

Kidsunlimited Nurseries - Chineham Park

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY232249
Inspection date	01 November 2007
Inspector	Lynne Elizabeth Lewington
Setting Address	Spindlewood, Stag Oak Lane, Chineham Business Park, Chineham, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 8NN
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Registered person	Kidsunlimited Nurseries
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?

Kidsunlimited is one of 52 nurseries run by the Kidsunlimited Company. The nursery opened in 2002 and operates from 10 rooms in a purpose-built building. It is situated on Chineham Business Park on the outskirts of Basingstoke. A maximum of 149 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07:30 to 18:00 for 52 weeks of the year. All children share access to secure, enclosed and adjoining outdoor play areas.

There are currently 121 children aged from three months to under five years on roll. Of these 38 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide geographical area. The nursery supports a small number of children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 32 staff, including a housekeeper, a cook and kitchen assistant. Nineteen staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. All of the staff are developing their qualifications with further training and eight staff are working towards a recognised early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted effectively in all areas of the nursery. The clean uncluttered environment provides an attractive hygienic setting for children's care and play. Sensible daily routines ensure children learn about good hygiene, cleaning their hands before and after food and after toileting. Children have easy access to the attractive toilet facilities, enabling them to develop their independence with adults help close by if required. Accidents are dealt with efficiently as the majority of staff hold first aid qualifications and well equipped first aid boxes are easily accessed. Sensible routines ensure clear records of accidents and any medication administered are maintained.

Children enjoy an excellent diet of freshly prepared healthy food. Menus clearly displayed throughout the setting enable parents to be aware of the food offered each day. Children develop good appetites as they thoroughly enjoy their meals which smell and look appetising. Meal times are social occasions where adults sit at the tables with the children, encouraging and helping them as needed. Adults talk to the children about the food on their plates and encourage their understanding and awareness of healthy eating. A gardening project has enabled older children to develop their awareness of where food comes from. Water is available in each room throughout the day to prevent dehydration. Babies enjoy freshly prepared bottle feeds as they are cuddled by the caring staff. Detailed daily information is shared with parents about food eaten to enable parents to monitor their young children's diet.

Children in all rooms have good opportunities to develop their fine movements as they undertake activities. Babies have a comfortable playroom where they can learn to crawl and stand safely. Staff encourage babies to stretch and crawl, praising and encouraging their actions. Rattles, shape sorters, and tactile items encourage their fine movements and senses. Older children effectively develop their fine movements, for example, as they use construction items and pencils and match and sort items. A communal area called 'The Street' provides a safe indoor area for large physical activity. Children undertake ring games and use the low level climbing frame and tunnels enabling large movement development. They have access to outside areas; however, these are uninspiring and children do not have opportunity to use them freely, to develop their physical abilities in the fresh air and natural light.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The purpose built nursery provides a spacious environment with easy access to facilities suitable for the ages of the children cared for. Generally display boards are used artistically to provide attractive displays of children's own work, which encourage the children's interests and sense of achievement. All rooms have very easy access to the secure outside areas; however, the outside areas are not attractive or used to promote children's physical development or sense of well being effectively. The good quality equipment is well maintained and suitable for the ages and stages of development of the children enabling them to explore and develop their interests.

The premises are secure and generally sensible measures ensure risks are minimised. Sleeping children are supervised closely and accident records help to inform the risk assessments. Comprehensive risk assessments and health and safety discussions at team meetings promote

the safety of the children and staff. However, a fire practice has not been completed since early 2007. All rooms have easy access to the outdoor areas, evacuation information is clearly displayed and verbally staff are familiar with the evacuation routine they must follow. This does not sufficiently promote the abilities of the children or staff to evacuate the building effectively in an emergency.

Children's wellbeing is safeguarded by the staff's awareness of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the action they must take if they are concerned about a child in their care. Clear policies support the staff in their child protection role and are clearly displayed for parents' information.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children of all ages benefit from the warm nurturing care of the staff. Each child's individuality is recognised and attention paid to their needs. This enables children to develop their self esteem and confidence because they feel valued. Good care is taken to ensure the children have opportunities for activity, fresh air, good food and peaceful rest each day, enabling them to benefit from the opportunities they experience in the setting. The key worker system is used successfully, enabling children to have meaningful relationships with identified adults who encourage individual development. Staff cuddle the babies, soothing and stroking them gently as they go to sleep. Excellent practice in the baby rooms ensures the children's needs are always paramount and their individual needs are met. The staff demonstrate a good understanding of the development of young children and use the Birth to three framework to plan and record the children's progress.

Nursery education

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Staff demonstrate a good awareness of the developmental stepping stones and plan activities to encourage children to meet them. Children enjoy their day in the setting because they follow a familiar routine but also experience a variety of fun activities. The majority of children are confident and enter the setting happily, easily integrating into what is happening. Staff are attentive and form good relationships with the children. They maintain observations of their key worker children and plan activities using this information. Some do not, however, consistently evaluate the activities in order to develop their practice or consistently record development.

Children show developing awareness of shape and position as they play and talk about what they are doing. A child using duplo gave directions to the adult to put the brick on the top and another at the bottom, whilst another child referred to tall and short items as she played. Children sort and match bears and shapes, and show awareness of pattern as they line up cars. They are developing an awareness of quantity and numbers as they sing action songs and are encouraged to count items.

