



# Northwick Park Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY305606
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 October 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Bharti Vakil / Victoria Vasiliadis
<b>Setting Address</b>	Northwick Park Hospital, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 3UJ
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 8869 3937 or 2382
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Bright Horizons Family Solutions Ltd.
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day 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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Northwick Park Day Nursery was registered in 2005. It is operated by Bright Horizons Family Solutions Ltd. The setting operates from two port-cabins and is situated on the grounds of the Northwick Park Hospital in the London Borough of Harrow. It is situated within walking distance of public transport. The nursery has six children's play rooms. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The setting is registered to care for a maximum of 102 children at any one time. It is

open each day from 07:15 to 18:00 all year round. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently 117 children from 5 months to under 5 years old on roll. Of these, 17 children receive funding for nursery education. The setting supports children who have Special Educational Needs and English as an additional language.

There are 23 members of childcare staff including the manager who work with the children. The manager and 15 of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery also employs a lunch time supervisor who holds a Food and Hygiene certificate.

The setting receives support from the Local Authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The setting has in place suitable written cleaning and hygiene procedures. The good hygiene procedures maintained enable children to be cared for in an environment that reduces the risk of infection. Staff consistently wear disposable gloves and aprons for nappy changing sustaining high levels of hygiene.

Children are offered an adequate variety of foods with limited fresh vegetables. However meals offered take into account special dietary requirements to ensure children remain healthy.

Children have access to a selection of activities, which contribute to their good health. Most days the children are offered outdoor activities, for example running in the garden, skipping and jumping. These outdoor games improve children's physical development.

The older children have regular access to the outdoor play area to fresh air and the use of small equipment. They run, jump, crawl and balance moving confidently and safely. The range of available equipment provides little physical challenge, opportunity to climb, experience height. Children are developing good fine motor skills as they use a wide range of tools and malleable materials with increasing confidence. For example, rolling pins, scissors, brushes, play dough, syringes to mix food dye with water, tongs to pick up food at meal time. Children thoroughly enjoy their weekly dance and movement session. For example, they act like a scarecrow and learn to balance on stilts.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a suitably organised environment. The arrangement of the resources and equipment means that children can move around independently.

Children are adequately protected from possible abuse or neglect. Most staff are

aware of the settings child protection policy and have an understanding of the reporting procedures if abuse is suspected. The setting has in place clear and concise written records.

Children are cared for in a child focused environment where most risks are identified and reduced to safeguard them. However, the heaters pose potential risks to children as they become quite hot to the touch. There are effective security precautions in place, such as key code entry system to the day nursery area and entry to the school area requires parents to ring the door bell.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally engaged throughout their time within the setting, they play happily with each other and are beginning to learn to share and take turns. Children play with an adequate range of resources such as sand, water, puzzles and books. However, the babies are not sufficiently challenged or extended, they would benefit from a more interesting selection of resources.

Children are comfortable within the setting. They confidently settle in the environment provided and settle quickly once dropped off by parents. In general children are spoken to in a warm, positive and respectful manner by staff. However, the babies have too few opportunities to extend their language skills as some staff do not communicate with them to a satisfactory level.

The children are provided with adequate opportunities to develop their physical skills as they have regular access to the outdoor area where they are able to play with balls, skipping ropes and to run around.

### **Nursery Education**

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. The staff have an understanding of the early learning goals, and are developing greater skills and knowledge as further training is offered. Staff have good relationships with the children and high expectations of children's behaviour. The nursery room is set up to encourage children to be involved in various activities and the staff are well deployed. They extend children's vocabulary and thinking by asking open ended questions. The staff observe and record children's involvement and interest in activities. Although, this information is not used effectively to plan the next steps for individual children's learning.

Children are motivated to learn. They are developing their independence as they select equipment for themselves. They are able to concentrate during activities and play cooperatively together, sharing and taking turns. Children are able to work as part of a group. They show concern for each other and enjoy the responsibility of helping the younger children around the setting.

