



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 309853

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 02/12/2004  
Inspector Name Harpal Thandi

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Learning Tree Childcare Centre  
Setting Address Fulwood Campus  
Fulwood  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR2 8UR

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Preston College

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Preston College  
Address Fulwood Campus  
Fulwood  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR2 8UR

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

### Information about the setting

Learning Tree Childcare Centre operates from five rooms in a self contained modular building. It is situated within the grounds of Preston College in Fulwood. A maximum of 106 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07:30 to 18:00. Day care is available from 08:00 to 18:00. Before and after school care is available from 07:30 to 08:45 and from 16:00 to 18:00. The nursery operates during term times and a holiday club operates during college holidays. The nursery closes for Bank and Christmas holidays. All children have access to secure enclosed outdoor play areas.

There are currently 243 children from birth to under five years on roll. Of these 18 children receive funding for nursery education. Priority is given to children whose parents attend the college; the nursery then accepts children from the community. The nursery currently supports a number of children with special educational needs and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 27 staff; all of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. An additional member of staff provides administrative support.

### How good is the Day Care?

Learning Tree Childcare Centre provides good quality care for children. The environment is warm, welcoming and visually stimulating to children. Staff work well as a team and there is a positive commitment to their ongoing training and development. A wide selection of resources is available and these are arranged to make them accessible to children. Records are well organised and stored confidentially.

Staff have a good understanding of the need to keep children safe and procedures are in place to ensure any risks are minimised. Good hygiene practices are promoted as part of the children's daily routine. The current menu is satisfactory but does not offer a wide selection of healthy and nutritious meals. Staff are aware of the child protection procedures to be followed in order to safeguard a child's welfare.

Staff plan activities in advance to ensure children enjoy a wide range of experiences

as a result, children are happy and occupied. The 'baby unit' staff interact positively with the babies to promote their development. Children gain an understanding of equal opportunity issues through the daily activities and the resources available to them. Staff are pro active in ensuring children's special needs are met. Children are encouraged to behave well through the use of positive behaviour management strategies.

Staff enjoy positive relationships with parents and the nursery procedures keep them well informed about their children. There is a good exchange of information to ensure continuity of care between the nursery and the home setting.

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

Not applicable.

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

- Activities are well planned, with 'Birth to Three Matters' being used in the planning of activities for the younger children. This ensures children are provided with a wide range of experiences. Children are happy and occupied as they choose from the activities on offer such as role play, creative and outdoor play.
- Staff have a good awareness of safety issues and effective procedures are in place to make the nursery a safer place for children. For example, staff check their own rooms on a daily basis, fire drills are carried out every six weeks and the manager undertakes risk assessments periodically.
- Staff promote good hygiene practices, which reduces the risk of infection. For example, children wash their hands at appropriate times and have access to tissues for wiping their noses. Staff follow good procedures for nappy changing and cleaning rota's are in place.
- Equal opportunities are promoted within the setting. For example, children take part in celebrating religious festivals such as Divali, Eid and Christmas. A good selection of resources reflecting positive images of diversity are also available to the children to encourage tolerance and understanding about people who may be different from them.
- Positive behaviour is valued and encouraged which gives the children the incentive to behave well. For example, staff make sure the children know why they are receiving praise and 'sticker charts' are used to encourage positive behaviour.
- Procedures keep parents informed about their children, which ensures there is continuity of care between the nursery and the home setting. For example, an information booklet and termly newsletters are available to parents. Parents of babies receive a daily record sheet and the rest of the parents have a home links booklet. Parents are very positive about their relationships with the staff.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the range of healthy and nutritious meals offered to the children.

**PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)**

There are no previous complaints to report.

**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
8	Ensure children have access to a wider range of healthy and nutritious meals.

## **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.*