



# Pine Lodge Creche and Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	305243
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 July 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Jane Shaw
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<b>Registered person</b>	Pine Lodge Creche and Day Nursery Ltd
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day 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](http://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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Pine Lodge Nursery and All Star's Out of School Club is one of four provisions privately operated by the same owner who was first registered to provide day care in 1989. It operates from a large Victorian property and purpose built out of school building within the village of Haslington, Cheshire.

A maximum of 70 children may attend the nursery and 48 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08.00 to

18.00 for 52 weeks of the year, closing for Bank Holidays only. The out of school club is open each day before and after school during term time and from 07.30 to 18.00 each week day during school holidays.

The nursery is divided into eight separate areas with access to the out of school building when this is not in use. The out of school club have access to their own single storey building within the grounds, this consists of a large hall and three smaller side rooms. All children share access to a large secure outdoor play area which is partly paved and partly grassed. There is a kitchen on site for the preparation of meals and snacks.

There are currently 90 children aged from 2 to under 5 years on roll within the nursery. Of these, 37 children receive funding for nursery education. There are currently 60 children aged from 3 to under 8 years attending the out of school club. Children attend from the immediate local and surrounding areas. The nursery currently supports a number of children with special educational needs and those for whom English is an additional language.

The registered provider employs 39 staff, 37 of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. Six staff are working towards a qualification or additional qualifications.

As the nursery is in receipt of funding for nursery education they have access to an Early Years advisory teacher and other advisory staff from the local authority. The nursery is a member of the South Cheshire Day Nursery Association and the Pre-school Learning Alliance. The out of school club is a member of 4Children.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a very healthy and hygienic environment. Staff are vigilant about children's safety and hygiene at all times and employ thorough procedures and routines to ensure all areas are clean and hygienic. Children are very well aware of the need to wash their hands before and after certain activities, such as, after using the toilet or before meals. Children are gently reminded by staff and one another to do this; for example, children within the out of school club remind each other to wash their hands before helping to make fruit 'smoothies'. Staff complete these tasks for younger children. Children within the nursery are encouraged to think about keeping themselves healthy and safe through specific themes such as 'People Who help Us'. Children within the nursery and out of school club consider healthy eating as they look at foods from around the world and what is good for them. A detailed sick child policy and procedure ensures staff are alert to children who might be feeling unwell and that any necessary arrangements are made. Effective hygiene routines and procedures are employed by care staff and the cooks when preparing meals and snacks for the children ensuring they are healthy and kept free from infection at all times.

Children's healthy eating is well promoted through the provision of healthy snacks and meals throughout the day. Meals are freshly cooked each day and offer the children a balanced diet. Children learn the importance of healthy eating and through a range of activities look at the different healthy foods and foods in general from around the world. Excellent arrangements are made for children to access drinking water throughout the day, particularly in very hot weather. Staff are vigilant about offering, and ensuring children have extra drinks during hot weather further promoting children's good health and overall development.

Children's physical development is promoted extremely well. Children have daily access to an extensive range of physical play activities. Staff make excellent use of the large outdoor area and main hall within the out of school club building to provide a vast range of large physical activities which enable children to develop their skills extremely well. Children competently climb, balance, travel over, under and through as they use the stairs, 'adventure' type equipment and are involved in a variety of activities. Children across the nursery and out of school club (during holidays) have the opportunity to go swimming on a weekly basis. These sessions are very well organised, safely conducted and show the children making good progress in their swimming skills. School age children have opportunities to be involved in large physical activities such as basket ball. A spontaneous 'mini Olympics' involves staff and after school club children in long and high jump events. Children are developing competent small physical skills through access to an extensive range of equipment and activities. Children competently use scissors, a computer keyboard and mouse, a variety of craft materials when being creative, writing materials, a variety of construction equipment and cue control when playing pool.

