

Royal Village Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY368543
Inspection date 29/09/2011
Inspector Lynn Hughes

Setting address Royal Village Day Nursery, David's House, Alexandra Road,
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Type of setting Childcare - Non-Domestic

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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

Royal Village Day Nursery was registered in 2008 and is privately owned and run. It operates from a converted Synagogue in Southend on sea, Essex. A fully enclosed garden provides an appropriate area for outdoor activities. The nursery is open from 7.30am to 6pm for five days per week, throughout the year.

A maximum of 100 children under eight years may attend the nursery at any one time, of whom 100 may be in the early years age range. There are currently 93 children on roll. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Compulsory Childcare Register.

The nursery employs 16 members of staff, of whom, 13 including the manager hold appropriate qualifications to at least level 2.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding.

This provision offers children superb play and learning opportunities within a vibrant and exiting child-centred environment. The setting is a pioneer for the 'Voice of the Young Child' project within the local area and uses their expertise to ensure that children are extremely active participants in planning their own learning experiences. Staff, parents and children are very actively involved in reviewing and evaluating the provision to maintain it's continuous improvement. Excellent links with parents and other settings promote effective partnership working. At present children are not consistently able to make choices about playing outdoors due to limitations within the building.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- provide more freely chosen or child-initiated activities, delivered through outdoor play.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are superbly safeguarded as staff demonstrate secure knowledge of safeguarding issues and their responsibilities with regards to protecting children. The setting follows a rolling training programme for all staff to ensure that their

safeguarding knowledge is updated on a regular basis. In-house discussions during staff meetings also refresh their understanding of specific issues. All adults working with children hold current Criminal Record Bureau disclosures and proof of their clearance is held on file. New staff awaiting clearance are always strictly supervised by vetted staff. The environment in which children play is maintained to a very high standard with regards to both hygiene and safety. Staff conduct daily safety checks and record every aspect of their safeguarding procedures.

This nursery is one of a chain of five provisions within the local area owned by the same directors. The ethos of the organisation is to provide exceptionally high quality childcare to children and their families and this aim is threaded through every aspect of the setting's working practices. An extremely clear management structure is in place ensuring that staff feel valued and well-supported. The setting ensures that a high adult-to child ratio of staff work each day to ensure that children are well-supported. This also provides staff with non-contact time to complete learning journeys and to review the development of their key worker children. A well-documented and extremely evaluative self-evaluation system is in place. This provides, staff, children and parents with excellent opportunities to feed into this review and to develop an ongoing action plan, identifying strengths and areas for further improvement.

Staff deployment is superb, enabling staff to provide excellent support to all children. They actively encourage children to become strong and independent young people by presenting toys and resources at their height. Children are also enthusiastically encouraged to play an active role in planning and making choices around the setting. For example, they have been consulted about developments within the garden area. Children have extensive opportunities to develop their understanding about other people's cultures and religions through an exciting range of well-planned activities. Parents of different ethnic origin or those with special skills are enthusiastically encouraged to come into the setting to share their talents and knowledge with the children and staff. Posters, toys and books reflect diversity and provide excellent opportunities for children to relate to positive images.

Parents are provided with a wide range of information about the setting, through the website, visual displays around the setting, newsletters and general discussion. They play a very active role in their children's learning and development. For example, following parental feedback, staff now copy the monthly planning sheets for each room and attach these to the newsletters so that parents are aware of the areas of development staff will be covering with their children. Partnerships are actively used to create a consistent approach to children's welfare and development needs. Good links are in place to ease transition between the nursery and schools within the area.

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

Children have superb fun within this nursery. They are extremely busy and active and are fully engrossed in purposeful activities throughout the day. They are provided with excellent opportunities to guide and model their own learning as staff support them and facilitate their play. Children are actively encouraged to express themselves through a range of methods throughout the setting. For example, they make music with a selection of musical instruments in the baby room, whilst other children create masterpieces with paint, stamper pens and coloured shaving foam. Children have superb opportunities to participate in physical activities when they make use of the large gym area on the top floor of the building. They roll around the soft play equipment and enjoy songs and music and movement with staff. Children participate in activity planning meetings and share their ideas for themes and topics with staff. Ideas from this forum have been brought forward and will enable children to explore 'super heroes' over the next few weeks. Staff make clear and well-documented observations of the children each week, ensuring that all children have been observed on a regular basis through checklists. Observations are effectively used to plot children's progress and to enable staff to identify their next steps in learning.

Children are and act in ways which show that they are very safe and secure. They confidently move around the premises, accessing the exciting range of resources available to them. They help staff to clear the tables after meals and take great pride in this role. They approach staff freely and know that they can have a reassuring cuddle whenever they require one. Children's knowledge of good safety practices is superbly promoted by staff talking to them about safety. They also have regular visits to the nursery from 'people who help us', such as, police officers, fire officers and nurses. Children understand the safety procedures within the provision, for example, they carefully negotiate stairs in order to access the garden and gym and know how important it is to walk sensibly around these areas. Children's health and well-being is expertly promoted through the setting's clear policies. Staff attend to younger children's needs very effectively, ensuring that their individual routines are followed throughout the day. Children are provided with extremely well-planned and balanced meals and snacks are freshly prepared each day on site by the nursery cook. A clear four weekly menu is available for parents and those wishing to provide a packed meal for their children are given the opportunity to do so. Outdoor play is provided every day in all kinds of weather, however, due to the limitations of the building children are now consistently able to choose whether they play indoors or outdoors.

Confident and excited children explore their environment with ease. Their self-esteem is expertly promoted as staff use positive methods of behaviour management and encourage all children to be kind and caring towards each other. Children learn about the world around them as they go for regular walks in the local area. They visit shops, the library and a local elderly residential home. Children's good behaviour is rewarded throughout the setting through positive feedback. They also have the opportunity to take 'Cheeky Monkey' or 'Gerald the Giraffe' home to spend the weekend with them when they have been especially

good. Parents are encouraged to share what they and the cuddly toys have done over the weekend through a diary system. Children then listen to an account of what the cuddly friends have been doing with the children who have been caring for them. An exciting range of resources and activities enable children to develop secure skills for the future from their very early experiences through to the day they leave the setting. Staff continuously look at ways of providing challenge and excitement to the children's worlds and have found that enabling them to be more actively involved in the planning has aided this process.

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?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	1

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	1
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	1
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	1
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	1
The effectiveness of partnerships	1
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	1

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	1
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	1
The extent to which children feel safe	1
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	1
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	1

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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