

Buckingham Primary Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY275399
Inspection date	12 October 2005
Inspector	Dorcas Elizabeth Forgan
Setting Address	Foscott Way, Page Hill, Buckingham, MK18 1TT
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Registered person	Buckinham Primary Nursery
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care, Out of School 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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Buckingham Primary Nursery opened in 2003. The nursery is managed by the school governors. It operates from the local primary school using its own nursery room, a separate room for the 2-year-olds, a soft play area and the school hall. Children have access to 2 secure enclosed outdoor play areas. The nursery also provides wrap around care and after school care for children who attend Buckingham School. The school is situated in the town of Buckingham. A maximum of 50 children may attend the provision at any one time. The nursery is open 5 days a week during term time from 08:00 until 18:00. The holiday scheme runs for 5 weeks a year.

There are currently 51 children aged from 2-years to under 8-years on the roll. Of these, 30 receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment area. The nursery supports children with special educational needs, and also currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs eleven staff. Five of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications and four staff are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean, well maintained and stimulating environment. They stay healthy because practitioners follow current environmental health and hygiene guidance, policies and procedures thoroughly. Children are gaining an excellent understanding of how to keep themselves healthy. They receive consistent support and guidance from the staff to help them gain independence in their personal care. For example children are encouraged to use tissues to blow their noses and throw them away in the bin, and to wash their hands after completing messy activities. Children are able to rest and sleep as they feel necessary, they are learning about their bodies needs.

Children enthusiastically take an active part in the extensive range of activities which are offered to them in the two outside areas. All children are encouraged to play outside for a large part of the day, whatever the weather. They are able to climb, crawl and negotiate and explore the large fixed equipment; to play in the house, build with large wooden blocks and carry out various forms of creative activities. The younger children enjoy activities such as the sit and ride toys, sand, water and decorating the play house. Children are becoming very healthy and are developing their physical skills extremely well, through being out in the fresh air so regularly.

Children benefit very well from healthy snacks. They confidently choose which drink they would like and are then offered fruit to eat. They enjoy the positive experience of sitting together in their key groups for snacks and chatting with each other about what they have done. They can request a drink whenever they wish. Children enjoy a leisurely lunch, they take as much time as they need to eat the packed lunches that are supplied by their parents, which are stored in an appropriate way.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Excellent procedures ensure the children's safety in a very well organised environment. Risks of accidental injury are minimised as the staff regularly use thorough risk assessments to reduce hazards, especially when introducing new activities or equipment. There are effective safety and security precautions in place, such as the procedures for parents to leave and collect their children which are very well monitored.

Children move around safely and independently selecting activities from a comprehensive range of stimulating, well organised resources. Staff help the children to keep themselves safe by giving them gentle reminders to walk, and take care of the equipment, they also go with the staff to check that the gates are locked before they can use the outside area. This helps the children learn to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

Children are extremely well protected because the staff have a very clear understanding of their role in child protection and they have a clear knowledge of the comprehensive policies. They have all attended training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enter the group eagerly, they are inquisitive to see the activities, and settle very quickly. They are confident and are gaining self-esteem, through positive reinforcement. They all take a very active part in their chosen activities which are purposeful and developmentally appropriate. Children join in enthusiastically in their small group activities where the staff introduce the themes of the week, children are very eager to think of words that begin with 'h', to practise writing it in the sand. Children's learning is extended with exciting challenges introduced during planned and spontaneous play. For example, dressing up and re-enacting the story of the little red hen, each having chosen their own character. The environment is inspiring, themes are very well resourced and displays are vibrant.

Children are making excellent relationships with the staff and each other. They co-operate well together in developing ideas, such as building constructions with the wooden blocks. They are given time and resources to experiment and develop ideas independently such as the child who constructed a seesaw and found to his delight that he could project a plastic toy into the air. Children's concentration spans are very good. The older children who attend after school have the opportunity to unwind, challenge others to games and activities or to extend their skills through an excellent variety of resources, equipment and games. The staff are very aware of their various needs. Children relax and have fun.

Two-year-olds are becoming confident in the setting and in their relationships with the staff. New children who find it difficult to settle are treated very sensitively and strategies are developed with the parents for the child's welfare. Children enjoy the freedom of playing with a good range of facilities both inside and outside. They can play independently, and have time to explore experiences and come back to them several times. Staff encourage the children to take turns, such as with the cars and to join in activities along side each other, like blowing bubbles.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children form excellent relationships; their confidence is evident in the way they interact with each other and staff. Children learn to respect one another's view and are introduced to different cultures, beliefs and traditions. Children participate in activities that promote awareness of other cultures and traditions, for example, Chinese New Year, Divali and Christmas. They access a very good range of equipment, which promotes positive images of diversity in the wider world. The children especially enjoy the 'tasting days' when they try food from other countries like noodles. The staff have excellent procedures in place to support children with special educational needs.

Children's behaviour is extremely good, staff praise and give clear explanations providing a nurturing environment. Staff discuss with children about being kind to each other and helping other people. The children are very polite and are learning to have good manners. Staff use excellent methods to promote children's self esteem and make them feel proud such as the 'We are special' board, which records reasons why each child is special.

Partnership with parents and carers is outstanding. Parents are provided with extremely good quality information about the care their child receives. The positive relationship reinforces children's sense of belonging and ensures their confidence in the setting. Good communication,

newsletters and parent's evenings keep parents informed and involved in their child's learning and helps staff and parents work together to help children make progress.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children flourish from their care being extremely well organised. Induction training, policies and procedures are in place and are comprehensive, they ensure that children are healthy and safeguard their welfare. The staff are deployed very effectively ensuring children receive excellent support, particularly when they work together in their small key groups.

The setting is supported by the head of school who plays an effective role with the staff in reviewing and monitoring the nursery provision. The staff from the school show a great deal of interest and offer continuing support to the group. The appraisal system ensures that staff are given the relevant training to continually improve and develop their skills and practice. Weekly team meetings are held, where future development of the staff and provisions are discussed. The result is that staff are well informed and the children's individual needs are met consistently. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last Children Act inspection recommended that the nursery should improve the opportunities for children to develop table manners and social skills and that parents should be informed of all records made concerning their child. The nursery provide children with all necessary resources to develop social skills and staff sit with the children to encourage good table manners. The children's social skills, and manners are very well developed. Parents receive a written copy of all incidents and accidents, so that they are well informed.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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