



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY262444

DfES Number:

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	09/02/2004
Inspector Name	Denise Helen Phillips

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Oaklands Park Childrens Day Nursery
Setting Address	10 Boughton Road Yardley Birmingham West Midlands B25 8AJ

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Birmingham City Council
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Birmingham City Council
Address	Education Department Council House Extention, Margaret Street Birmingham West Midlands B3 3PU

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

### Information about the setting

Oaklands Park Community Nursery is a long established provision within Birmingham City Council and it operates from a purpose built premises located in the Yardley area. Children have access to play rooms including a soft play room, a library, music room, a water play area, a long enclosed veranda all located on ground level and a large secure enclosed outside play area.

There are currently 40 children from 0 - 5 years on roll. This includes 19 funded three-year-olds and 3 funded four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The Nursery opens five days a week all year round, excluding bank holidays. Sessions are from 07.30 - 18.00.

There are 12 full-time staff who work with the children. All staff have a level 3 early years qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and a special needs co-ordinator from Specialist Support Services (SSS).

The nursery provides a service to children of Birmingham City Council employees and will be starting the Quality Framework Assessment in 2004.

### How good is the Day Care?

Oaklands Community Nursery provides good care for children.

Staff create a welcoming and secure environment for children and parents. They are greeted with smiles, children's work is displayed around the nursery and this keeps parents informed of their children's activities. Good operational plans ensure that staff work as a team to meet children's needs throughout the day. Children belong to a key group and have support from a key person. Documentation in place ensure the safe management and efficiency of the provision. However more detail is needed

when recording attendance of children.

Staff are active in promoting the good health and hygiene practices of children. Appropriate measures are taken to prevent the spread of infection. Children know to wash hands and are reminded through child friendly notices in the bathroom and singing at rhyme time. Children are cared for appropriately if they become ill. Parents are asked for regular up-dated information about any possible health issues, allergies and dietary requirements. Children's access to fresh drinking water is limited. A comprehensive awareness of safety amongst staff ensure that risk assessments are in place and child protection procedures work in practice.

Children are involved in a broad range of activities allowing for a balance between active play and quiet times. They enjoy their play and relate to others. Staff encourage children to value people's differences and abilities through play, books and celebration of festivals. Children with special needs are included in all activities. Staff compliment achievements, have high expectations for behaviour as a result children behave well.

Staff work in partnership with parents to meet the needs of the children. Policies and procedures keep parents informed about the provision and their children.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Not applicable as this is the first inspection.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Good operational plans work in practice. This ensures that staff are deployed effectively, continued training needs are met, good use is made of space and resources. Children are well cared for, supported and have a routine.
- Children are involved in a broad range of interesting, well presented activities. There is a good balance of child and adult initiated activities which support their language, mathematical thinking, imagination and creativity. Toys and equipment are easily accessible to children.
- Staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children. Activities and resources enable children to learn about differences and respect diversity. Effective procedures support children with special needs. Staff work well with parents and outside agencies to ensure children receive the support they need.
- Staff have a consistent approach to managing children's behaviour. They encourage good behaviour by praising children and helping them to understand what is expected of them. As a result, children are well behaved.
- A good partnership exists with parents. Written policies, procedures, parent's evenings, daily information and displays keep parents informed about their children's progress and nursery activities.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the accuracy of the register by recording times of arrival and departure of children
- the availability of fresh drinking water at all times.

**Outcome of the inspection**

Good

**CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION**

*All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.*

*As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.*

**WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?****The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure that attendance registers for children are accurate.
8	Ensure that children have ready access to fresh drinking water.

## INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

### How effective is the nursery education?

Oakland's Nursery offers high quality provision overall which helps children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals, in all areas of learning.

Teaching is very good in all areas. Staff have a good knowledge of the foundation stage curriculum. They plan an interesting and exciting range of practical activities which helps children to learn. Staff manage children's behaviour well and have high expectations and set clear boundaries. Activities are well managed and staff constantly encourage children to take part. There is a good range of equipment which is easily accessible and well organised which, helps children to become self sufficient and develop their independence.

