

Early Bloomers Pre-School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY346159
Inspection date	25 September 2007
Inspector	Pamela Patricia Paisley
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Registered person	A-Class Education Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
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

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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Early Bloomer's Pre School opened in 2007. It operates from six rooms on the first floor of a purpose-built building. It is situated in a residential and commercial area in Brockley, Lewisham. A maximum of 30 children may attend the pre school at any one time. The pre school is open each weekday from 07:30 to 18:30 all year round. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 10 children aged from nineteen months to under five years on roll. Children mainly come from the local area. The pre school employs three members of staff all of whom, including the manager/proprietor, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children take part in daily physical exercise. They use the outdoor play area for riding bikes, tractors, sit and ride cars and have access to a climbing frame and slide. They are beginning to learn how to balance, use peddles and manoeuvre the equipment in different directions with

increasing control. Children receive nutritious meals that are cooked on the premises and their individual dietary needs are taken into account. They enjoy fruit, such as apples, bananas, pears and satsuma's for snacks on a daily basis.

Suitable arrangements are in place for children who need to have rest during the day and they sleep in cots or on sleeping mats with individual bedding. Satisfactory hygiene practice is maintained. Daily routines ensure that children wash their hands before and after meals and after going to the toilet. Changing mats are cleaned regularly and although staff wear gloves for changing nappies, aprons are not always worn for protection from cross infections. Accident records are appropriately maintained; however, not all medication record entries are signed by staff and information regarding times medicines are given to children are not always clearly recorded.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

There are suitable systems in place for managing access into the provision. An intercom system and CCTV is in place. A log is kept of visitors on the premises and parents are encouraged to sign their children in and out for added security. Children are adequately supervised by staff both inside and outdoors and door handles are high so children cannot leave rooms unsupervised. Children play with suitable toys, play materials and equipment that are in good condition. Regular risk assessments are carried out by staff to maintain children's safety within the setting.

All necessary fire safety equipment is in place and fire exits are clearly marked. Children practise fire drills so they become familiar with emergency evacuation. Staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of how to safeguard children and know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and confident which enables them to make good progress in their personal, social and emotional development. They are keen to learn and encouraged to try out new skills. This supports their developing independence and self-motivation. Children enjoy building with mega bricks and drawing pictures. They have good opportunities to play musical instruments, dance, and listen to music and dress up in their favourite outfits. Sand and water is available every day. Children use containers and funnels for pouring with good control.

Staff use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to guide them in providing suitable experiences for children under three years and effectively use observations to identify the next steps for each child's development. Children have good access to stimulating play materials which provide a balanced range of activities and promotes learning in all areas. They benefit from stable relationships with consistent staff members who care for them. This fosters their emotional well being and helps them to achieve.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

There are a good range of resources and activities that help children to learn about the wider society. Children are encouraged to take part in all activities provided and a sensitive approach

is used by staff to settle new children in and help them gain a good understanding of their family and cultural background. This helps children feel comfortable in their care and gain good self esteem. There are good systems in place to care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to ensure all children take part at a level appropriate to their needs.

Children benefit from lots of praise and encouragement. Staff give them good support and encourage them to take turns when playing and good explanations help them learn right from wrong. Relationships with parents are friendly and supportive. There is an open door policy which encourages parents to exchange information with staff when they need to.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff provide a caring environment for children which helps them feel secure in the setting. The rooms are organised appropriately and staff show a sound understanding of their role in supporting the children in their play and learning. Staff work well as a team and support each other in providing a suitable curriculum for the varying ages of the children who attend. There are suitable recruitment systems in place to protect children from persons who have not been vetted.

All required, records, policies and procedures are in place; although, medication records are not always signed by staff and entries regarding times when medication is given to children are not always clearly recorded. Health and safety procedures are generally adhered to but staff do not always wear protective clothing when changing nappies to prevent cross infections. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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.

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 wear appropriate clothing when changing nappies to prevent cross infections
- ensure an accurate record is kept of all medicines given to children

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