



The Archbishop Lanfranc Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY315040
Inspection date	25 May 2006
Inspector	Gillian Cubitt
Setting Address	Mitcham Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 3AS
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Registered person	The Governing Board
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

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

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Archbishop Lanfranc Nursery registered in 2005 and operates from a self-contained unit situated within the grounds of the Archbishop Lanfranc Secondary School. The nursery is managed by the school governing board as part of the services provided by the school. The nursery serves the local community and provides places for children for employees of Croydon schools. There is also a satellite service, linking in with Valley Park Children's Centre.

The nursery building comprises of two group playrooms, a sleep room, milk kitchen, office/reception area, cloakroom and laundry facilities. The nursery has its own

kitchen in an adjacent building. Staff use the staff facilities within the main school building. There is an enclosed outdoor play area.

The nursery is open from 08:00 to 18:00 from Monday to Friday for 48 weeks of the year. Children attend for a variety of full and part time sessions. There are currently 13 children aged from six months to under five years on roll. Of these, three children receive funding for nursery education.

The nursery employs three members of staff who will work with the children, plus the manager and the cook/housekeeper. All staff have relevant childcare qualifications. The setting receives support from an advisor employed by the Early Education and Childcare Team.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in a very clean environment where hygiene procedures are rigorously practised throughout the day. Children follow daily routines, such as washing hands before eating and after visiting the toilet. Children happily go to their own low-level sinks and wash their hands thoroughly with the liquid soap. Staff explain to children the reasons for good hygiene and poster reminders by the sinks further reinforce this to children. They smile as they raise their hands to show staff their germ-free fingers.

Children have their own bottles of fresh drinking water which they have readily available throughout the day. In warm weather, children have plenty of water and they remember to put sun cream on to protect their skin from the heat.

Children's health is well protected as staff have all completed first aid training so they know what to do if a child has an accident. They are also very thorough when administering and recording children's medication.

Meal and snack times are a pleasurable and social experience for the children. Staff clean all dining areas with antibacterial spray before children sit at the table with their friends and staff; they look forward to their delicious snacks of fresh and dried fruit. Children and staff all sit for lunch and thoroughly enjoy their newly baked fish pie and light roasted vegetables. All plates are cleared.

Children experience regular physical exercise both inside and outside. Although the adjoining outside play space is basic at present, staff enhance children's activities by taking them on frequent walks around the local area. Children enjoy the fresh air and begin to appreciate the flowers, trees and other attractive features of their local community.

Staff make excellent use of the framework of Birth to three matters to help them in their planning to provide appropriate activities for babies and toddlers. Children's well-being is fostered well as staff form strong bonds with the children which makes them feel settled and happy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their play in a very safe environment where current staff are aware of possible hazards. They spontaneously check areas of the building each day, noting possible areas of risk and when on outings, children have stickers to identify them. Written risk assessments, however, are not yet formalised which confirms that this has been done. Space within the well-designed nursery is effectively organised, allowing children to move around with ease both freely and independently.

Children use a wide range of very good quality toys and resources that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children begin to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe as they practise fire evacuation procedures. They learn about safety through staff's clear and simple explanations, for example, why it is not safe to put knives in their mouths whilst eating.

Children are well protected by staff who have a clear understanding of child protection procedures. All of these measures contribute to the safety and welfare of the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settle quickly because toys and activities are attractive and enticing. Children's curiosity is triggered with the wide variety of resources they have within their reach. Children achieve well because staff are skilled and knowledgeable of child development. They make effective use of guidance, such as Birth to three matters and the curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage to provide good quality care and education. Children's independence and confidence is fostered as they are permitted to make their own choices in their play materials. Children's creativity develops as they make their own paintings and collage pictures. These are attractively displayed on the walls and children are clearly very proud of their work. Babies and toddlers have fun exploring their senses as they feel different textures, listening to the sound of rain as they tip the 'rainmaker' and show wonder when building large foam blocks. Children enjoy their daily walks in the fresh air however, they are not yet able to access outside play areas in all weathers. Children receive worthwhile praise which develops their self-esteem. All children enjoy plenty of opportunities to develop their social skills. For example, they sit together and chat at meal times, co-operate and learn to share glue and collage materials.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with respect which helps them to feel good about themselves. Staff have a positive attitude towards children with special needs and different beliefs. Many resources and toys introduce children to individuality in others plus

cultural diversity. Children learn about their community with visits to 'Jungle Jims', local parks and theatres. All children are highly valued as individuals. Parents who arrive early enjoy a short period having fun painting and drawing with their children. The childcare books provide parents with full information about their child's day and staff are always welcoming and receptive to parents ideas and comments. This effective two-way partnership ensures children's continuity of care.

Children behave well, they are enthusiastic and well motivated; they benefit from consistent, worthwhile praise and encouragement offered. Staff support children with sharing and turn taking and encourage them to help their friends and be kind. Children feel important as they see photographs of themselves in their own special hand-made book which they share with their friends in the library corner.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children feel at home and are at ease in the well-organised environment. All children receive every possible support from staff who know the children well and take a genuine interest in children's happiness and well-being.

Rooms are well organised and there are plans to develop the outside play area so that it is more accessible for children. Staff continuously carry out risk assessments for children's safety whilst in the building and outside, although this is not yet formalised.

Staff are all qualified and experienced practitioners. The manager works extremely well with her staff. They form a cohesive group and supportive team where flexibility is fundamental to the success of the nursery. Staff receive excellent support from the main school and there is a dedicated commitment for continual improvement. Students of the school visit the nursery to develop their understanding of the technology of children's toys and ex-pupils are welcomed as part of the qualified staff. Policies and procedures are continually being appraised and these are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. All aspects of the children's care are discussed fully with parents, who are kept well informed of their child's achievements. This means the setting meets the needs of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- develop outside play space so children can access play areas in all weathers
- develop more formal methods of risk assessments for both inside the building and when going on outings

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk