



# Hungry Caterpillars Crèche

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY297091
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 December 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Field
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<b>Registered person</b>	Hungry Caterpillar Day Nurseries Ltd
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day care, Crèche

## 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](http://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?

The Hungry Caterpillar Nursery and Crèche is one of five provisions run by Hungry Caterpillar Day Nurseries Ltd. It opened in 2004 and operates from three rooms on two levels within Dragons Health Club, Northwood, Middlesex.

A maximum of 67 children may attend the setting at any one time. The crèche is open five days a week from 09.30 to 12.30. The nursery is open each weekday from 07.30 to 18:00 for 50 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 10 children, aged from 3 months to under 5 years, on roll at the nursery. At least another 60 children attend the crèche on various days, while their parents pursue activities in the health club. The nursery currently supports children with special educational needs.

The setting currently employs five staff. Of these three hold appropriate early years qualifications, including the manager.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children thrive because staff follow clear procedures and practices that meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs. Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment in which a high standard of hygiene is evident. Children are becoming independent in their own personal care. The staff encourage them to adopt consistent hygienic practise, such as washing hands after using the toilet and before eating meals. The staff themselves follow good procedures when serving meals or changing nappies.

Children access a wide range of activities to help them extend their physical development. They have regular use of the garden and on days when the weather is inclement, the children take part in action rhymes, music and movement sessions. Children have great fun during these music sessions in which the staff fully participate and there were several requests to do it again.

Children experience very social meal times as they sit together with staff to enjoy their meals. Snacks include fruit and other healthy options. Food and drinks are stored appropriately and this reduces the risk to children's health. Children play and eat in areas kept clean by the staff. Suitable procedures are in place in the setting to attend to children when they have accidents and staff use the accident book to inform parents. The majority of staff have completed first aid training.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Risks of accidental injury to children is minimised because staff are vigilant and use risk assessment to reduce potential hazards. Children are able to play freely and happily in a safe and stimulating environment. They can access resources from low storage units. They have areas to take part in messy play or to relax in a comfortable book corner. Babies have an enclosed area where they can crawl and explore safely but still hear and see what is happening in the rest of the room, including contact with siblings. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe and take care not to hurt each other when playing on the slide.

Staff have a high regard for the children's welfare. They monitor times of arrival and departure of each child but they omitted to include me as a visiting adult. Regular

communication with parents contributes to children's safety. Staff have a clear understanding of child protection issues and regularly attend training. They record existing injuries. However, parents do not sign the entries in the incident book.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the crèche and those attending for full day care have their needs well met. The staff make good use of the Birth to three matters framework to plan activities for the children. The children arrive happy and eager to participate. Any children attending for the first time are helped to settle by staff who are sensitive to their individual needs. Staff meet the needs of babies and younger children well and help them join in appropriate activities with the older children. For example, they watch as the older children enjoy singing familiar songs with actions, clapping their hands and stamping their feet. They happily follow the bubbles produced by the bubble machine.

The enthusiastic and fun loving staff provide good interaction with the children who eagerly participate in a range of well-planned activities. Children's self-esteem is developed because of the staff's interest in what they are doing. For example, staff acknowledge the children's achievements and expertly display their artwork. The high staff ratios ensure that babies receive individual attention with activities appropriate to their age. All children are stimulated because the room has plenty of visual displays to include light and bright colours.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Staff encourage their personal independence and teach them to respect the differences in each other's abilities. Children have access to limited resources reflecting diversity. However, the staff promote a positive anti-discriminatory environment and aim to include all children in activities, discouraging any anti-social behaviour. Staff are particularly skilful in ensuring that children of various ages are fully included.

The setting has systems in place to integrate all children. These include effective arrangements to care for children with special education needs. Children are well behaved and staff offer clear guidelines to help children understand how to play well together.

There is an effective partnership with parents. A detailed notice board and regular newsletters keeps them fully informed about the setting. Staff greet parents and children warmly and spend time with each parent, updating them of their child's day. Children enjoy attending and parents say how very pleased they are with the care provided.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Staff enhance children's care by the high quality of organisation. There is strong leadership and management within the setting. The premises are welcoming and well organised and space is used appropriately. All legally required documentation is in place. This contributes to the children's health and safety and ensures good continuity of care.

Children benefit from a motivated and enthusiastic staff group who are committed to ongoing training. There is a clear procedure for employing suitably trained staff to work with the children. The induction program ensures all staff become familiar with the detailed policies and procedures. 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**

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.

There are no complaints to report.

## **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):

- ensure that all existing injuries and appropriate entries in the incident book are signed by parents and all visitors to the setting are recorded
- increase resources reflecting diversity.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)