



Asquith Nursery - Bromley

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY286235
Inspection date	01 August 2005
Inspector	Laura Brewer
Setting Address	124 College Road, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3PF
Telephone number	020 8466 1585
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Registered person	Asquith Court Nurseries 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 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?

Asquith Nursery, Bromley has been registered since January 2005 and is one of 108 nurseries run by Asquith Court Nurseries Limited. It operates from a three storey building in Bromley and is accessible to transport services and local amenities. The nursery primarily serves families from the local community and surrounding areas.

Children are grouped according to their age range and use activity rooms located on the ground floor and first floor. All children share access to a secure outdoor play

area. There are currently 136 children aged from 5 months to under 5 years on roll in the nursery. Of these, 48 receive funding for nursery education.

The nursery opens 5 days per week, 51 weeks of the year. Opening hours are from 08:00 until 18:00. Children can attend on a full time or sessional basis and children with special educational needs and those who have English as an additional language are fully supported.

There is a minimum daily attendance of ----16 staff, of whom at least 75% hold a relevant early years qualification. Some staff are currently working towards a level 3 qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a varied range of energetic physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Staff have recently introduced a system where they pre-plan the provision for the outdoor area on a weekly basis. This enables all children to be actively involved in a range of physical activities to develop their skills, abilities and self-confidence, for example whilst using the parachute, hoops, balls and climbing equipment.

Children learn about the importance of good personal hygiene through well organised activities and routines. They always wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating meals and snacks. Effective procedures such as, staff consistently wearing disposable gloves and cleaning the changing mat with an anti-bacterial spray sustain good levels of hygiene and help prevent the spread of infection. Children's individual health needs are met as comprehensive written information is taken and shared with relevant staff during the admission period.

Children benefit from the good food hygiene practises observed and from the healthy, nutritious menu's. Children are frequently given snacks such as fresh fruit to help them develop healthy eating practices. Younger children are offered drinks throughout the day mirroring their home routines, while older children can help themselves to water at any time. Special dietary requirements are complied with which ensures children remain healthy.

Staff follow the 'Birth to Three Matters' framework well in under 3's rooms and the children usually settle well. Children have established good relationships with the staff who interact in a gentle and supportive manner. This enables them to feel happy within their surroundings. They freely go to them for cuddles and reassurance, developing healthy dependence to support their emotional wellbeing. Children are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and appropriately maintained environment. The good organisation of toys and equipment means children can move around safely to independently access available resources from shelves, tables and boxes at child height.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised as safety and security precautions are in place, such as safety gates, socket covers and a video entry system. However risk assessments are not always effective in protecting children from potential hazards on a daily basis, such as the stored highchairs and the fridge being accessible to the babies in the under 2's unit. Regular fire drills help children become familiar with the procedures, however the written procedures for the under 2's unit do not include sufficient information to inform staff how the babies should be evacuated safely from the first floor.

Children learn the importance of behaving in a manner that does not endanger or hurt themselves or others as a result of clear guidance. For example, staff clearly explain to children why they should not run around the building or put scissors into their mouth.

Children's welfare is protected. The manager ensures that procedures are up-to-date and that staff understand their responsibilities in relation to child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children throughout the nursery are generally confident within the setting and have built good relationships with the staff. The younger children receive lots of cuddles and have secure bonds with their carers which increases their sense of wellbeing. They benefit from routines which are consistent with their experiences at home.

Staff awareness and good use of the 'Birth to Three Matters' framework is improving children's achievements. They enjoy participating in a varied sensorial programme and energetically explore a range of materials which enables them to develop new concepts, for example whilst experimenting with sand, glitter and malleable materials.

Children's communication skills are effectively encouraged by staff and they enjoy looking at books, singing and mimicking animal noises together. Their physical development is well promoted within the nursery and staff help them to practice their mobility skills. They play imaginatively using all of their senses and gain good levels of self-esteem and confidence.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Most children are keen to learn and quickly settle to become involved in activities. Children initiate conversations about their own experiences, for example, whilst talking about holidays they have been on. They confidently experiment with writing for a variety of purposes and many children

can write their own names independently.

Children spontaneously incorporate counting during their play and can confidently count up to 10 or more. They recognise and name shapes and use size and positional language in daily activities. Children demonstrate high levels of independence, for example, whilst serving their own meals and dressing themselves to go outside. Children are sensitive to the needs of others and show care for the environment by helping during tidy-up time.

Children develop a lively interest in the world around them. They are keen to investigate how the lettuces that they have planted are growing and show wonder at finding mini-beasts within the garden.

Children enthusiastically experiment with colour and texture during a range of experiences. There is a strong emphasis on children developing their own self-expression and they are able to produce excellent representational drawings and paintings.

Staff use their secure knowledge of the Foundation Stage to provide a broad range of activities. However, some activities do not sustain the attention of all children as the planning lacks information about how activities can be extended or adapted to help individual children progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the positive partnership staff have developed with parents. This ensures children settle well and their individual needs are met. They experience consistent care due to effective communication systems between parents and staff, such as daily information records. Children build good relationships with staff and are generally happy and secure in their environment. Children with special educational needs are well supported because staff work closely with parents and outside professionals.

Children show a sense of belonging when they share their experiences about their family and friends. They are introduced to a variety of cultural traditions which helps to develop a positive attitude and respect for others. Children's self-esteem is fostered when staff praise them and recognise their achievements, such as when they tidy up or complete a task. Children are usually well behaved and work harmoniously with each other in response to the realistic boundaries and expectations of staff. This positive approach fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The partnership with parents of children who receive nursery funding is good. Staff regularly share information about their child's progress through parent evenings, daily contacts and by sending children's work home. Parents are actively encouraged to be involved in their children's learning, for example, extending topic work which reinforces what children are learning about within the nursery.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by suitably qualified staff who have been appropriately vetted, due to effective recruitment procedures. Induction training, policies and procedures work well in practise, ensuring the efficient and safe management of the nursery. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of child development which enables them to meet children's individual needs well.

Leadership and management of the nursery education is good. There is a commitment to develop the provision and the manager has clear aims for the future. Staff are competent within their roles and have a secure knowledge of the Foundation Stage and how to use it in practise to support children's development. Staff are supported in their work and ongoing training is actively encouraged.

Parents are kept up-to-date about their child's progress through daily contacts with staff and regular meetings. The range and quality of activities provided for children ensures they make steady progress. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

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

- Ensure the stored highchairs and fridge in the baby unit do not present as

hazards to children;

- Include within the fire procedures, how the children under 2 years will be safely evacuated from the first floor in the event of an emergency.

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):

- Improve on the planning systems by ensuring information is included about how activities can be extended or adapted to help children progress.

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