Children enjoy stories and show interest in the pictures. They are developing their language abilities well as they say what they think will happen next in familiar stories and describe what they see in the pictures. Children use books competently, independently looking at the pictures and sharing with others as they sit comfortably on cushions. Children talk confidently to staff and visitors; they ask questions and listen attentively to responses. Regular opportunities to sing and use expressive language and actions actively encourage the children's abilities to communicate.

Children experience varied opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world. For example, they grow items in the garden plot, learning how to plant and the importance of watering the items daily. Plans indicate they have learned about creatures and visitors to the setting have supported this learning by bringing in creatures and mini beasts for the children to see. They look at the weather and the seasons and collect leaves as they develop their knowledge of the world around them. Children show appropriate awareness of technology, for example phones and computers.

Children enjoy good opportunities to develop their imaginations as they play creatively throughout the day. For example, a child describes the underwater castle he is creating as he adds bricks to his model. Others use play dough imaginatively, skilfully creating sausage shapes and peas. Children delight in dressing up and clearly enjoy the opportunity to wear dressing up clothes from home to the Meg and Mog party. Sand trays enable the children to make tunnels, find creatures hidden in the sand and act out little scenarios. Children enjoy painting activities, experimenting with colours and creating their own designs with string and paint.

Children show developing awareness of those around them as they help to tidy away, and set tables for lunch or snack. Some show concern for others when they are upset or get hurt and try to comfort them. Most children competently manage their toileting needs with increasing independence. They make independent choices in the activities they undertake and show awareness of the daily routine. Some confidently talk about their families and events they have experienced, showing increasing awareness of their own identity.

Children enjoy good opportunities to develop their physical abilities through the varied and interesting planned activities they undertake. However children lack the opportunity for daily free play outdoors in an environment that will encourage and challenge their physical abilities sufficiently.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered. Good care is taken to ensure children's individual needs are clearly understood by good communication with parents, enabling appropriate care to be offered to all children. Where appropriate the setting works with parents and other professionals to meet a child's individual need ensuring the child benefits from their time in the setting.

Children are developing their awareness of the wider world through visitors to the setting. For example, they have learned about people who help us by meeting the police officer and an ambulance crew. They use books and resources which reflect our diverse society and undertake activities which develop their awareness of cultural events.

The calm relaxing piped classical music promotes a calm atmosphere where the staff and children appear happy and productive. The staff are good role models to the children, talking quietly and calmly to the children and each other. Good manners are encouraged and children are developing an awareness of right and wrong as they learn to share, take turns and consider the impact of their actions on others.

Partnership with parents is good. Parents speak well of the service offered. Children feel secure, happy and confident in the setting because their parents share important information about their individual care and develop good relationships with key workers. Regular reports and

meetings in addition to daily informal chats enable staff and parents to discuss the children's progress and achievements. Clear information is displayed about the activities the children undertake, enabling parents to build on their children's learning and interests. Regular photographs are taken of the children undertaking their activities, providing parents with a visual record of the child's progress and development. Clear information is available for parents if they wish to make a complaint about the service offered; however, the complaints record available for parents to see does not promote confidentiality. This may prevent people from sharing their concerns.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Leadership and management is good. The manager demonstrates a good awareness of the setting's strengths and weaknesses and has plans in place to develop the setting for the children's benefit. She consults with staff and seeks their ideas and opinions on how the setting can develop. Appropriate procedures are in place to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children, ensuring children's welfare is safeguarded at all times. Staff feel supported and valued in their roles within the nursery because they have regular team meetings, appraisals and opportunities to develop their skills through training opportunities.

Good care is taken to ensure children's health is promoted; they enjoy and achieve, and are able to make a positive contribution, whilst satisfactory care is taken to promote children's safety. Resources in the setting are generally used very well, providing the children with a stimulating, interesting and pleasant environment for their learning and play. However, the outside environment does not meet the high standard of the indoor environment and regular fire practices have not been undertaken. All the required documentation is in place to meet the requirements of registration. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection improvements were required to the use of the outdoor environment, the seating in the toddler and pre-school rooms, the assessment programme and staff's abilities to plan physical and mathematical activities. Also they were recommended to improve opportunities for toddlers to access stimulating activities, maintain rooms at a suitable temperature and review communication systems between staff and parents and colleagues.

Suitable measures have been taken in all these areas and improvements have been made. Low level adult seating is available in all rooms enabling staff to work comfortably. A comprehensive assessment programme is in place and this is currently in the process of further improvement. Staff appear to have a good awareness of how to promote mathematical development and physical development to young children. Rooms are maintained at a suitable temperature with the aid of air conditioning units in each room. Toddlers experience a variety of interesting activities which are linked to their own particular developmental needs. Good communication is fostered between staff and parents through informal and formal meetings, and daily information sheets. These improvements have all benefited the young children. However, further improvements are required to ensure that the children benefit from challenging and stimulating outside activity in the fresh air.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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.

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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):

- improve the outside physical environment to promote children's interests, learning and physical development
- ensure staff and children undertake regular fire practices to ensure safe and swift evacuation of the premises
- improve the complaints record to ensure confidentiality is maintained

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):

- ensure consistent record keeping throughout the pre-school rooms, including the evaluation of activities and recording of children's progress

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