



Nature's Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY315650
Inspection date	21 February 2006
Inspector	Susan Magaret Lyon
Setting Address	St Phillips House, St. Phillips Drive, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6AE
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	Nature's Nursery Ltd.
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Nature's Nursery in Royton was registered in 2005 to provide full day care for 69 children. The nursery operates from a single storey building and consists of three main play areas where children are grouped according to their age and stage of development. The opening days are Monday to Friday from 07.30 to 18.00 hours. There are 12 members of staff, 11 of whom are qualified. The manager has an appropriate qualification. The nursery supports children who have English as an

additional language. There are currently 67 children on roll, 17 of whom receive Education funding.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children understand simple hygiene practices, such as, washing hands after toileting and before food. They are protected from infection through a clean and hygienic environment and the implementation of a clear exclusion policy. Their individual health and dietary needs are met through discussions with parents and recording special diets or allergies. Young children benefit from the staff's ability to maintain basic hygiene procedures during nappy changing, such as, use of gloves and hand washing.

Children partake in and enjoy physical activities indoors, for example, running, jumping and hopping games. Their good health is promoted through regular fresh air and exercise in the outdoor play area and weekly visits to the swimming baths. Children rest or sleep according to their individual needs, thus enhancing good health.

Children are nourished through healthy meals and snacks. They learn about healthy eating from discussions with staff about foods that are good for them. However, water is not always available therefore children lack the opportunity to hydrate their bodies and learn that water keeps them healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. Children are kept safe through adequate safety measures in place, such as, socket covers and safety gates. The space is organised sufficiently well to allow children to move around freely and confidentially with designated areas for non mobile children to play safely. Children use suitable and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment which are checked for safety daily and kept clean.

Children's safety is enhanced through the completion of adequate checks and risk assessments to the indoor and outdoor premises where hazards are identified and appropriate action taken. Children learn to keep themselves safe through clear boundaries and explanations from staff, for example, not running and not playing behind equipment. There are effective security measures in place to ensure that access to the building is restricted which keeps children safe.

Children's safety is enhanced due to staff having awareness of fire prevention. Children develop an understanding of fire precautions through being made aware of and practising the emergency escape plan. Children are protected because staff are

clear about their roles and responsibilities in a child protection situation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally happy and settled in the nursery. They enjoy each other's company and cooperate well together. Children develop confidence and self-esteem through staff giving them praise and recognition for effort and achievement. They acquire new knowledge and skills through the staff spending time with children talking to them about colours and numbers, and encouraging young children to practice skills, such as walking and crawling. Children engage in the play activities provided for them which are often adult led. However, children, at times, appeared bored and disinterested due to lack of stimulating and challenging play experiences. The babies and young children explore their senses using treasure baskets, sound toys and music tapes.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. Children settle well and enjoy their time in the nursery. They show interest in the activities provided for them, however, the staff have insufficient knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage and how children learn, and as a result, the activities and experiences provided do not cover all six areas of learning. Planning of activities and assessment systems are in place, however, these are not used to inform future planning and targets for individual children, and as a result children, at times, appear unfocused due to lack of structured and purposeful experiences planned for them to help them make steady progress towards the early learning goals. Children enter the setting confidently and quickly settle into the familiar routine. Staff are deployed well to spend time with children and involve themselves in what children are doing. Children enjoy practising skills, such as, developing pencil control, using scissors effectively and tracing numbers and shapes, but not all play equipment relating to the six areas of learning is readily available and accessible, for example, a well stocked writing table, thus impeding on the children's capacity to become independent learners and use their initiative. Children's confidence and self care skills are promoted through staff involving them in small tasks, such as, stacking their own chairs at lunch time and rewarding them with praise.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel a sense of belonging through consistent staff to care for them and familiar routines which reflect their home environment. All children are included in the life of the setting through staff having appropriate training, respecting children's individual needs and working with parents and other agencies for the benefit of the child. Their welfare is protected through the staff knowing what to do in the event of identifying a child with special needs. Children's knowledge of the wider world is fostered using a variety of quality resources and books which contain positive images

of race, culture and gender. This is supported by activities and discussions about cultural festivals, such as, Eid and Chinese New Year. Children behave well. They learn to behave kindly towards one another and are learning right from wrong through staff talking to them and giving them explanations.

The partnership with parents is satisfactory. Parents receive information about children's learning within the nursery through written reports and meetings. Parents are involved in children's assessments from the child's entry to the nursery through providing information regarding what their child can do. Information regarding the programme of activities and the curriculum is provided for parents on the notice boards. Parents of babies and young children receive daily written and verbal feedback on how the child has been and what they have done. Parents are welcomed into the setting and are happy to spend time settling children in. Children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is fostered.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The leadership and management of the nursery education is satisfactory. Children are cared for by staff who have shared aims and objectives and are committed to continual improvement. Staff are motivated through appropriate leadership from the nursery manager who supports the professional development of staff through formal and informal supervision. Children benefit from staff's commitment to broadening their knowledge and skills in child care practices through further training, for example, Birth to Three and child protection. Effective deployment of staff contribute to children's enjoyment and achievement and children are grouped appropriately according to their age and stage of development.

Children are protected through recruitment and selection of staff ensuring vetting procedures are followed. Children benefit from being cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. Systems are in place to ensure appropriate ratios are met at all times, thus maintaining children's safety and well being.

All required policies and procedures are in place, shared with parents and kept confidential contributing to keeping children safe and well cared for. Well organised documentation contribute to the safe and efficient management of the provision. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not Applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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.

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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 drinking water is available and easily accessible by the children
- ensure the system for assessing children's progress and development is used to plan the next stages of children's learning (also applies to nursery education)

The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure resources and play experiences cover the six areas of learning and are readily accessible to children
- ensure staff have knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage curriculum and its delivery
- make improvements as indicated in the care section above.

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