

See Saw Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY371919
Inspection date	19/11/2008
Inspector	Justine Leong
Setting address	See Saw Day Nursery, Lancaster Way, Braintree, Essex, CM7 5UL
Telephone number	01376 556 872
Email	tracy.lindsell@4children.org.uk
Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the setting

See Saw Day Nursery opened in 2008 and is one of a number of nurseries run by 4 Children (Kid's Clubs Networks). The nursery is part of a children's centre and operates from a purpose-built building in Braintree, Essex. There is level access to the premises. A secure enclosed outdoor area is available for outdoor play activities. A maximum of 40 children aged from birth to five years may attend the setting at any one time. The group is open five days a week from 08:00 to 18.00 during term time.

There are currently 51 children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) years. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the Childcare register.

There are ten members of staff, including the manager. Of these, eight members of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The manager and staff provide effectively for children within the Early years foundation stage. Children are safe and happy and make good progress in their learning and development. The provider works exceptionally closely with parents and carers, significantly enhancing children's time at the setting. Staff are fully committed to inclusion and have developed very close working relationships with external agencies, helping to ensure children's individual needs are well met. Self-evaluation is used very effectively to continue to improve the setting.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop assessment to ensure next steps are identified and used to inform planning
- ensure all staff are aware of the named person for safeguarding
- develop use of the outdoor area to allow children to explore, use their senses and be physically active.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Clear and comprehensive policies have been devised and these are implemented effectively and shared with parents to ensure they are fully informed of childcare practices. Staff are fully committed to working in partnership with parents and carers and have devised extremely effective systems to enable parents to share their views and ensure they are included in their children's learning. Parents praise the high quality care and education their children receive at the setting.

Stringent recruitment and induction procedures and a commitment to ongoing training ensures that children are cared for by dedicated and experienced staff. A clear safeguarding policy is in place, however, not all staff are aware of who to inform if they have concerns about a child in their care. Comprehensive risk assessments are completed to ensure the environment remains safe for children. Regular monitoring and evaluation of the provision enables the provider to identify and address areas for improvement, in consultation with other staff members, parents and children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children play and learn in a calm and productive atmosphere. Staff have a very good understanding of child development and use their knowledge effectively to plan and provide a broad range of interesting learning opportunities. Independent access to many resources enables children to select their own activities, ensuring children are motivated and interested to learn. This is further enhanced as staff use written information provided by parents to plan activities based on children's interests.

Children are relaxed and secure in the care of the nurturing staff. They are increasingly confident and developing good self-esteem as staff listen attentively and value their contributions. An effective key person system is in place, enabling staff to provide each child with an individual approach. Staff use questioning very effectively to support children's learning and extend their understanding. Assessments are completed frequently by staff and all children make good progress towards the early learning goals. However, next steps in children's learning are not consistently used to inform planning and ensure they make as much progress as possible.

Children benefit as staff plan stimulating activities covering all areas of learning. They have access to a stimulating mark-making area, can independently access a wide range of creative resources and also enjoy sharing stories in the comfortable book corner. A successful balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities allows children to learn at their own pace whilst enabling staff to provide support. For example, staff work with some children on a weighing activity, supporting and extending their understanding through effective questioning, whilst other children play together in the role-play area. Babies have access to a wide range of cause and effect toys and staff talk to them during play, encouraging communication.

Children's health and welfare is effectively promoted. They have access to suitable hand washing facilities and clear visual aids are in place to remind children of the correct procedure. Children are encouraged to make healthy choices about what they eat and drink. They sit together to share nutritious meals such as roast dinners, or snacks of fresh fruit. Children rest and sleep according to their own needs and babies have their own bed linen and are frequently checked.

Staff provide ample opportunities for children to participate in physical activity, both indoors and outside. For instance, children thoroughly enjoy the daily 'Wake up and shake up' session, during which they listen to music and move accordingly. Children

play outside in the safe and secure garden on a daily basis. However, the outside area is not consistently used to provide learning opportunities for children.

Children benefit from regular opportunities to learn about the wider world as they play with a toys and resources that are representative of diversity. Staff demonstrate that children's home experiences are valued and teach children about a range of cultures and beliefs. Staff are consistently polite and respectful, acting as positive role models for behaviour. Children understand what is expected of them and their behaviour is very good.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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.