

# Kidsunlimited Nurseries - Hospitots Nursery, Lancaster

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY268691
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Marie Lefevre
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<b>Registered person</b>	Kidsunlimited Limited
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<b>Type of care</b>	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](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 good.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kidsunlimited Hospitots Day Nursery was registered in September 2003. It is a privately run nursery owned and registered to a national company who specialise in nursery provision. It is located within the grounds of Lancaster Royal Infirmary. The nursery serves families in the local community although National Health Service employees have priority when a waiting list is operating.

Children are cared for in three age related group areas within the building; they are accommodated in the baby/toddler playroom, toddler 2 playroom and pre-school playroom. There are toilets, an office, staff room, kitchen and laundry facilities. Regular outdoor play is provided in an enclosed area accessed from the group rooms.

The Nursery is open Monday to Friday from 07.00 to 19.00 all year round except for bank holidays.

It provides places for a maximum of 62 children at a time. There are at present a total of 95 children on the register who attend a variety of sessions each week. The staff team supports children who have learning difficulties and or disabilities. The nursery is participating in the

Foundation Stage of Learning. There are 34 pre-school children in receipt of funded nursery education.

There are 14 regular staff members, including the care manager and a deputy manager; the majority of the staff team are suitably qualified and experienced. There are three relief staff. A housekeeper and a kitchen assistant are employed. The nursery staff receive support from the specialist Kidsunlimited national teams.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children have many really positive opportunities to learn about the importance of health and hygiene in their daily routines and activities. They are encouraged to take age appropriate responsibility in relation to hygiene and wash their hands carefully before handling food and after messy play or going to the toilet. Liquid soap and paper towels are available in the washrooms which helps to prevent cross infection. They gain awareness of keeping their bodies clean and healthy in ongoing discussions with staff. Children also learn about general health, for example, as they are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather. Children learn about keeping their play areas tidy because staff act as very good role models; children enthusiastically give age appropriate assistance to put small play items away.

Children's health requirements and needs are identified well through a range of detailed recording systems and effective policies. These are very well maintained and ensure that parents and staff members are kept informed about any health issues. Accidents are clearly recorded and staff ensure that any recurring accidents are monitored and addressed. The medication recording system is effective and shows respect for confidentiality. Staff members have completed appropriate first aid training and various members have participated in food safety and hygiene courses. There are well stocked first aid kits which are formally checked and replenished when necessary by the designated member of staff who takes responsibility for health and safety in the nursery. In addition, effective provision is made for outings. Staff are keen to ensure that children benefit from being cared for in a really clean and healthy environment.

Younger children and babies are sensitively and well cared for during nappy changing, sleep and feeding routines. Staff wear disposable gloves and aprons for each nappy change and ensure that nappy changing mats are thoroughly cleaned after use. Babies and toddlers enjoy naps in the designated baby room and are within full view of staff. There are comfortable areas in the playrooms for two year olds and pre-school children so that they may relax when feeling tired. Babies are well supported when having bottle feeds as they are gently supported by staff. Toddlers benefit sitting with other children and staff appropriately seated for meals which are seen as social events. Staff complete charts in relation to nappy changing, naps and feeds as well as activities, they give a written report to parents and carers at the end of each day.

Children benefit from the healthy eating policy in the setting. Children enjoy freshly prepared meals from the hospital kitchen and snacks from the nursery kitchen. Children may have breakfast of fruit, cereal or toast and enjoy fresh fruit at snack time. Main meals are varied, nutritious and look appetising. Older children confidently help themselves from serving dishes. The provision of breakfast, lunch and tea time meals ensure that children have a balanced diet throughout the day. Meal times are pleasant social events in each playroom and provide

opportunities for children and staff to chat about nursery and home events. Staff ensure that any special dietary needs are adhered to; they work closely with parents and obtain detailed information about the children to make sure that they have the necessary nutritional balance for positive growth. Children have regular drinks with their food, for example, milk or water. Additional drinks are available as required; older children may help themselves from jugs in the playroom.

Children develop their physical and emotional well-being as they participate in many stimulating activities and projects which exercise their bodies as well as develop their thinking skills. They are confident as they use the wide range of large and small play equipment in the setting. Children benefit from being outdoors in the fresh air as they use the well equipped outdoor play area for planned activities or just running around and having fun. In addition, children do lots of exciting, energetic physical activities in the playroom as they enthusiastically join in movement, songs and rhymes to help them with their learning as well as exercising their bodies. Children benefit from going on nature walks around the nursery grounds where they can chat about the things they see. Children also develop emotionally as they build really positive relationships and socialise with other children and adults.

