



Daisy and Jake Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY298540
Inspection date	24 January 2006
Inspector	Elaine Murray
Setting Address	106 Thurstaston Road,, Thurstaston, Wirral, Merseyside, CH61 0HG
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Registered person	Daisy and Jake Day Nursery Ltd
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 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?

Daisy and Jake Day Nursery is a privately owned day nursery. It opened in 2005 and operates from a purpose built building in Thurstaston, Wirral. A maximum of 66 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open five days a week from 08.00 until 18.00 all year round. The nursery offers an out of school service which opens five days a week, school term times only. Sessions are from 15.30 and 18.00. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 147 children aged from birth to under 8 years on roll of whom 22 are in receipt of funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment area.

The nursery employs 18 staff. 12 staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Staff are vigilant in following hygienic procedures as they change nappies and when they serve food. This helps to protect children from the spread of germs. Children are developing an awareness of simple hygienic procedures such as hand washing at appropriate times. Effective measures are in place to ensure that food is carefully stored and prepared, helping to ensure their good health.

Most staff have up-to-date first aid training, helping to meet children's needs in the event of an accident or emergency. The nursery's clear sickness policy is shared with parents and helps to protect children from the spread of infection. Staff follow babies' sleep routines, which are clearly displayed in the room. This means that babies' sleep needs are acknowledged and met, which contributes to their good health.

Children are developing physical skills and enjoyment of exercise through regular outdoor play. They enjoy climbing, running, ball play and riding on wheeled toys. Staff plan alternative indoor activities for children in case of bad weather, ensuring that children have regular physical exercise. Babies enjoy fresh air as they are taken out regularly for walks in the immediate area. Staff have good understanding of the next physical milestone for babies. They encourage children to reach for toys and to stand and begin to walk when appropriate. All children aged 1 year and over benefit from regular yoga sessions from a visiting teacher, further promoting their physical skills.

Older children confidently help themselves to fresh drinking water, which is always available from the water dispenser in the room. Younger children and babies are regularly offered drinking water. This helps to promote their good health. Children show a growing awareness of healthy foods as staff discuss with them which foods are healthy and why they should not eat too many foods with sugar in. Children learn to eat healthily as staff provide them with healthy and nutritious meals and snacks, including fresh fruit daily. Children's dietary needs are well met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in bright, well-maintained accommodation which staff make attractive and welcoming. Children's work is displayed and toys and equipment are visible and accessible. This helps to foster children's sense of security and belonging.

The range of toys and equipment are suitable for different ages and abilities, meeting children's needs appropriately. Space is used to accommodate children of similar age together.

Generally good safety procedures are in place to protect children from hazards and dangers. The premises are secure as closed circuit television cameras and an intercom system are in place to monitor any visitors to the nursery. Staff make daily checks of the premises and outdoor area. They also assess the potential risks to children of activities and equipment and take appropriate action to ensure children's safety. Babies are regularly checked whilst sleeping, helping to ensure their safety. Children show a growing awareness of how to keep themselves safe as they carefully use the staircase leading to the downstairs rooms. Older children also learn to keep themselves safe as they regularly practice the fire evacuation procedure. The evacuation procedure for babies is not sufficiently clear which compromises children's safety in the event of a fire or emergency.

Staff are aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. They are not sufficiently clear about the procedures to be followed relating to child protection which has a negative effect on children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Throughout the nursery staff pay good attention to promoting children's confidence, self-esteem and sense of belonging. As a result children enter nursery happily and are settled. Babies are talked to, held and played with. Children have warm relationships with staff and are happy in their care. Staff make generally good use of the 'Birth to 3 matters' framework to guide their planning and practice. Children enjoy learning to explore and investigate using their senses as they play with sand, shaving foam and water with bubbles. Babies explore different textures in 'treasure baskets'. The activities planned for children aged between 2 and 3 years are not always appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children aged between 5 and 8 years who attend after school confidently choose their activities. Staff interact well with children and follow their interests, helping to promote their enjoyment and learning.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. Staff have generally good knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals which is reflected in their planning and teaching. They provide a broad range of interesting, practical activities which promote some effective learning. At times children are questioned effectively to encourage them to think, for example during a game where children are given clues about what items may be hidden under a cover. Staff are good role models encouraging children to be polite and considerate. Staff make regular observations of children's learning and make use of this information to inform day to day planning. Plans do not clearly identify learning objectives or indicate how activities can be adapted to meet the needs of more or less able children. As a result staff are not always clear about what children are expected to learn and learning is not effectively

developed.

Children are confident to talk at carpet time and share ideas. They show growing independence as they give out plates at snack time and put on their own coats for outdoor play. Children's vocabulary is developed well, for example they talk knowledgeably about 'hibernation'. Children are becoming familiar with letter sounds. They are learning to write their names but have fewer chances to make marks or write for a purpose. Children show an interest in numbers. They are learning to count to ten and recognise numbers. They learn to solve problems as they decide which large shapes will fit in a box. Children have less opportunity to learn to compare numbers as there are few planned activities to develop this learning. Children are learning to observe changes in the weather and the growth of plants. They develop an awareness of their local environment through good use of visitors to nursery, such as a fire fighter and a paramedic. Children have access to resources to develop physical skills using large and small equipment, and to use technology to support their learning. However, there are insufficient planned activities to develop these skills. Children show growing proficiency using scissors and other tools. They respond imaginatively in role play and are able to express their ideas in creative work.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are included in the activities provided and individual needs are well met. This helps to promote their confidence and self-esteem. Children develop an awareness of diversity and the wider community as staff make good use of resources and planned activities. Children behave well as staff give them plenty of praise and support for their efforts and achievements. Overall children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

The partnership with parents is good. Parents receive a good level of information about the setting and planned activities through an informative brochure and notice board. Regular newsletters give helpful information about the current topic and how learning is being developed in the six areas. Parents have regular chances to be informed about their children's progress as they are invited in to nursery to see assessment profiles and children's work.

Parents of younger children are well informed about their child's daily activities and progress through use of a daily diary sheet. Staff make good use of information requested on admission to meet children's care needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Most staff hold relevant qualifications, which has a beneficial effect on children's learning and welfare. Most policies and procedures are comprehensive and work well in practice to ensure that children are well cared for. Space and resources are

soundly organised to promote children's safety, care and learning.

The leadership and management of the setting is satisfactory. The provider and manager provide positive direction and have a generally good awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision. There is a commitment to improvement through staff training and acting on the advice of an early years support teacher. The present system for monitoring and evaluating planning does not ensure that children receive a balanced range of activities or effectively identify areas for improvement.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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

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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 that staff are familiar with the procedures relating to child protection
- ensure effective procedures are in place to evacuate all children in the event of an accident or emergency
- ensure that activities planned for all children under 3 are appropriate to their age and stage of development in accordance with the 'Birth to 3 matters' framework

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):

- adapt planning to ensure that learning objectives are clearly identified and the needs of different abilities are met
- develop a system for monitoring and evaluating planning to ensure that children receive a balance of activities and that areas for improvement are effectively identified.

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