



The Cleveland Unit, James Cook University Hospital

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY277385
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Inspector Lindsey Pollock

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Registered person Middlesbrough L.E.A.

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 outstanding. 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?

The Cleveland Child Assessment Unit operates from a modern, purpose built unit in The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough and provides care for children who have assessed special needs. The children have their own separate entrance to the nursery. There are six rooms and additional therapy rooms within the unit and children also have their own outdoor play area. It has been registered at this site since July 2003 but has been operating since 1961.

It is registered to care for a maximum of 35 children at any one time. There are currently 61 children on the nursery roll aged between 2 years 8 months and 4 years 10 months. Of these 41 children are in receipt of nursery education. Procedures are in place to support children with English as an additional language. The assessment nursery is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Family group sessions are run on Wednesdays. Nursery sessions operate from 09.00 to 14.30. The facility is open term times but only closes for 2 weeks of the summer school holidays.

There are currently 13 full time staff and 15 part time staff. Of these, 26 staff are qualified and 3 are currently working towards a qualification. All teaching and play therapy within the unit is highly specialised and delivered by specially trained teachers of children with autism and for children with multi sensory impairment.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Staff have implemented highly efficient hygiene routines to protect and promote children's health. Exceptional standards of cleanliness are maintained in the facility to ensure children are cared for in a clean, healthy environment. Outstanding systems are in place for addressing individual children's health needs for example, comprehensive documentation for the recording of any dietary and medication requirements. Staff ensure they work very closely with parents to facilitate children's growth and development.

Children are beginning to develop an awareness of good hygiene procedures. This is helped by the staff explaining the importance of following good routines and by setting a good example. More able children are sensitively reminded to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. They are beginning to manage their personal care with increasing independence.

Children enjoy highly nutritious meals with plenty of fruit and vegetables and all necessary minerals and vitamins. Meals meet strict standards to ensure children receive a balanced diet, remain healthy, and develop good eating habits. More able children are encouraged to help to prepare their snack which helps them develop their awareness of food and healthy eating. They are encouraged to drink regularly and staff recognise other factors which affect how much children need to drink. Staff are fully aware that some children have special dietary needs and ensure these are sensitively met.

The programme for physical development is excellent. Individual children's physiotherapy plans are incorporated into the day and staff are supported by the highly skilled team to ensure children are as mobile as possible and develop to their full potential. Some children are becoming increasingly agile as they move confidently around the nursery rooms and in the garden. They thoroughly enjoy their time in the soft play area and demonstrate impressive climbing skills. Children skilfully ride and manoeuvre bikes and other wheeled resources as they enjoy the fresh air in the

attractive garden. Fine motor skills are developing well as children successfully use tools for a variety of tasks such as painting, drawing, cutting, spreading and in sand and water play. Their spatial awareness is developing well as they negotiate space both in and outdoors.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a wonderfully warm and welcoming environment which is maintained to an exceptionally high standard. Much thought has been given to the organisation of space within the nursery to ensure this is utilised to its maximum potential. Mobile children can move around freely and safely. Where appropriate children are able to independently access an excellent range of high quality and interesting resources and specialised equipment. Staff carefully monitor and supervise children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe, stimulating and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Staff sensitively help children to gain an awareness of safety both indoors and outdoors by talking and explaining to them and by setting a good example. They have a good awareness of children's constantly developing abilities and take appropriate safety measures to avoid dangerous situations. Constant risk assessments and staff vigilance ensure children are as safe as possible at all times.

Highly experienced and dedicated staff have an excellent understanding of child protection policies and procedures. They are committed to ensuring all children are safe and protected and consider their welfare as paramount. They are confident to follow procedures to ensure children are protected from harm and neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The nursery provides excellent care and education for children. Highly skilled and experienced staff use their exceptional understanding of early years guidance, such as Birth to three matters and the curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage, to provide high quality care and education.