Staff have an excellent understanding of the Birth to three framework. This framework is extremely well used to plan and carry out activities for this age range. Long, medium and short term plans are devised and involve the children in stimulating and suitable activities.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children's safety and welfare is promoted well because they are cared for in a well planned and organised environment which is conducive to their very good learning, development and enjoyment. Children are well cared for in rooms that are organised according to age, well set out and prepared prior to the children's arrival. Children access a wide variety of activities and opportunities on a daily basis which are supported by good resources and equipment. Children enjoy a vast range of activities within the extensive and safe outdoor play space. This space is well used to provide the children with a range of different play experiences throughout the day. Children within the out of school club freely access activities either in or outdoors when weather permits. Rooms and available play space are suitable for use by the children attending.

Children access a wide range of toys and equipment which is continually built upon by the registered provider. These resources are well used to support an excellent

programme of themes and activities. Children are developing competent independence skills as they self select toys and equipment from those on offer. Staff use the Birth to three framework to plan suitable activities for this age range. Children are able to explore and develop specific skills because staff give appropriately support and interaction. Children access toys and equipment which is checked regularly for safety and hygiene to ensure their safety at all times.

Children are cared for within a safe and secure environment because there are good safety policies and procedures in place. Staff are diligent in their care of children and the provision of a safe environment through the use of suitable safety equipment, plans and procedures. When playing outdoors in very hot weather all children are cared for very safely through the excellent arrangements made to ensure they are protected by the regular applying of sunscreen and the wearing of hats. Older children are encouraged to be independent in applying their own sun screen and are gently reminded to carry out this task. Risk assessments are carried out on a regular basis on all areas used by children, within the kitchen and for any trips away from the premises. Weekly swimming sessions are very well planned and safely conducted with good staff ratios and use of safety equipment. Children learn to keep themselves safe through discussion with staff and gentle reminders, for example, about the importance of not running whilst at the swimming pool, when using the stairs to the first floor and when using a variety of equipment.

Staff give good consideration to children's safety and welfare. They have a good awareness and understanding of the procedures to be followed regarding child protection and their role within this area, but are unsure as to who is the designated member of staff responsible for child protection issues. Staff are also unclear about the procedure they would follow in the event of a child being uncollected from the setting.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is outstanding.

Children access and benefit from a vast range of planned activities and opportunities which promote their very good learning, overall development and enjoyment. Younger children are offered excellent opportunities which are planned by qualified and experienced staff. Staff understand the value of Birth to three framework and curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage and use these very effectively to provide high quality care and education. Children attending the after school club enjoy a wide variety of activities and opportunities, which encourage their enjoyment within a relaxed and friendly environment. Children across the whole provision enjoy well planned activities which are supported by high staff ratios. A wide range of resources are extremely well used to support activities covering a variety of play experiences, for example, as younger children use a variety of textured materials to develop their senses and as after school children have opportunities to relax and have fun.

All children arrive excited and happy and are greeted by staff who are encouraging, inviting children's enjoyment and commitment. Staff communicate and interact well

with all children and as a result children are actively engaged in purposeful and challenging activities and are becoming competent learners. Children under three benefit from activities provided by staff who clearly understand Birth to three matters. The curriculum co-ordinator has been highly effective in the implementation of the birth to three framework and regularly monitors the planning of activities across the nursery. Children in the after school club are relaxed and actively involved in a wide variety of activities and are joined and encouraged by enthusiastic staff.

## Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Children enjoy an extensive and varied range of stimulating and exciting activities and experiences. Children enjoy and are actively engaged in activities which support their learning and development across all areas of learning. All children arrive eager, motivated and excited to learn and try the new experiences offered to them. Children have extremely good relationships with one another and adults, with a well developed understanding of the need to share and take turns. Children show care and concern for each other, they co-operate well and show great concern for other children within their group. They have well developed independence skills as they are able to deal with personal tasks, put on and take off dressing up clothes, aprons and get themselves ready for swimming. Children are becoming confident communicators as they engage in conversations with one another and the adults who care for them. Children use an extensive vocabulary during their conversations describing what they did at the weekend and what they are planning to do as they socialise at mealtimes, and when travelling to the swimming baths. They enjoy and listen well to stories read to them by staff, confidently describing the role of the illustrator, author and narrator. Children describe the different parts of a book such as the cover, the spine, the title. Children read books independently and to one another and enjoy regular visits to the library. Through very good staff interaction children are developing good language skills and are becoming skilful communicators. All adults working with the children respond well in response to children's questions and suggestions. Children's communication, language and literacy is given a high priority within pre-school with an identified literacy plan covering all the stepping stones in detail.