There are children with special educational needs attending the setting and they receive excellent support to help them progress in their learning. The key strengths in personal, social and emotional development and communication skills are due to the skillful interactions of the staff in engaging children in conversations and fostering their self esteem. The challenges set for children are good, but this is not reflected in the planning. Children also need to further develop their understanding of subtraction.

Leadership and management is very good. The nursery benefits from strong leadership and a committed staff group. They work well together and constantly evaluate their practice through appraisals, monitoring and staff meetings. Good opportunities are provided for staff development and a high level of ongoing training takes place.

The partnership with parents is very good and contributes towards children's progress towards the early learning goals. Parents are encouraged to be involved with their child's learning. Children's progress in general is shared with parents and opportunities are provided for parents to view their child's assessment records and discuss issues with the key worker.

### What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. Children are confident, sociable and have very caring relationships with each other and staff. They cooperate with each other and play well together. Children behave well and respond positively to the consistent boundaries set by staff.
- Children's spoken language is good. Most children speak clearly and fluently when sharing their news and are able to express their needs confidently.
- Children's mathematical understanding is developing well. They are very confident when counting up to 10. Children have good opportunities to recognise number in the environment and through computer programmes.

- Staff make very good use of the local environment to help children explore the natural world, learn about people and places and become familiar with their immediate surroundings. There are very good opportunities for children to develop their physical skills through a wide range of activities.
- There is excellent support given to children with special educational needs. All staff work well together to meet the children's individual needs. They work closely with parents and appropriate agencies to help the children progress in all areas.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the opportunities for children to further develop knowledge of subtraction through activities and routines.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Planning now includes the learning intention for the children. Staff are also using the stepping stones from the QCA guidance.

Parents are kept well informed about their children's learning, and are given a copy of the Pathways or Signpost assessments.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are actively involved in their learning. They are confident, work well independently and show good levels of concentration. They relate well to adults and behave well. Children manage their self care well and develop their independence as they help to give out drinks at snack time and pour their own drinks into cups. They help each other during activities and tidy up time.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Many children are confident and fluent speakers and engage easily in conversations. They develop their literacy skills with good access to books and story times. Children can make predictions to familiar stories and re-tell stories. They have good opportunities to develop their writing skills, writing materials always being accessible. Children recognise their name cards and the more able children can write their first name.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Many children count confidently beyond 10 and some recognise numerals, however there are few opportunities for children to learn about subtraction. They can differentiate between the sizes through everyday activities e.g. sorting teddy bears out and weighing them. Children are developing appropriate mathematical language for shape and position. They learn that squares and triangles have sides and corners.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have good opportunities to learn about the world in which they live. They learn about growing seeds and look at mini-beasts in the garden. Children show a keen interest in using technology, they know how to operate the mouse to activate the screen and can load CD ROMs. They learn about other cultures through celebrations and taste food from different countries.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children move confidently and safely. They pedal bikes well and can negotiate pathways around children. They regularly practise jumping, skipping and hopping in the outdoor play area. Children have opportunities to climb and balance and learn about directions. Children show good control when using one handed tools for painting, drawing, writing and cutting. They learn about their bodies through action songs, topics and exercise.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
They express their ideas freely through a good range of activities such as role-play, painting, singing and music and movement. They learn about colour and texture through access to a varied range of paints, sand and collage. Children name many colours confidently. Children learn about rhythm when playing instruments to the beat of the music and clapping out the sounds of their name.	
<b>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</b>	



## **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

## **WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT**

*There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:*

- To further develop children's knowledge of subtraction through routines

*The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.*

## **SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS**

### **STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON**

*Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.*

### **STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION**

*The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.*

### **STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY**

*The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.*

### **STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

*The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.*

### **STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT**

*Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.*

### **STANDARD 6 - SAFETY**

*The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.*

### **STANDARD 7 - HEALTH**

*The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.*

### **STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK**

*Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.*

### **STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

*The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.*

### **STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)**

*The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is*

*proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.*

#### **STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR**

*Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.*

#### **STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS**

*The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.*

#### **STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION**

*The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.*

#### **STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION**

*Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.*