Children are happy, safe and secure and enjoy every minute of their time at the setting. They are eager to participate and highly motivated. Staff are extremely sensitive towards their individual needs and meet these fully. All children make remarkable progress because staff recognise the uniqueness of each child. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. They display emerging self confidence and feel good about themselves. High quality adult-child interactions are extremely supportive of early communication skills. Children begin to make sense of the world and express their ideas as they join in a diverse range of exploratory and multi-sensory experiences through rich, varied and imaginative activities. All children, however complex their needs, are encouraged to participate fully.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Children are captivated and often inspired by an extensive range of stimulating, relevant activities related to their needs. They access a wealth of exciting, high quality resources, which support their development across all areas of learning. Children are eager to learn, are becoming self assured in their play and are confident to try new experiences. Their social skills during lunch time were especially impressive. Children have very good table manners and behave extremely well. They listen intently to stories and can recount favourites such as 'Handa's Surprise' and 'Going on a Bear Hunt'. Some children use marks readily to represent their ideas. Excellent use of visual symbols and simple sign language provide additional means of communication, this enables children to participate fully in the activities. Children's imagination is developing well. They are beginning to make sense of the world around them in the stimulating environment and create exciting, individual art work. They are inquisitive and fascinated by things such as rain makers, natural materials and musical instruments. Children gain confidence in using numbers in their play and respond enthusiastically to challenges to extend their mathematical vocabulary and skills in planned activities and daily routines. Their physical skills develop and improve through a wide variety of experiences, including dance and soft play. Children readily express their feelings and explore their senses through planned activities such music and movement and by accessing the many multi-sensory toys and resources.

Staff have expert knowledge of Foundation Stage and Birth to Three Matters. Because the majority of children are developmentally young, Birth to Three Matters, along with children's individual educational plans is at forefront of planning a curriculum. This covers all areas of learning and where appropriate incorporates the stepping stones and early learning goals. The multi-disciplinary team including the manager, staff, speech therapists, physiotherapists and other relevant specialists plan a curriculum for each individual child. All staff are fully aware of their responsibilities and know what the desired outcomes are for children. Excellent systems for assessment are in place. Staff find out exactly where children are developmentally on admission and review this regularly to ensure children continue to progress. The results of these reviews show children are making excellent progress in relation to their starting point.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are warmly welcomed into the setting. Staff have wonderful nurturing relationships with the children and have an exceptional way of making every child feel unique and special. At this nursery the message that 'every child matters' comes across loud and clear. Highly skilled staff help the children to experience a sense of community, compassion and concern for others in their group. Staff foster positive links with children's own culture and language, involving parents. Children have access to excellent resources, play opportunities and activities which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. They have extensive opportunities to learn about themselves, each other, and the world around them through planned activities,

visitors to the nursery and outings to local places of interest. This positive approach fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. Staff successfully encourage children to take turns, during circle time one child reminded his friend that 'you have to share'. Rules and boundaries are clearly explained to the children to help them come to know right from wrong.

Partnerships with parents and carers is outstanding and contributes significantly to children's well-being in the nursery. They are part of the dedicated team working together, sharing their knowledge and expertise to ensure their child reaches their full potential. The support and guidance that parents receive is phenomenal. They are fully consulted about every element of their child's care and are actively encouraged to be involved. Daily diaries, an open door policy and contact by telephone ensure an effective two way flow of information is shared. Parents receive comprehensive written information regarding including the aims and objectives of the setting. Full, clear information is provided regarding nursery education and regular newsletters keep parents updated on themes and of how they can be involved at home. Parents say they cannot speak highly enough of the provision, especially the support they receive from staff.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The premises are extremely well organised. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, is detailed and is regularly reviewed.

Children are cared for by a highly skilled, multi-disciplinary, dedicated team of people. High staff ratios are maintained throughout the nursery. An effective key person approach allows for a sensitive and informed response to children's needs as they arise, resulting in them receiving consistent care and emotional support. Staff are highly qualified and experienced and share their expertise and considerable knowledge with each other, with parents and carers and with outside agencies. They are committed to providing the best possible care for the children and are constantly developing their practice.

The leadership and management of the setting is outstanding. The manager is committed to providing exceptional care and high quality education for children. She is an inspiring role model who fully recognises and values the strength of her team. Constant monitoring of the provision, high expectations of staff, and an open door policy ensures very high standards are maintained.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children cared for.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

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

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