Children are confident when using their mathematical vocabulary and skills in planned activities. They are able to use their understanding of shape and position during a focused maths activity looking at tall and short, bigger and smaller. Children look at various objects around the room to determine which is tall or short, bigger or smaller, for example, as they consider the difference between a chair and a table, the door and notice board. They are able to successfully put themselves in line from tallest to shortest. Staff involved in delivering this activity skilfully pick up on their enthusiasm and develop their excitement by going around the premises both indoor and outdoor observing a range of objects. Children's mathematical development is given a high priority within pre-school.

Children engage in a range of themes and activities that help them to consider the wider world and the world they live in. They enjoy visits to the setting from the fire brigade, police and school crossing patrol as they are involved in looking at people who helps us. Children think about others as they deliver parcels to elderly residents within the community. Children learn Spanish as part of their theme on Spain and

create their own version of Spanish dancing wearing costumes and using various props. Children competently say good morning and their name in Spanish at circle time. Children engage in activities that look at nature; they have their own pre-school garden where they grow a variety of vegetables. Children taste their vegetables either raw or when used in their meals by the cook. Children competently use a variety of technological equipment.

Children's physical skills are very well provided for with access to an extensive range of equipment to aid the development of large and small physical skills. They competently climb, balance, throw, catch, run and swim. Children's manipulative skills are very well developed as they use writing materials and musical instruments such as castanets. Children's imagination is developing extremely well through access to a wide range of resources. Role play areas are regularly changed to encourage the development of children's imagination. Children access a wide variety of creative resources and opportunities to develop their creative imagination. Access to regular baking sessions develops a range of skills. Children enthusiastically involve themselves in practising for their 'graduation' ceremony taking great pride in their success and applause from adults.

Activities are very well planned by the teacher in charge (curriculum co-ordinator) and other staff, involving the children in a range of interesting activities across all areas of learning. The curriculum co-ordinator is highly motivated and committed to providing children with high quality activities and experiences. Long, medium and short term plans plus literacy and numeracy plans engage the children in stimulating activities which enables them to make very good progress in all areas of learning. Themes and activities are evaluated promptly and discussed with other pre-school staff. Children's development and progress is observed, monitored and recorded spontaneously and during focused activities. This information is used to formulate children's profiles, to inform future planning and to identify the next steps for children's learning.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is outstanding.

All children have equal access to activities and opportunities offered. Children's equality of opportunity is given a very high priority across the whole provision. All children are included in the activities provided, their individual needs and circumstances are well known and provided for by staff. Children within the nursery are developing an excellent understanding and awareness of their own environment and that of the wider world. This aspect of their learning is organised through various activities and excellent first hand experiences such as visitors to the setting, for example, children are learning a few Spanish words as part of their work on looking at Spain. Children within the nursery are involved in thinking about others during activities and the consideration of 'People Who Help Us', where they enjoy visits from the school crossing person and fire brigade. School aged children have opportunities to study topics such as Spain, France and healthy foods through planned activities during holiday periods. Children access a very wide range of resources which promotes their understanding of diversity very well.

Children with special educational and specific needs are very well supported by staff across the nursery and out of school provision. Staff work closely with parents, carers and outside agencies ensuring that children are well cared for and receive support enabling them to participate fully in all activities. Staff have excellent opportunities to develop expertise in particular areas enabling them to work more effectively with children with specific needs, for example, learning sign language skills.

