



Knowle Green Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120086
Inspection date	07 December 2006
Inspector	Hazel Stuart-Buddery
Setting Address	Knowle Green, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 1AJ
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Registered person	Child Base Limited
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. 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 SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Knowle Green Day Nursery is owned by Childbase Ltd. It opened in 2001 and operates in a purpose built facility in Staines adjacent to Spelthorne Leisure Centre. A maximum of 108 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open every week day from 08.00 to 18.00 for 50 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor area.

There are currently 93 children aged from six weeks to under five years on the register. Of these 27 receive funding for early education. The nursery supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 33 staff. Of these 16 hold appropriate early years qualifications and two are working towards a qualification. They also operate a crèche on an occasional basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene routines and are protected against the spread of infection. Younger children have their hands wiped before eating. Older children routinely wash their hands independently and confidently explain why they need to do this. Staff have good procedures in place for nappy changing; all staff wear gloves and an apron, the changing mat is sanitized after every nappy change. All medical conditions are recorded and parents give prior written consent for prescribed medication, which ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. Children receive appropriate care if there is an accident as all staff hold current first aid certificates. Children benefit from healthy meals, snacks and independent access to drinking water throughout the day. Nutritious home cooked meals are prepared on site and all dietary needs taken into account. During snack time children talk about what food is good for you and understand that eating fruit keeps you healthy and strong.

Children benefit from daily opportunities to play outside and get fresh air. Younger children excitedly get their coats and shoes on ready to go outside. They enjoy riding bikes. Some children carefully attach a dolls pushchair to the back of the bike and proudly pull it along as they ride the bike. Older children enjoy doing exercises to keep them warm. They listen carefully to instructions as the member of staff tells them what to do. They laugh and giggle as they jump up and down and swing their arms around.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a well organised and accessible environment which allows them to move around freely and safely. Children are generally kept safe within the group by staff who are vetted and who demonstrate an awareness of safety. Regular risk assessments enable staff to identify and address potential hazards. Children learn about keeping themselves safe. For example, staff explain why children must walk carefully on the wet decking and where the leaves are. The children cautiously walk over these areas, but some find it hard to keep their balance on the slippery decking. The security of the site is generally good. Children are unable to leave unattended, although not all entry procedures for visitors are followed at all times. Children are protected well from fire. A written fire procedure is displayed and a fire drill practised regularly.

Children's welfare is promoted with regard to child protection. All staff attend child protection training as part of their mandatory training. Staff have a good awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse and of the procedures to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and engaged in purposeful play. Babies enjoy having one to one time with staff. They snuggle up to a member of staff to look at books and enjoy touching and

feeling the different textures. Children smile happily as they play peek-a-boo through the ball pond. They slowly lift up their head and as they get eye contact with a member of staff quickly crouch down again, as they chuckle to themselves. Babies are happy and content and enjoy the time they spend at the nursery. Toddlers enjoy the time they spend outside. They happily get ready to go outside and wait patiently for everyone in the group to get on their coat and shoes. Most children like to ride the bikes, they confidently push themselves along negotiating the obstacles well. Children in the two to three room are happy, confident and play with enthusiasm. Children confidently talk to adults and talk about the pet hamster called Angel, the children explain that the hamster sleeps during the day and won't be out to play. Staff throughout the nursery are well deployed for most of the day. Children benefit from direct involvement from the staff and appropriate questioning extends children's knowledge and understanding.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Children make good progress towards the early learning goals. Children learn in a rich and stimulating environment. Displays of children's art work decorate the walls. They have easy access to a wide range of good quality, age appropriate resources that support their learning. Staff who deliver the Foundation Stage have completed training in this area and have a good understanding of it. Curriculum planning is effective and covers all areas of learning and each aspect over the year. Medium and short term planning takes into account observations and assessments of the children. Activities are regularly adapted to ensure that the individual needs of all children are met.

Children are happy and confident. They are becoming independent as they start to take responsibility for their personal hygiene with growing confidence. Children learn about sharing and taking turns. They listen carefully to instructions given by staff reminding them how many children can be at particular activities at any one time. For example, while children play in the bus, they count how many children are in there. 'No more than four', the children remind each other and count as children arrive and leave. Children sit quietly and attentively listen to the story. Most children enthusiastically raise their hands to answer questions and confidently talk to the rest of the group. Children practise their letter writing skills in group time, they happily take their turn to find their name and then trace around the letter 'g' on the white board. However, there are limited opportunities for word recognition within the environment or in the outside area.

Children learn about the wider world as part of topic work. Children enjoy a story about the weather, the story is brought to life with chalk pictures and a special snow flake sent to the group by Father Christmas. Children learn how cold weather may turn water into snow. The story is extended when children go outside for 'action time'. They excitedly scrunch paper up to make a snow ball and then try to throw it at a very large snowman. The children laugh and smile with delight as they successfully hit the snowman. Children have lots of opportunities to express their creativity. They independently use the painting easel and enjoy painting pictures of rabbits.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel good about themselves and show respect and consideration for others as they share resources, help each other and take turns while using the equipment. Staff foster children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Children learn about diversity through planned topics. This week the children are learning about Christmas, and enjoy preparing new songs to sing to their parents. Children benefit from the nurseries clear guidelines for behaviour and the staff's positive approach to behaviour management. All children throughout the nursery are well behaved and co-operate well with each other. They learn about sharing and taking turns as staff explain clearly to children what is expected of them.

Partnership with parents is good. Parents receive a handbook with detailed information on the setting. Policies are easily accessible. A notice board keeps parents informed of any relevant information and regular newsletters are sent out. Parents are encouraged to be part of their child's learning. For example, twice a year all parents are invited to 'stay and play', this gives parents the opportunity to find out what their child does while at the nursery. They receive information on the Foundation Stage through newsletters, regular progress reports and information on parents' notice board.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children settle well and are happy within the group. Staff work well as a team supporting children appropriately according to their needs. Staff organise space and resources well and this allows children to move around freely and safely. Children play in a secure outdoor area, although not all hazards that have been identified are minimized. Staffing ratios are not always maintained throughout the nursery during the first part of the day. A wide range of resources are readily accessible throughout the nursery. The management provides all staff with mandatory training and further training needs are identified at staff appraisals. Staff are deployed well throughout the nursery for most of the day.

The leadership and management of the nursery education is good. The nursery benefits from supportive and knowledgeable staff who deliver the Foundation Stage and who are committed to on-going improvements. Staff receive regular appraisals. They have good levels of motivation and feel supported by the management. All staff take an active part in the long, medium and short term planning.

Policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and ability to make a positive contribution. Documentation and written records contain all necessary detail. The management evaluates what the provision offers to ensure their development in on-going. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group were asked to ensure that policy details in the initial information for parents is up-to-date. The parents' pack has been up-dated and contains relevant and up-to-date information. This ensures that the partnership with parents is improved.

At the last nursery education inspection the nursery were asked to consider the attention given to ensuring all staff extend and support children's language, thinking and mathematical skills during daily routines and everyday play activities. Children enjoy sitting in small groups for snack time. They talk confidently between themselves and to staff members. They happily count the cups and bowls needed and work out how many boys and girls there are. Staff take every opportunity to encourage the children to count. They give children opportunities to talk and sing to the group during circle time. Children confidently stand up and sing nursery rhymes and smile proudly when they are clapped by the rest of the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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.

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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):

- improve security of the group by ensuring existing entry procedures are followed at all times
- ensure all hazards in the outdoor area are minimized
- ensure minimum staff ratios are maintained at all times.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

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

- further enhance children's opportunities in communication, language and literacy by providing opportunities for word recognition within their environment.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk