



Ladybird Pre-School Playgroup



OFSTED REPORT – SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date: 27/04/2006

URN EY313058

Inspector Name: Paula Jane Hayhow / Kelly Eyre

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

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

HELPING CHILDREN TO BE HEALTHY

Judgement: Good

Children are cared for in a comfortable, clean environment. Health and diet are well documented and healthy snacks are offered (including foods low in sugar, salt and additives & preservatives). The children choose their snack from a 'snack bar' and decide when to have it and who to sit with. This promotes independence and provides opportunities to learn valuable social skills. They learn good hygiene practices (e.g. washing hands before having snacks).

Children enjoy a wide range of physical activities. They develop control of their bodies and improve their physical skills and co-ordination through structured activities (parachute games and action rhymes). They have access to the school hall (balance bars, climbing equipment) and regularly use the outdoor area (slide, rocker and ride on toys). Their finer manipulative skills are developed by the use of small equipment (pencils, glue spreaders and small construction pieces). Their independence is promoted and they are developing an understanding of their own needs (pouring their own drinks and visiting the bathroom independently).

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARM OR NEGLECT & HELPING THEM STAY SAFE

Judgement: Good

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment. Their work is creatively displayed and resources are appealingly arranged and easily accessible. Their safety is prioritised and staff carry out daily safety checks, identifying hazards and taking steps to remove or minimise them. The children move independently throughout the setting, have a good understanding about taking responsibility and keeping themselves and others safe. They are consistently given clear explanations by staff and understand the importance of turn-taking and tidying toys away in order to prevent accidents.

In addition, appropriate equipment is provided (correctly sized tables & chairs) and the children's welfare is given a high priority as staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures. Staff have attended additional training to ensure that they are able to report and follow up any concerns. Children independently select toys and activities from a wide range of good quality play material, which are regularly checked by the staff to ensure that they are clean and safe.

HELPING CHILDREN ACHIEVE WELL AND ENJOY WHAT THEY DO

Judgement: Good

Children are happy, secure and settled. They enjoy their time, participate enthusiastically in the activities and are confident in their relationships with each other and the staff. Their personal development and self-confidence are consistently promoted. Staff treat all children as individuals, interacting and offering appropriate support. Staff

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do continued....

always remember to sit at the children's level and join in enthusiastically with their play and conversations, showing their genuine interest and further enhancing children's confidence and self-esteem.

Children's interest is maintained and their natural curiosity encouraged. They access all rooms and outdoor play areas freely, exploring the resources and determining their own play. They confidently make choices about their play and activities. They are able to participate in all activities as staff continuously adapt these to suite individuals (e.g. encouraging more able children to write their own names on their work and to work more independently, but giving more support to younger children, whilst encouraging them to do as much as possible for themselves). Staff pay attention to getting to know the children and make good use of open questions and discussions to encourage them to think further and extend their knowledge.

NURSERY EDUCATION

Judgement: Good

Children are making good progress and their overall development is promoted. Staff have a thorough knowledge of the curriculum for the Foundation Stage and use appropriate teaching methods. Children spend their time purposefully and their progress in all areas is well balanced. Staff are skilled and experienced in monitoring them and in assessing individual children. Staff allow children to develop their own ideas but quickly notice when they need encouragement and direction. However, written assessments do not show children's starting points.

Staff are skilled in using all activities and routines as learning opportunities: for example children designed postcards, signed their names, visited the post office to buy stamps, posted the postcards and awaited the postman at home. This activity was used to increase children's knowledge and understanding of concepts such as shape, colour, local community and the process of posting and receiving letters.

Children demonstrate their enjoyment as they participate in the wide range of activities (role-play, the use of information technology equipment, reading, a wide assortment of crafts and construction). Their knowledge is extended through themed topics (e.g. 'Spring' where they grow plants and vegetables). They interact well with others, confidently initiating conversations and using language to explain their thoughts and negotiate plans and activities.

Children enjoy books and demonstrate their understanding through activities such as acting out (repeating well used phrases and sounds and using their imagination in pretend play). Their early writing skills and hand-eye co-ordination are improved through activities such as small construction, sticking and gluing. They recognise letters and older children are able to write their own names. They are beginning to make sense of the world around them through opportunities to investigate and explore their environment. They make particularly good use of the computer, competently using the mouse, completing programmes and discussing 'scrolling through text'.

Children have a good understanding of concept of numbers (e.g. counting how many bounces they do on the trampoline) and stating which is the greater number. They understand and use positional and size language (e.g. when involved in a parachute game). In 'The Bear Hunt' book children confidently recognise concepts such as under, over, through, on top, higher and lower. They are gaining an awareness of their own culture and that of others through activities and regular access to resources such as dressing-up clothes, books and puzzles, which provide both information and positive images.

HELPING CHILDREN MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Judgement: Good

All children are welcomed and are offered a wide range of opportunities to promote their understanding of society, and increase their awareness of other cultures and ways of life (Chinese New Year, Easter, Diwali & Christmas). They are kind and considerate to each other and to staff. Their behaviour is good as they choose their activities and competently organise turn taking and sharing. They respond very well to staff, and the positive approach and good staff role modelling ensures that children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Children with special needs have their requirements clearly identified. Staff ensure that the practical policy is implemented. They work sensitively with individual children and parents to make sure that all are included in the activities and routines.

The relationship between the setting and the parents/carers is very good. There is a strong commitment to involve parents fully in the setting and in their children's learning. Parents are kept well informed of their children's progress through daily dialogue, activity sheets and regular meetings with staff. The notice boards are informative and the setting actively seeks feedback from parents. An accessible comments book is provided, which is reviewed regularly. Parents' views are valued, standards are maintained and high quality care is provided for each child.

ORGANISATION

Judgement: Good

Overall, the provision meets the needs of all children who attend. The good organisation of space enhances their play opportunities, allowing them the freedom to move safely and independently from one activity to another. It enables them to feel confident to initiate their own play and learning. Children's welfare, care and safety are promoted through the staff's good practical knowledge of pre-school policies and procedures. There are stringent procedures in place for checking that all staff are suitable to work with children. This is supported by a clear induction process for new staff, ensuring that all are able to work appropriately with the children. Children's overall welfare is further promoted by the active and enthusiastic committee. The committee are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities. They work with staff to regularly review practice and this active approach has facilitated the group's move to their new premises and enabled them to settle in quickly.

The quality of leadership and management is good and children benefit from a well-managed setting. The manager and staff act as good role models. Staff are motivated, regularly attend additional training and ensure that they are able to provide appropriate care for all children. Sessions are well planned, with a balanced range of activities throughout the day. Children are always given sufficient time and resources to enable them to complete their activities and tasks. Their progress is tracked through ongoing assessments and parents are kept well informed of this. Staff meet regularly to plan future work, ensuring that the needs of individual children are met and the development of all children is promoted.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

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 MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS?

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendations:

- further develop the procedure at snack time to increase children's understanding in this area, including their full understanding of social expectations by always using plates
- improve children's safety by ensuring they cannot access the kitchen and store room
- further develop the methods for assessing children to show their starting point so that progress can be chartered and any issues highlighted at an early stage.

For the full Ofsted Inspection report please refer to the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.