Children communicate confidently both with peers and adults. They are able to initiate and maintain conversations, negotiate with their peers roles for imaginative

play with staff support. They enjoy looking at books independently, in groups, and they listen attentively at story time. Children enjoy practising their early writing skills in a variety of ways as they draw, paint, move fingers in wet sand to make patterns. Children recognise some letters and link them to sounds.

Children are learning about shape and size as they confidently fit puzzles of varying challenges and use equipment in the water and sand play. They recognise and name shapes such as circle, triangle, diamond, square and rectangle. Children are learning to count confidently and reliably and they recognise several written numerals, although they have few chances to explore simple addition and subtraction through practical activities.

The children are developing a good awareness of their own environment and the wider world. The nursery has a good selection of resources to support their learning. The children use the computer, telephones, key boards, CD player, programmable toys, globe, magnifying glass with staff support. They enjoy exploring the garden looking for bugs. Although there are limited challenges to further their learning. They develop an understanding of other cultures and their own beliefs when participating in festival celebrations. Staff link stories, creative activities, music, imaginative play and display tables to the celebration of activities.

Children explore colour and texture using a range of collage and painting materials. They thoroughly enjoy mixing corn flour and water. During this experience they explore their senses. For example smell, touch. Staff use the opportunity to extend children's vocabulary for example 'dripping, splashing'. Children are excited when singing a range of songs from memory. They use their imagination well through role play as staff provide an appropriate range of props.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is fostered. The older children are provided with a satisfactory selection of resources that reflect positive images such as puzzles, dolls, globes, small world people and books. These resources are beginning to increase their awareness of diversity and understanding of others within the wider community. However, the children under two years do not have access to the same selection of resources.

Children's behaviour is managed appropriately and according to their ages. They are beginning to learn right from wrong. In general children are well behaved, and polite in response to the expectations of staff. They are encouraged to take turns, share and to have regard for others.

Partnership with parents is good, which contributes significantly to children's well-being. Detailed information is given to parents about the foundation stage curriculum and the six areas of learning. Staff ensure that parents know how their children are progressing and developing. Information is shared in many different ways such as verbally, written daily diaries, through the use of notice boards and regular parent meetings. Parents are involved in their children's learning and the staff provide

support to enhance children's learning in their home environment.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Leadership and management is satisfactory. The newly appointed manager is working well with the staff team. She has taken positive steps to develop leadership and management within the nursery, to enhance the care and learning for children. She is aware that further development is needed. For example, to make sure rigorous systems are in place to monitor, assess and evaluate the quality of nursery education.

The premises are adequately organised. Indoor and outdoor space is set out to enable play opportunities for children. All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well being is in place.

Over half the staff including the person in charge hold a recognised childcare qualification. Staff are sufficiently deployed which means that children are adequately supported in activities and appropriate policies and procedures ensure children's safety. Overall, children are happy and settled. 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**

Since the nursery was registered Ofsted has received three complaints. The first complaint related to Standard 2: Organisation, Standard 7: Health, Standard 12: Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers and Standard 14: Documentation. The provider was asked to provide detailed report of their investigation. No evidence was found that Standard 2 had been breached. The provider identified areas of improvements with regards to the rest of the Standards and initiated staff training and disciplinary action to put matters right.

The second complaint related to Standard 1: Suitable Person, Standard 6: Safety, Standard 12: Working in Partnership with Parents and Standard 14: Documentation. An Ofsted inspector carried out unannounced visit to the nursery. The inspector found that the nursery had failed to follow procedures for dealing with accidents and incidents and had also failed to inform the parents promptly about the accident to their child. Actions were set which have been met by the provider and remains qualified for registration.

The third complaint related to Standard 2: Organisation and Standard 7: Health. This was investigated as part of this inspection. No evidence was found that Standards 2 and 7 have been breached.

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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

### **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 children are not exposed to hazards from the heaters
- ensure the babies are provided with suitable resources at all times and that staff maintain a high level of interaction to ensure that babies language skills are developed

#### **The quality and standards of the nursery education**

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- develop the use of the outdoor play area to provide a wider range of exciting activities for children's physical development
- continue to develop assessment procedures to ensure children are provided with suitable challenging activities at all times.

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)