

# Little Treasures Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	318614
<b>Inspection date</b>	10/09/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Cathryn Parry
<b>Setting address</b>	Blue House Lane, Concord, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE37 2TE
<b>Telephone number</b>	0191 4151849
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Type of setting</b>	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).

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**

Little Treasures Day Nursery opened in 1999 and is owned and managed privately. It operates from three playrooms and associated facilities within a self-contained, single storey building. The premises are accessed by a ramp. It is located in the Concord area of Washington. The nursery is open each weekday from 08.15 to 17.15 for 50 weeks of the year. It is registered on the Early Years Register, and compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register, for a maximum of 34 children at any one time. There are currently 55 children aged from birth to four years on roll. The nursery also offers an after school club service for children aged five years to eight years. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these two hold level 5 early years qualifications, three hold level 3 early years qualifications and one is working towards a level 3 qualification.

## **Overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

All children and their families are welcomed into the setting, by friendly and approachable staff. The manager and her team regularly assess the care and education provided, resulting in the continual improvement of the nursery. Staff observe individual children effectively to inform future planning. Consequently, they meet any specific needs and provide a wide range of interesting activities and experiences. All staff attend a range of training, including courses with regard to inclusion and equal opportunities. This further promotes an inclusive environment and ensures individual needs are met well.

## **What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?**

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

- further develop the systems for collating information to show children's progress
- further develop the key person system
- further develop risk assessments with regard to the maintenance of the toilet area and access to the laundry.

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

The manager has a clear understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage enabling her to foster good practice throughout. A robust recruitment procedure and staff induction programme is effectively implemented to ensure children are safeguarded well. This is complemented by the manager monitoring staff's ongoing suitability, for instance, by ensuring all Criminal Records Bureau checks are updated every three years. Staff meetings, daily briefings and individual appraisals play an integral part in the manager's monitoring of the nursery, to promote children's safety and well-being. However, the reviewing of risk assessments is not always effective. The manager and staff have acted positively in response to

recommendations raised at the previous inspection, providing a range of opportunities for children to enjoy physical play. They work closely as a team to identify strengths and weaknesses to further improve the care and education provided. This includes the manager encouraging staff to take responsibility for their identified rooms. An example of this is where staff have been closely consulted with, whilst playrooms have been redecorated and areas within the rooms reviewed to provide an improved learning environment. The manager and staff liaise closely with parents, other professionals and teachers from the local school to ensure each child is given the best opportunity to progress. Feedback from parents is encouraged in a variety of ways, including a comments box, questionnaires and parents evenings. Parental involvement is actively encouraged, for instance, with the opportunity to join a parents group. Policies and procedures are reviewed regularly and implemented well by staff. Individual documentation is stored confidentially ensuring children's well-being and privacy are respected throughout.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Children throughout the nursery make progress in the six areas covered by the early learning goals. The learning environment is planned to enable children to easily access the wide range of resources. This includes baskets of manmade and natural toys on the floor for babies to explore. Attractive displays of children's art work and photographs throughout the nursery promote children's self-esteem and confidence. Staff follow children's interests when planning, which inspires learning and participation. A very good balance of child-centred and adult-led experiences ensures appropriate challenge for the differing ages and stages of development of the children attending. The staff are enthusiastic and undertake activities with a sense of fun, for instance, when they hunt for worms in the garden. A key person system is in place. However, the system used to allocate children to staff results, in some cases, with one key person being the identified adult for a large number of children. Each child has a range of files documenting their progress. These include examples of their art work, observations, assessments and photographs. All the information is in place and staff know the children well. However, it is not easy for parents or other professionals to track progress, as information is held in separate files, which are held in different rooms.

Staff's management of children's behaviour is very good. They consistently use praise and encouragement to promote socially acceptable behaviour and encourage older children to think about the consequences of their actions and words. Children are safeguarded well as staff have a sound understanding of child protection issues. Risk assessments are in place throughout the nursery and are comprehensive and effectively implemented in each of the playrooms. Children are always supervised either by staff or their parents in the reception. However, the laundry room and adult toilet, which are accessed directly from this area, are easily entered through the open door. This is not identified as an area of risk. The assessment undertaken in the children's toilet does not take into account toilet seats being missing, which was the case for two of the three toilets at the time of the inspection, or the wall-mounted broken toilet roll holder. Staff ensure toys and resources are clean and well-maintained. These are bought from reputable suppliers and are suitable for the

ages and stages of development of the children attending.

The nursery has just completed a health related quality assurance scheme. The qualified chef provides healthy and nutritious meals and snacks for children, using organic fruit and vegetables wherever possible. This is complemented with children having free access to drinking water throughout the day. They all have daily opportunities for outdoor play and the chance to use a range of equipment including tunnels, a trampoline and sit and ride toys. Regular fire drills and the provision of a variety of safety equipment, such as smoke detectors and safety gates promote children's welfare. Staff demonstrate a positive attitude to equal opportunities and provide a range of activities and experiences to raise children's awareness of the wider community. Interesting activities are provided to encourage children's concentration and foster good lifestyle habits. These include growing their own vegetables with the help of a parent and baking a range of savoury and sweet dishes.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### 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*

### Overall effectiveness

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

### Leadership and management

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

### Quality and standards

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

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](http://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**

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint, which required them to take action. This related to staffing ratios for younger children. We carried out a visit with regard to the complaint and set three actions for the provider to address. Firstly to ensure that all records relating to the daily attendance of children and staff clearly indicate the time of arrival and departure for each individual. Secondly to ensure that there is an operational plan, which is available to parents and that the plan allows maximum flexibility in organising the provision according to available resources. It should include details of how staff will be deployed within the provision. Thirdly to ensure records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision and to promote the welfare, care and learning of children, are maintained. A detailed record of attendance is in place and a reviewed operational plan is available for parents. All relevant records, policies and procedures are maintained. The provider remained suitable for registration at the time the investigations were closed.

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.