



Flying Start Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	309308
Inspection date	09 May 2006
Inspector	Jannet Mary Richards
Setting Address	198 Burnley Road, Rossendale, Lancashire, BB4 8HH
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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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Flying Start Nursery is situated on Burnley Road close to Rawtenstall. The Nursery operates from an adapted detached property. The setting includes a family room, which is predominantly used for children's imaginary, creative play and story time. There is a separate baby unit for children aged under 2 years, which has a separate sleep room adjacent. There is a messy room for paint, sand, water and other craft activities and a room for lunches and table activities.

Externally there is a secure play area to the front of the property and staff and parents' parking facilities.

The Nursery is open from 07:30 until 18:00 Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays and one week during Christmas.

There are currently 42 children on roll, of whom 11 children are in receipt of nursery education funding. There are no children currently attending who have identified special needs. There are no children currently attending for whom English is an additional language.

A total of nine staff work with the children, eight of whom have childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment which promotes their good health and well-being. The staff follow clear and effective procedures, for example, keeping play surfaces clean and using gloves and aprons when changing nappies to reduce any risk of spread of infection. The children know and understand why it is important to wash their hands before snacks and meals. The staff ensure that any runny noses are wiped clean. The children do not always develop independence in self-care, as they cannot always reach the tissues or soap and rely on staff to do this for them.

Meals are healthy and nutritious, and prepared using fresh produce on the premises, including fresh fruit and vegetables each day. The children sometimes help in preparing foods, such as fresh bread, developing their awareness of where foods come from and how they are made. Mealtime is a relaxed occasion when children develop good self-help skills. Babies are encouraged to feed themselves, with support from the staff, whilst older children collect their cutlery and help to clear away.

The children benefit from being able to play outdoors every day, enjoying fresh air and exercise to promote healthy lifestyles. They often have the choice of whether to play outdoors or in. They enjoy playing with a range of toys and equipment which help to develop their physical skills and co-ordination effectively, though climbing equipment offers limited challenge for the older children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children and parents are made to feel very welcome in the setting. The small nursery setting within a house environment and friendly staff help to create a relaxed family atmosphere which parents particularly appreciate. The areas are well organised to meet children's care needs, with space well organised for sleep, meals and play. The

children benefit from being able to play with a wide selection of well organised toys and resources which they are interested in, and which promote their development and learning effectively.

Children's safety is given high priority in the nursery, as staff follow clear risk assessments and ensure areas are safe by carrying out regular hazard checks. For example, the nursery environment and outdoor areas have all appropriate safety measures in place and children are well supervised to keep them safe.

The staff know and understand about child protection procedures which enables them to safeguard the welfare of any children they care for.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well in the nursery, quickly becoming confident and settled in their surroundings. The staff are very sensitive to the children's emotional needs and make provision for children to bring familiar toys from home as comforters when they need them. The children are very happy when they attend nursery. They develop very good relationships with the staff and are treated with good levels of respect and consideration. The children make good progress in their development as the staff use the Birth to three matters framework to plan an interesting range of developmentally appropriate activities. Children develop into very skilful communicators, for example, because the staff talk to them very often, sing with them and share books together. They become competent learners as they recognise colours, learn to count objects in a book, or explore a wide range of tactile items, such as cornflour mix, jelly and pasta. The staff observe what the children do and use these observations to plan activities to encourage children's progress. They adapt activities to ensure that children can participate and gain the maximum benefit. When a baby, for example, cannot reach the tray containing cornflour, the staff take the tray from the stand and place it on the floor so that he can explore the contents.

Nursery education

The quality of teaching and learning is good.

Children make good progress towards the early learning goals. Children benefit from being able to access a wide range of activities and resources, enabling them to be independent in their play and learning and develop their own ideas. They concentrate very well at chosen activities and when they listen to stories with great interest. Children's love of books is very well promoted; the children often look at books for enjoyment, independently and in groups. They develop good early writing skills when they make tickets for their imaginary trip to the zoo and when they make marks using a range of materials, such as paint and pencils. The domestic role play area, however, offers children fewer opportunities to explore print or writing for a purpose. The children are very confident in using numbers to count and work out simple problems. They understand, for example, that five is more than two when they count the numbers of children requesting different stories. They develop a very good awareness of mathematical concepts as they explore quantity and measure, when

they weigh ingredients to bake and observe the growth of plants.

