

Alpha Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY224877
Inspection date 11/11/2010
Inspector Angela Ramsey

Setting address St Johns Congregational Church Hall, Bensham Manor
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Type of setting Childcare on non-domestic premises

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Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

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Description of the setting

Alpha Day Nursery has been registered since July 2001. It operates from a church building located in Thornton Heath in the London borough of Croydon. The nursery has exclusive use of the nursery areas during hours of operation. Children are divided into age-appropriate groups and have access to a secure garden area.

There are currently 34 children aged from six months to five years on roll. The nursery supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery is open daily for 49 weeks of the year, closing at Christmas and for one week during the summer and Easter. Operational hours are between 7:30am to 6:00pm. In total, 13 staff work with the children. Staff hold the following childcare qualifications: NVQ levels 2, 3 and 4. The manager/proprietor has achieved her Early Years Professional Status. The nursery receives training and support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

The nursery is on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

The staff team at Alpha Day Nursery provide an inclusive, welcoming, friendly and caring environment for children and their parents. Activities and learning opportunities for children are planned and children's development and achievements are recorded. Key areas for improvement have been identified through the completion of Ofsted's self-evaluation form. All the recommendations set at the last inspection have been complied with which ensures children are provided with a challenging and enjoyable range of experiences.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- ensure the heating pipe in the main play room is made safe

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The completion of rigorous recruitment procedures ensures children are safeguarded. Background checks are completed which ensure staff are suitably qualified, experienced and vetted. Induction for new members of staff ensures

they become familiar with the settings routines and policies and procedures. Through discussion staff demonstrate a good understanding of safeguarding procedures. Staff are aware of what action to take in the event of a safeguarding issue. Potential hazards are managed due to the conducting of risk assessments. A potential hazard with regards to a heating pipe has been identified and an interim measure is in place to ensure children's safety.

Staff have a good knowledge of each child's background and needs. Activities and events which enable children to learn about different cultures are also provided. Staff demonstrate a commitment to inclusion and work closely with parents other childcare professionals such as speech therapists .

Staff have established good relationships with parents and carers. Staff speak to parents daily about their child's day. Staff also complete written sheets which keeps parents informed of what their child has eaten, sleep times and what activities they have taken part in. Regular newsletters are also produced and parent meetings serve to keep parents informed of their child's developmental progress.

Both the management and the staff team demonstrate a strong commitment to making continuous improvements. Areas for improvement have been identified through discussion and the completion of Ofsted's self-evaluation form.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Children are happy and enjoy being at Alpha Day Nursery. Children are cared for by staff who are caring, kind and work hard to provide a range of stimulating and fun activities which help children achieve and enjoy learning.

Babies and toddlers have formed warm trusting relationships with staff. They readily approach staff for reassurance, support and cuddles. Staff talk to the children as they play therefore encouraging their language skills. Younger children become competent learners as they explore resources through their senses. For example, babies and toddlers love to investigate cause and effect toys; pushing buttons, opening and closing flaps and working out that one action has an effect on others.

Children also enjoy exploring different textures such as shaving foam mixed with sand. Opportunities are also provided for pre-school children to attempt writing for different purposes. For example children like to fill in 'forms' and be creative using paint and play dough. Children's knowledge and understanding of the world is enhanced during walks around the local area to look at and count trees. During these trips children are able to observe, find out about their environment and the natural world. On their return to the nursery the children tell the Inspector about the things they have seen. Children also explain that the reason for so many leaves on the ground is because 'it is autumn'.

Group time for the children is a firm favourite. Children listen intently to the story and show an understanding of the elements of the story and are able to use story language when retelling narratives. Children in the pre-school are learning to speak French. The sessions are fun and enjoyed by the children and staff. Children sing and are able to say colours in French.

Activities are planned across all six areas of learning. Each child is assigned a key person whose responsibility it is to ensure observations are completed and that these observations are used to plan for each individual child's next steps in learning. As children play staff complete meaningful observations and photographs of the children participating in various activities are taken. A system to track children's progress has been implemented. Observations of children's achievements are recorded under each area of learning and their next steps planned for.

Children's physical wellbeing is met well. Children are well nourished and are provided with opportunities to be active when playing in the outdoor play areas which enable children to acquire physical skills. After lunch the younger children who attend are able to rest which again aids their physical well-being. Healthy meals and snacks are prepared by the setting's cook who is aware of children's individual dietary requirements.

Alpha Day Nursery offers an inclusive environment where differences are valued and activities adapted to ensure all children can participate. Children attending with additional needs are well supported. Their parents are included in all discussions and the assistance of other professionals such as speech therapists is organised.

Generally children behave well and understand the rules. If reminders are required staff deliver these in a calm and patient manner. During group time children in the pre school room talk about the importance of sharing and being kind to each other.

Everyday experiences such as children putting on dressing up clothes and taking off and putting on their shoes encourage their self-care skills. The children in the preschool also serve themselves at lunch time, thus further encouraging their independence. Opportunities for children to adopt healthy lifestyles are provided through their daily routines. Children enjoy their outdoor play space and have daily opportunities to enhance their physical skills.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	2

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met