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

The provision is good.

The premises are very comfortable and welcoming and the playrooms are very well organised for children to use safely. Children access the designated childcare areas with effective, close, age-appropriate supervision and support from the staff. They are encouraged to be aware of safety, both inside and outside the setting, in daily routines and activities. Staff ensure the premises are safe and secure so that children are protected. Many effective safety measures have been taken, for example, there is a secure entry system to the building and staff are extremely vigilant in ensuring visitors to the setting sign in before gaining access. Heaters are regulated, there are finger-safe-strips to each door in the childcare areas and electric sockets are covered.

Children learn about keeping safe in practical ways, for example, being careful when using equipment in the setting. They are closely supervised in the outdoor play areas where they can enjoy lots of energetic activities. Children also learn about road safety as they may encounter traffic in the hospital grounds when they have their supervised walks. Staff take effective measures to ensure that children do not gain access to hazardous areas or materials. Formal risk assessments are undertaken in the setting each day to make sure the premises and grounds are kept safe for the children. Fire exit signs and appropriate fire fighting equipment are in place, and fire drills are undertaken on a regular basis. Staff are vigilant and take steps to ensure that play resources, equipment and furniture are maintained in a safe and clean condition for the children attending; all items are checked frequently. Staff ensure that the toys and activities comply with safety standards and are appropriate for the age and stage of development of each child. The nursery benefits from the designated member of staff taking overall responsibility for health and safety.

Children are well protected as there is carefully planned and maintained documentation in relation to child safety in the setting. Recording systems are used in conjunction with detailed written parental consents to ensure consistency of care for each child. Current Public Liability insurance is in place. There are comprehensive policies and procedures in place, including child protection. Staff have a clear understanding of what to be aware of, who to contact and what to record if a child protection issue was to be raised in the setting.

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

The provision is good.

All children thrive and progress very well as they participate in a wealth of activities and projects that introduce new learning experiences as well as develop their existing skills. Babies, toddlers and two year olds are very well supported and enjoy activities in keeping with their ages and stage of development. Children explore and use their imaginations in many enjoyable and educational ways as they are sensitively guided and encouraged by the staff members. They are fully supported in the setting allowing them to settle and benefit from the staff's affectionate and calm approach to their care and learning. Staff have a sound awareness of the care of children in early years and this is reflected in the actual care of all the children who attend.

All children have many opportunities to join in sensory pursuits which help to develop their awareness of sound, smell, taste, texture and visual stimuli. Creativity is actively encouraged as children use a wide range of materials to produce wonderful artwork. There are delightful yoga sessions for older children and for babies. Children participate in small group activities, for example, rhymes, song and movement. They may also work with staff individually or enjoy games of pretend with their peers as they develop their growing sense of independence. Children build very positive relationships with staff who respond skilfully to the age range of the children attending and their individual needs. They are enthusiastic as they learn through the many play opportunities which are available throughout each day.

### **Nursery Education**

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Staff demonstrate a clear understanding of the Foundation Stage of learning. There is effective planning in place which is used well in the setting. Staff use many innovative teaching methods and tools, for example, in their organisation of the play areas to fully reflect the six areas of learning. There is consistent use of upper and lower case letters for labelling, exciting wall displays promote learning and play resources are inviting. Activities and daily routines are used skilfully to provide many learning and life experiences. There are planned and incidental education opportunities occurring throughout each day. Staff carefully monitor the children as they participate in activities and make notes of what the children are doing; this informs future planning and practice.

Children freely access many stimulating activities and projects which enhance their existing skills and help them to learn new ones. These are organised to allow for flexibility and spontaneity, which enables each child to choose what they want to do and introduce their own ideas. Children are very enthusiastic in their use of the play areas which allows them to develop in fun and exciting ways. They confidently use the play resources with staff and their peers. They enjoy engaging in discussions and working well in large and small groups or having space to focus on individual tasks.

Children build confidence in relating to their peers and adults as they are encouraged to take a very active role in the group. They express their ideas and thoughts and communicate well. They become familiar with the written and spoken word in many ways and listen attentively to guidance from adults. Children practise mark making and develop their formative writing skills using a variety of tools and media. They enjoy story time and take a very active role in discussions.

Children learn about numbers and simple mathematical concepts as they are incorporated in a variety of activities. They develop their number recognition and counting skills while learning

about simple addition and subtraction using a range of resources. Children reinforce their understanding in practical ways as they weigh, measure and mix during cookery sessions. They learn to identify shapes and patterns as well as gain an awareness of concepts relating to dimension. Creative development features highly in the setting as children engage in lots of music, movement and rhymes as well as in many varied art and craft projects.

