

Bird in Bush Childcare Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY345508
Inspection date	21 July 2008
Inspector	Tom Radcliffe
Setting Address	Bird in Bush Nursery, 616 Old Kent Road, LONDON, SE15 1JB
Telephone number	0207 639 3030
E-mail	birdinbush@cathchild.org
Registered person	Catholic Children's Society
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Bird in Bush Childcare Centre is a nursery run by a committee. It opened in 2006 and operates from several rooms in a new purpose built building. It is situated in a mixed use area in Peckham in the London borough of Southwark. A maximum of 46 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08.00 to 18.00 for 50 weeks of the year. All children share access to two secure enclosed outdoor play areas.

There are currently 35 children aged from under two to under five years on roll. The nursery mainly provides for children in the local area. The nursery currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and also a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs eight members of staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The setting provides spacious accommodation for children to play and learn in which is clean, hygienic and well maintained. Children's good health and well-being is promoted throughout the setting by the implementation of well thought out and effective practices. All medication is administered according to good procedures and all accidents are recorded properly. Children can be cared for if they sustain a minor injury as the setting has staff who are qualified in first aid and has access to appropriate first aid equipment. The spread of infection within the setting is reduced as infectious children are excluded and the setting follows hygienic practices; for example, children are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times and when staff change nappies or clean surfaces. In addition children's good health is promoted as the setting has obtained written permission from parents to seek any necessary emergency treatment or advice.

Children's individual dietary needs are known by the setting and effectively accommodated as they provide sufficient well balanced and nutritious meals. Meals are prepared hygienically in the setting's kitchen by staff who are qualified in food handling. The setting operates a menu system which is regularly changed and shared with parents in advance. Children are developing good eating habits as they have healthy snacks of fruit and meals of pasta, vegetables or chicken. Children have access to fresh drinking water throughout their time in the setting.

The children have access to a large range of activities both indoors and outdoors that allow them to develop their physical skills. The setting has good outdoor facilities where children can take vigorous exercise, climb, balance, use wheeled toys and slides. In addition there are also other valuable outdoor activities where children can paint, dig in soil, experiment with water and play imaginatively in tunnels. While indoors children can use puzzles and construction sets, take part in mark making or music making and use a well equipped sensory room or role play areas.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises used by the children are very safe and secure. Access by all adults and visitors is controlled by authorised staff and the setting carefully monitors all adults while they are on site. The setting has very effective procedures in place to ensure that children arrive and depart safely. Children can be kept safe in the event of an emergency as the setting has emergency evacuation procedures and access to well maintained fire detection and control equipment. Children's welfare is safeguarded within the setting as all staff are trained in recognising signs and symptoms of potential abuse and are aware of how to proceed if they were to have any concerns.

The setting undertakes regular and effective risk assessments to ensure the play environment in use is relatively hazard free which ensures that children do not face unnecessary risks to their safety. Examples include: premises are checked and made ready for children before they arrive, all equipment is assessed for ongoing suitability, electrical equipment is regularly tested for safety and all visits are thoroughly risk assessed. Children's rest needs are accommodated within the setting with the use of mobile equipment and staff maintain very good levels of supervision as children play, take meals or play both indoors and outdoors.

There is a good range of toys and resources in use within the setting which are clean, hygienic and maintained in good condition. This supports children's development well as they play in a safe environment with age and developmentally appropriate equipment while enjoying good levels of adult support. The setting uses its spacious accommodation well and resources are well planned and set out. The equipment and furniture promotes a wide range of meaningful activity; for example, children have meals together in a useful social time and they have access to low storage areas which promotes their independence. The visual aspect of the child friendly setting is enhanced by displays of children's work, information areas for parents and a thoughtful arrangement of equipment and resources.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play in the setting in groups of varying sizes under the care of key workers. All children settle quickly as they arrive and become involved in play as they select activities and start conversations with adults and their peers. They are able to freely choose from a range of possibilities both indoors and outdoors. The setting promotes movement between activities and staff deployment is flexible to accommodate children's interests and choices. Children have access to appropriate resources in a secure environment. Adults make timely interventions as children play to enhance their understanding, develop language skills, offer guidance and ensure that children spend appropriate amounts of time on task. There are many examples of this, which includes a group of children who looked at lemons and discovered what they tasted like and how they grew, others play individually on outdoor equipment and small groups discovered about the properties of ice under the skilful care of a member of staff. In addition to this children sing songs, learn about numbers and letters, use role play equipment, make music and enjoy messy play. A group of children made play dough together and staff used this opportunity to involve children in conversations about what they were doing and their experiences at that time.

The setting carefully plans all the activities that children undertake to ensure that development takes place in all areas of learning. Children's interests form an important part of these processes and key workers use their observations on children to inform effective planning. In addition staff ensure that they are able to respond to events as they occur to capture children's interests and maximise learning; for example, children made cakes following a discussion about celebrating birthdays. The nursery makes good use of Birth to three and the Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Staff in the nursery seek to improve the experiences that the children undertake and share their observations, opinions and ideas as they plan activities that children enjoy and which enhances their development. The setting is reviewing its provision to continue to enhance the learning and play environment to further stimulate children's development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The nursery has effective procedures in place to ensure that all important background information is provided by parents. This enables the setting to respond effectively to meet a range of children's needs; for example, dietary requirements, medical considerations and where children use English as an additional language. As a result staff know children very well and are very effective in meeting individual needs. The setting is very experienced in working with children who have learning difficulties or delays. Staff have access to an effective procedure

where children's needs can be identified and appropriate targets set. The nursery works well with parents and external bodies to ensure that children's learning and development needs are understood and strategies are put in place to meet them. The setting has a very inclusive approach to all children and staff work well to ensure that all children are happy and that important development takes place. The setting promotes positive images of diversity through its use of resources, visits within the community and emphasis on multicultural activities.

Staff manage behaviour in the setting very well. They are consistent and positive role models who set clear boundaries for the children and use praise and encouragement very well as they work with children. In addition staff use developmentally appropriate language and they involve all children in discussions about their behaviour. Unwanted behaviour is challenged and staff ensure that each incident is brought to a satisfactory conclusion. Children are showing positive signs of a growing understanding of right and wrong and an increasing ability to behave cooperatively taking responsibility for their own behaviour.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. Parents have a good working knowledge of the setting's policies and procedures and have access to good information about their children's development through contacts with key workers. Parents are given opportunities to contribute to their children's learning as all children's backgrounds form an important part of the nursery's work.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The provider has good recruitment procedures. These ensure that staff employed at the setting are suitable to work with children. All staff hold relevant qualifications in childcare and have a good understanding in how young children learn. In addition staff benefit from effective periods of induction and have access to ongoing training to ensure that their skills are up to date. Staff are well deployed in the setting and children play in well organised accommodation which is colourful and child friendly. In order to build upon the present level of provision the provider intends to continue to enhance the learning and play environment to further stimulate children's development. The setting has policies and procedures in place to ensure the effective and safe management of the nursery and the provider is compliant with all National Standards. Children's well-being and care are given good attention as they have a growing sense of healthy life choices, understand about safety and they enjoy what they do. 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 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 good. 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):

- continue to enhance the learning and play environment to further stimulate children's development.

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