The children develop a strong awareness of the world in which we live. They often go outdoors and for walks locally to explore nature and features in their local environment and community. They observe and discuss what the weather is like each day, and what day, season, month and year it is. They engage in some very interesting activities to find out what happens and to notice changes, for example, when they observe how ice melts, and feel the differences between hard boiled and soft eggs. Children's creativity and free expression is a strength of the nursery. Each day the children can access a wide range of media and materials which they use to express thoughts and ideas. They revel in role play, using their imagination very well to develop story lines, such as a visit to the zoo. They use props around the nursery, such as chairs to create a bus and soft toys to represent zoo animals, to enhance their enjoyment. As they play with a very good range of resources and tools, such as pencils, stencils and rulers, the children develop very good fine motor skills and co-ordination.

The staff plan a very interesting and stimulating range of activities which promote enjoyment and learning through play. They use their knowledge of individual children and keen observation skills well to provide activities to promote the next steps in their learning. They are an enthusiastic team who work with the children very well and are very quick to respond to their interests and ideas, ensuring that they make the most of any impromptu learning opportunities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well met because the staff treat each child as an individual and discuss children's needs thoroughly with parents and carers. Staff give thorough consideration to the differing developmental needs of the group of children when planning and supporting children during activities to make sure that they all benefit equally.

The children behave well in the very positive environment created by the staff which fosters their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well. They enjoy the praise and encouragement they receive often and follow simple rules well. They learn to take turns and show respect for each other.

They have many opportunities to learn about different people in the world around them as they play with a good selection of resources reflecting race, culture, gender and disability. They often participate in activities to promote their awareness of differences, such as tasting teas from different cultures, and observing the colours of their eyes and skin before making self-portraits.

Partnership with parents and carers is good.

The staff work effectively alongside parents to ensure that children are cared for in response to parents' wishes. Very good quality written information in the form of policies and procedures, an informative notice board, regular newsletters, along with

the daily exchange of information, ensures that parents are well informed about what their children do in the nursery and how they are cared for. The good partnership contributes well to children's learning as parents are invited to do some activities at home with the children linked to what they are currently learning in the nursery.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care and learning is effectively promoted through the good organisation of the nursery.

The staff are an established team who work very well together, ensuring that the nursery day runs smoothly. Children benefit because the staff attend regular training events to ensure that they have an up to date knowledge of childcare and education issues. They implement their knowledge and skills very well in practice and have a strong commitment to staff development. The documentation relating to the care of the children is well maintained in accordance with legislation and is shared with parents.

The leadership and management of the nursery education are good. The staff are well supported in the delivery of play and learning activities. There are systems in place for monitoring the education provision to ensure that children continue to make good progress towards the early learning goals.

Overall, the needs of all children who attend are well met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection of care and education, three issues were identified for further development. Since this time the nursery has increased the resources available for the children which reflect positive images of disability and raise their awareness of diversity. They have amended the documentation to ensure that written consent is obtained from parents relating to emergency medical treatment. In addition, they have also developed parental involvement in the children's nursery education by providing more activities for parents to do at home with their children which link to the current activities in the nursery. By addressing these three issues successfully, the care and education for the children has been enhanced.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted received information relating to a concern about health and safety.

A visit took place to investigate on 21 October 2004. The evidence examined demonstrated that National Standard 6 was not being met, as a result of this, an action was raised.

The provider's response to this action was satisfactory and demonstrates that this

standard now continues to be met.

The provider remains qualified for 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.

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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):

- promote children's independence in personal care by ensuring that tissues and soap are accessible to the children at all times.

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):

- enhance the very good educational provision for children by providing more literature and mark making resources in the domestic role play area, and by developing the opportunities for older and more able children to develop climbing skills.

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