Children benefit from the positive community spirit in the setting as well as building an awareness of the wider world and different cultures. They develop their knowledge and understanding of the natural world as they learn about animals and growing things. There are exciting experiments, for example, as children use magnets to check out a variety of objects to determine which are attracted to the magnets. Children learn about modern technology and equipment, however, there are limited opportunities to develop their computer skills.

Staff are skilled at using clear and simple language and effective guidance which enables the children to learn and progress. They have a clear understanding of how children gain independence. They help children consolidate what they have learnt and extend their awareness. Staff ensure that the setting is well equipped with resources which allow the children to have effective learning experiences as well as lots of fun. There is a balanced range of activities and designated play areas reinforce children's understanding and knowledge. Children receive age appropriate levels of challenge without undue pressure being put upon them.

Staff prepare very well for each day and ensure that all necessary materials and equipment are in place both for the planned activities and additional free-play. Staff are sensitive to the differing needs of each child. There is a close partnership between staff and parents to ensure that each child really benefits from their placement in this setting.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the staff's very positive attitude towards equal opportunities and respecting individual and differing needs. There are many ways for children to develop their awareness of local and wider communities. Children experience celebrations and festivals, such as learning about the nativity at Christmas. They join in Christmas art projects, making cards and calendars to take home. They also learn about less familiar religious and cultural celebrations, for example, the Chinese New Year and Hanakkah when they try different types of food and do related craft activities. There is a wealth of resources in the setting which reflect differing backgrounds and abilities. Stereotyping is discouraged and all children have the opportunity to participate in age appropriate activities according to their stages of development.

Children learn about sharing and valuing others from the very good role models provided by the staff. Staff gently and sensitively support, praise and encourage all children in their daily routines and activities which helps them to develop their self-esteem, confidence and sense of belonging. The children are very polite and well behaved. They are very happy and relaxed in the group and they respond well to the clear guidance from the staff. Children freely make choices in their play and daily routines and are confident as they select playthings and participate in activities. Staff are adept at encouraging children to share their opinions and take a very active role in the group. All children are clearly valued by the staff who have a sound knowledge of the children to ensure there is consistency and continuity so that each child can thrive and progress effectively.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. Parents participate in the exchange of information necessary for their child's care and education. They are kept very well informed about daily issues and are aware of planning and topics for activities. There is an attractive information package and also a website with details about the nursery and the organisation. Children's development files are available for parents to see how their children are progressing. Many lovely examples of the children's work are displayed in the setting and children take lots of their art and other craft projects home to show what they have achieved. Parents are very positive in their comments about how their children are progressing and are very happy with the care provided in the setting.

The setting fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Leadership and management is good and ensures that smooth, consistent practice is in place for the benefit of all the children and their parents and carers. Staff are very professional, caring and dedicated in their approach to their work in the daily care and education of the children. This is reflected in all aspects in the setting; in the well organised child care areas, in the many safety measures taken and in the range of high quality resources, activities and equipment provided which help children learn and develop effectively. Clearly defined and sensitive daily routines enable children to settle well and feel secure.

Informative files, notice boards and many other excellent means are available to enlighten staff and parents. A wide range of policies and procedures such as child protection, behaviour management and equal opportunities are used to inform practice and protect the children. However, there was some confusion between the Kidsunlimited organisation and Ofsted about the current care manager in post. There are detailed recording systems in place including individual child records. Staff continue to update and develop these for the benefit of children attending, their parents and for the staff team. There are clear procedures to record child, staff and visitor attendance.

Children clearly benefit from the care provided and from the staff's positive attitude towards their own training and personal development. Staff members have completed a range of relevant training relating to the health, welfare, safety and educational needs of the children. They continue to look at further development to enhance their existing excellent practice.

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

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

There was one recommendation made at the last care inspection in relation to increasing awareness in the baby and toddler room so that children learn to value and respect cultural diversity. This has been met as activities and resources are in place to ensure that all children gain a positive awareness of differing backgrounds.

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

Ofsted received concerns regarding National Standard 1, Suitable Person. An Ofsted Early Years childcare inspector conducted an unannounced visit to the provision on 11 December 2006. The provider has taken appropriate action. Ofsted are satisfied that the provider remains qualified for registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by the 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 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 good.

### **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 there is a clear procedure for reporting any management changes to Ofsted

#### **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):

- provide further opportunities for children to develop their awareness of modern technology.

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