



Dorking Nursery School - Holiday Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY303024
Inspection date	17 August 2006
Inspector	Jacqui Lloyd
Setting Address	Dorking Nursery School, West Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1BY
Telephone number	01306 882397
E-mail	
Registered person	Dorking Nursery School
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School 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?

Dorking Nursery School - Holiday Playscheme operates from the premises of Dorking Nursery School in Surrey. The holiday play scheme operates from 10:00 until 15:15 during some school holidays. It is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children aged from three years to under eight years. There are currently 24 children on roll.

Children have access to one main play area that leads out to the enclosed outdoor play area. Additional rooms within the nursery are available for other activities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are constantly learning about the importance of good health and hygiene as staff make good use of opportunities throughout the day to discuss this. For example before snack time, staff talk to the children about the importance of hand washing. Even the youngest children know that the 'very small dirt on their hands that they can't see' are germs. Children also learn about healthy eating and the importance of eating nutritious meals and snacks. Whilst offering the children a mid-morning snack, staff discuss the goodness and vitamins found in fruit. This helps children to develop positive attitudes towards healthy eating and extend their understanding of the need to eat a balanced diet.

Children are able to respond to their own needs and develop their independence by helping themselves to drinking water from a chilled water dispenser. Staff also remind the children about the need to drink lots during hot weather and whilst playing.

Children have lots of opportunities to play in the fresh air. They develop their physical skills and enjoy exercise as they have free access to a very well-equipped outdoor play area. Children enjoy climbing, riding bikes and scooters, running and playing in a large sand pit. This all contributes towards their good health and well-being.

Covered areas within the garden provide shade and protection from sun and rain, enabling children to enjoy outdoor play throughout the year, regardless of the weather. Staff maintain clear and accurate records relating health and medical issues, this ensures all staff are clear about the children's health and care needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy playing in a very bright and welcoming child-centred environment. The premises are well-organised and children can independently choose from an extensive range of good quality play materials. The toys and resources are interesting and exciting and present suitable challenge for children of all ages and abilities.

Staff supervise the children very well and are vigilant about keeping children safe from harm. They give clear explanations about dangers. This enables children to develop an awareness of danger and understand how to keep themselves safe. For example, reminding the children to play safely and carefully on the slope in the garden. The premises are very safe and secure and steps have been taken throughout to minimise risks.

Children are protected well in relation to child protection as staff undertake appropriate training and demonstrate a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the correct procedures to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the play scheme. They are all busy and happily engaged in a wide variety of interesting and fun activities, such as cooking, art and craft, outdoor play and construction games.

Children enjoy close and secure relationships with the staff. The interaction is very positive and children play well together. They are encouraged by staff to share, take turns and show respect for one another. This helps to create a happy atmosphere and helps children to build strong friendships and develop confidence within the setting.

Staff have a warm and caring approach, which helps children to feel happy and settled. There are good procedures in place to help new children to settle quickly. For example, older children who are familiar with the setting enjoy the responsibility of showing new children around the group and helping to make them feel welcome.

Activities are well planned on daily planning sheets and organised effectively to enable children to take part in a varied programme of activities and play opportunities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are treated as individuals and the staff know them very well, showing consideration for their individual needs. Staff offer good levels of support and ensure that all children are able to take a full and active part in the play scheme regardless of their age or ability.

Children behave very well and clearly understand the boundaries within the group. Gentle reminders from staff encourage children to learn what is acceptable. Children respond very well to the staff and benefit from lots of praise and encouragement for their good behaviour and personal achievements.

There is a strong and effective partnership with parents and a strong emphasis on providing care for the children and support for the family. Staff display information about forthcoming activities and ensure parents are informed of which staff are caring for their children. Parents are provided with lots of information about the setting, in the form of written policies and a verbal handover from staff on a daily basis. This ensures parents are kept fully informed about their child's care and are able to feel involved in the playscheme.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a very well organised routine. Staff carefully consider the needs

of all of the children and ensure the daily routine includes a good balance of busy activities, quiet times and provision for children to rest, if needed. This ensures that the needs of children of all ages and abilities are catered for.

An effective induction programme ensures all staff are clear about the policies and procedures of the group. The policies are clear and comprehensive and implemented very well by all staff.

There is a strong team of staff working with the children. They are all very clear about their roles and responsibilities and committed to providing a good level of care for the children. All records relating to the children are accurate and up to date. These contribute towards the smooth and efficient running of the group. The attendance register, however does lack some detail.

The setting meets the need of the range of children for whom it provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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.

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 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):

- Ensure the record of attendance includes details of the children's times of arrival and departure.

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