

Kidsunlimited Nurseries - Hospitots Nursery, Lancaster

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY268691
Inspection date	17/03/2010
Inspector	Lisa Patterson
Setting address	Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Ashton Road, Lancaster, Lancashire, LA1 4RP
Telephone number	0845 3652941
Email	lancaster@kidsunlimited.co.uk
Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It rates council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2009

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 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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the setting

Kidsunlimited Hospitots Day Nursery is one of 54 nurseries owned and operated by the national childcare company, Kidsunlimited. It was registered in 2003 and is located within the grounds of Lancaster Royal Infirmary. Children are cared for in three age-related group areas within the building; the baby/toddler room, toddler 2 room and pre-school room. There are toilets, an office, staff room, kitchen and laundry facilities, to which children do not have access. Regular outdoor play is provided in an enclosed area accessed from the group rooms. The nursery serves families in the local community, although National Health Service employees have priority when a waiting list is operating. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7am to 6.30pm all year round, except bank holidays.

The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register. A maximum of 62 children may attend the nursery at any one time. There are currently 111 children aged from birth to under five years on roll, some in part-time places. The nursery provides funded early education for three and four-year-olds and supports children who speak English as an additional language. The nursery is also registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

There are 15 regular staff members, 10 of whom hold early years qualifications to at least level 2. The nursery manager holds National Vocational Qualification at level 3. The nursery staff receive support from the specialist Kidsunlimited regional teams, early years operations and human resources.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

Children's uniqueness is acknowledged and their individual needs sufficiently well met through close liaison with parents and other agencies where necessary. They make satisfactory progress, although systems for monitoring children's development do not track children's progress sufficiently. The learning environment and incidental activities are not always utilised to support and challenge children's understanding. Children's welfare is maintained and all required documentation is in place, however, it is not well organised to allow ease of access should the need arise. The setting is committed to further improvement and have in place adequate monitoring systems, which are overseen by regional representatives from Kidsunlimited.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- provide a more rich and varied indoor and outdoor learning experience by utilising continuous provision, displays and everyday experiences more effectively in supporting children's understanding across all areas of learning

- and organising the day to provide fewer disruptions to the flow of activities
- build upon current systems for monitoring children's progression through developing systems for tracking children's achievements across all areas of learning
- review the organisation of documentation and key information to make sure it is easily accessible.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Staff safeguard children well because they have an up-to-date knowledge of child protection issues gained through training. Staff are very clear about where to go for support and there are robust policy documents available providing accurate information. Required documentation is in place and completed generally well, including information about staff suitability, however, information is not always easily accessible because it is not well organised.

The setting shows commitment to further development and adequately monitors progress, through the use of the Ofsted self-evaluation form, liaison with the local authority and input from the regional representatives from Kidsunlimited. All recommendations identified during the last inspection have been adequately addressed. Staff attend regular training, both internally and through the local authority, which is sufficiently used to enhance provision for the children.

A good selection of resources is available across the nursery and these are generally well organised to allow ease of access. However, some resources are not well used by the children, for example the programmable toys. Each of the rooms benefit from plenty of natural light, however, they are not always well organised to attract children, such as there is no carpet in the reading area of the toddler room. Sometimes routines are disruptive to the free flow of activities, for example, children pack away their activities in order to have a drink or to all go outside together. Displays of children's work brighten up the play spaces, although are sometimes lacking in visual stimulation and there are inconsistencies in how much language is displayed through labelling. Staff are deployed effectively within the rooms, working with groups or individual children. In the baby rooms, staff take responsibility for their key children's needs and this provides babies with a sense of security.

Parents views are valued and close links are maintained. Parents comment on how their children love attending, how supportive the key person is and on how many activities they seem to be involved in. There is a flexible settling in process, during which staff get to know the family, and there is daily feedback, both verbally and in writing. Information on progress is shared regularly and parents are welcome to look at their child's file and make comments at their discretion. The setting has developed links with other settings providing the Early Years Foundation Stage and use link books to communicate key information, which is then fed into their child's learning journey. This ensures the setting develops a holistic view of the child and that their input complements that of other settings.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Children enjoy their time at nursery. They happily say goodbye to parents and carers, and join in with the activities on offer. They are learning to socialise and take turns in their games and independently choose what they wish to play with. In the pre-school independence is sometimes encouraged through taking responsibility for pouring their own drinks and serving their own meals at lunch time. Children enjoy listening to stories and singing songs, and babies thoroughly enjoy the actions, joining in with gusto. There are opportunities available for making marks, although older children are not always encouraged to attempt to write their own names on their work. Toddlers enjoy describing sounds and textures while taking great delight in crushing breakfast cereal. There is a range of activities available to support an understanding of mathematical concepts, however, everyday experiences and continuous provision are not well used to consolidate or enhance learning in counting, calculation and measurement.

Children learn about other cultures through planned activities and through a selection of attractive resources, including books, jigsaws, puppets and games. Information and communication technology equipment is available throughout the nursery and by the time children reach pre-school they are competent in the use of the computer, moving the cursor with precision. Children's awe and wonder at the natural world are enhanced through staff interactions in the outdoor area. Young children are shown what lives beneath the logs and planters in the garden and excitedly point to insects or smell the recently planted herbs. Children are physically active on a daily basis through accessing the all weather outdoor areas. They join in with exercise and action songs, through bending, stretching and jumping. They enjoy throwing, rolling and catching balls and toddlers race the staff. Children enjoy being creative, by painting, cutting and sticking in their free-play activities, and most staff interactions enhance their learning.

Children's development is monitored sufficiently well and information is shared with parents. Plans are completed on a weekly basis and mostly incorporate the identified next steps for individual children, however, there is an overemphasis on creative activities during directed tasks. Individual files are in place for all children and contain care plans specific to their needs, observations and examples of their creations. There are currently no systems for tracking children's progress from the clear starting points, and observations and examples of children's work are not consistently linked to the progression outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage documentation.

Children throughout the nursery are well behaved and respond well to the clear boundaries in place. They speak kindly to each other and manners are encouraged. They learn to respect one another through listening to their friends at circle time and talking about their own interests. Staff act as good role models in helping children to stay safe. They talk about the fire alarm test and children calmly take their positions while they await further instructions from staff. They are reminded to push chairs under and staff quietly explain why. Children benefit from a wide range of healthy meals and snacks, and are reminded to take plenty of

water. They know to wash their hands prior to meals and talk about washing away the germs. They enjoy regular fresh air and exercise, both in the outdoor areas and during walks out into the local community. This provides the basis of a healthy lifestyle.

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

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
--	---

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	3

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