Children's behaviour is good and in some instances very good because staff are excellent role models, showing respect and consideration for children, each other, parents and carers. Children receive lots of positive praise and encouragement for their efforts, attempts and achievements, aiding the development of their self confidence and self-esteem. Children are polite, share, take turns and co-operate with one another. Children show great patience with children with particular needs. Staff work together very well as a team and interact effectively with children joining in with their activities. This is particularly evident within the out of school club where children and staff have developed excellent relationships and join together in a variety of activities. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

Partnership with parents and carers is outstanding. Children benefit from the very good partnership with parents and carers. Children's development and achievements are celebrated and shared with their parents and carers on a regular basis. Informal discussions upon collection of children, written records and attendance at parents evenings are used to keep parents and carers up to date with their child's progress and development. Parents and carers have access to and receive plenty of good information about the setting and what it has to offer in terms of care and education, themes, plans and information on the educational provision. Staff make excellent use of areas next to their particular group rooms to provide information for parents and carers. Parents and carers spoken to were very positive and supportive of the provision and what it offers their children. An 'open door' policy and regular parents evenings keep them up to date with their child's development, achievements and general well-being. Pre-school children's development and achievements is recorded and shared with parents and carers regularly. The pre-school teacher gives detailed feedback to parents and carers on a regular basis to keep them informed of their child's progress in all areas. Individual meetings are arranged with parents and carers prior to their children leaving to commence full-time education where they receive their child's profile of development and achievements.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Leadership and management is outstanding. Children benefit from the excellent leadership and management of the whole provision. The registered person and all staff work well together to ensure the provision of high quality care and education for all children. Senior staff undertake the regular monitoring of the provision looking at staff performance, training and development, activities and the curriculum. There are clear development plans for both staff and the provision as a whole. A clear recruitment and selection procedure is in place. Staff appointments are followed by a

detailed induction which is conducted by a member of the staff team who has responsibility for human resources. Regular staff and senior staff meetings and yearly appraisals with all staff are conducted ensuring staff are working in a consistent way across the provision and that training needs are met. The teacher in charge of the pre-school has responsibility for co-ordinating, monitoring and evaluating the curriculum across the nursery. The out of school club manager plans activities for that part of the provision. Necessary checks are completed on staff as part of the recruitment procedure to ensure children's safety and welfare is observed, however, some visiting specialists are not yet cleared or sufficiently supervised.

A very high ratio of qualified and experienced staff supports children's learning and development well. Staff are qualified and experienced in childcare, education and other areas. Staff are committed to and offered excellent opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge through various training courses. This has a positive impact on children's learning, development and welfare because staff keep abreast of new childcare initiatives.

Children enjoy a wide range of play experiences which are offered across well organised play spaces maximising their play and learning opportunities. All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, is well maintained and regularly reviewed.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection, the nursery has improved children's safety by ensuring all areas used by the children are checked regularly for safety and that they are protected from any potential hazards and dangers. The amending of the setting's child protection policy ensures staff, parents and carers are aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of any child protection concerns. However, not all staff are clear who is the designated member of staff responsible for child protection issues.

Positive contribution outcomes have been improved by the amending of the complaints policy for parents and carers, by ensuring that any incidents relating to the children are recorded and shared with parents and carers and by the seeking of parental consent for the application of sun and nappy creams. These amendments ensure parents and carers are kept fully up to date with information relating to the care of their children and that children are kept safe at all times.

Children's enjoyment and achievement has been improved through the provision of plates for all meals and snacks.

The previous nursery education inspection recommended that the nursery include parents and carers observations and comments in the assessment process. Comments and observations on children's development are sought from parents and carers and are used in conjunction with the settings records. The pre-school teacher also discusses children's development and achievements on a regular basis with

parents and carers via informal discussions, parents' evenings and written records.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

### **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 staff are aware who is the designated person within the staff team who has responsibility for child protection issues. Ensure staff are aware of the procedure to be followed in the event of a child being uncollected from the setting and amend the uncollected child policy to show this
- ensure all adults/visitors working with children complete necessary checks or are actively supervised at all times.

#### **The quality and standards of the nursery education**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of nursery education are outstanding.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)