creative materials, without a pre-determined end product, are limited.

Children are keen to look at books and listen to adults attentively on a one to one basis. They come together at snack and story times, however, two year olds are less good at listening during these group times. Sufficient age appropriate activities and toys are available for younger children. However, staff have limited understanding of providing appropriate tactile activities for babies and young children and reference to the Birth to three matters framework would be beneficial in planning for this group.

Children attending the out of school club enjoy a range of age appropriate activities. They have sufficient space, facilities and attentive adult support. The group is well resourced and provides opportunities for children to be actively involved in quiet or active activities. For example, they are able to read, play games, access computers, join in craft activities or complete homework tasks.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children behave well as staff use appropriate strategies to address any unacceptable behaviour. They are calm and sensitively support children to learn to share, take turns and respect the needs of others. Children become able to resolve conflict and play together amicably as staff are good role models and help the children to negotiate and talk things through. Staff praise their achievements and their work is satisfactorily displayed within the playroom. Children make some decisions about

their play although resources are not presented to be easily accessible or stimulate free choice. For example, their independence is not supported as coat pegs are placed too high for young children to reach. Staff have regard to equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children although planned activities and resources to support children's understanding in this area are limited.

A good relationship with parents contributes considerably to the children's well-being. They receive written information about the nursery and policies and procedures are clearly displayed. Staff are friendly and approachable. Relevant information is exchanged informally each session and a regular newsletter provides news of forthcoming activities and events. Positive feedback is received from families about the friendly staff and the service provided.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is supported by the friendly atmosphere generated by the caring staff and management. The premises and equipment are well maintained and the outdoor area provides all children with regular opportunities to play in the fresh air. Staff are enthusiastic and work well together as a team. The play rooms are bright and welcoming and most resources are effectively organised to enhance play.

All required policies, procedures and record keeping systems are in place. Good regard is given to keeping children's records and personal information confidential. The majority of which are appropriately organised and maintained. However, some documents have not been brought up to date to reflect staff changes in responsibility. Staff hold appropriate qualifications and have access to support, such as regular team meetings, individual appraisal sessions and training. Well thought out induction procedures for new staff aim to ensure that they are familiar with all aspects across the age ranges.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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):

- improve children's safety by ensuring that the fire evacuation procedures are regularly practiced in the nursery and out of school club
- develop the range of activities provided for children under three which will allow children to build on their natural curiosity as learners and promote their creativity and imagination, for example by using the Birth to three framework
- improve opportunities for older children to develop their independence
- continue to develop resources that positively reflect images of gender, culture, ethnicity and disability
- ensure that all documentation accurately identifies staff roles and responsibilities.

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