



Baby Unicorns

Inspection report for early years provision

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Registered person	Baby Unicorns
Type of inspection	Care
Type of care	Full day care, Out of School care

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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 provider must give a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must give a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Day Care and Childminding (inspection) (England) Regulations 2005 No 2300 Regulations 5 and 6).

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:
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THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

<p>The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.</p>

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Baby Unicorns is one of two nurseries for under 3-year-old-children run by Sancton Wood School. It opened in 2005 and operates from the ground floor of the premises, which are situated in Cambridge City centre. A maximum of 28 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08:45 until 15:15 a late stay facility is open from 15:15 until 17:00; a holiday play scheme is available according to demand. The nursery is open all year round. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 44 children aged from 4 months to under 5 years on roll. Of these 2 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment area. The nursery currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 7 staff; all of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications and 2 of the staff are currently working towards further accredited early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children take responsibility for looking after their own bodies and know that they need to wash their hands before snack to 'stop germs'. Staff act as good role models, using gloves to change babies nappies and wiping down surfaces before serving food, to help children to stay free from infections. If the children become unwell whilst they are in the care of the nursery, up to date records are in place to make sure that appropriate care is given. However, staff do not always wash babies' hands before they eat their snacks and meals; this potentially puts babies' health at risk.

Children learn about leading a healthy lifestyle through discussions with staff about food that is 'good for you'; staff and children plant vegetables to grow in the nursery garden to promote further discussion about healthy eating. Children's parents are encouraged to provide healthy meals and snacks for them to eat and water is easily accessible so that they can have a drink whenever they want one. Children are able to run around in the garden and exert themselves during outdoor play, so that they learn the importance of regular exercise and develop new physical skills.

The needs of babies and children under three-years are met by nursery staff, who have a very good understanding of their developmental needs. Babies use a wide range of interesting equipment to help them develop good manipulative skills and explore their senses. For example, a baby plays with a 'pop-up' toy, exploring how it

works and feeling the texture of the plastic shape with his mouth and tongue, with the sensitive support of his key-worker. Babies are able to rest in the sleep room in their cot or a buggy if they become sleepy and arrangements for feeding according to their individual needs, enable staff to give babies milk or food when-ever they need it.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an attractive and safe environment. They move around safely and independently under the constant supervision of the nursery staff. A risk assessment is carried out regularly to make sure that all of the play rooms are safe. Adults help children to learn about keeping themselves safe; they hold the chair and remind children to 'be careful' as they climb up to the table for snack or when they get on the scooter in the outside play area. Children are able to select activities and resources from a good range of attractive toys and equipment, which are checked regularly by the staff to ensure they are in good condition and safe for children to use.

Children's welfare is maintained by procedures and documents that promote their safety. For example, the staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures, which are in line with those set out by the Area Child Protection Committee; information about child protection is easily accessible so that staff can act in children's best interests in the event of any concerns. The premises are very secure; all of the doors leading to the outside are locked so that children can not leave the premises unsupervised and coded locks on each entrance prevent members of the public entering the building without permission.

However, some members of the team do not always record the time that they arrive on the premises and when they leave. This impacts upon children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy their time at the nursery and well organised key-worker groups enable them to form excellent relationships with each other and with adults. They actively pursue their own interests and are very independent. Adults working with the children have an excellent understanding of how children learn through play situations and they use the 'Birth to three matters framework' effectively, to plan activities that help children to learn. In addition, a very good system for monitoring children's development has been established; the system is particularly effective in identifying the progress of the older children, enabling key-workers to plan activities that build on what children already know and can do.

Children take part in an very wide variety of interesting and meaningful activities and play opportunities. For example, they paint with their fingers and their hands,

join in group activities, such as snack time and story time.

All children behave well and understand what is expected of them. They take part in regular routines and staff maintain consistent expectations. The staff take time to carefully explain what they expect children to do in a way that they can understand; they listen to children's views and comments, so that children feel respected. Very young children demonstrate that they understand and respect the needs of others when they spontaneously announce, 'I'm sorry' if they see that they have upset another child by accident.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation of the nursery promotes positive outcomes for children. The stimulating environment is attractively organised to meet children's needs. The effective organisation of the play space enables children to pursue their own interests, make decisions and become independent. The manager of the nursery monitors practice in the setting and makes sure that children's individual needs are well met.

The registered provider has developed robust systems for ensuring that adults working in the nursery are suitable and that they have the skills and experience to work with children. In addition, the whole of the staff team are committed to ongoing training, to develop their knowledge and skills further, and they attend regular training courses, such as First Aid and Child Protection, to enable them to promote children's welfare.

Children's records are kept up to date so that they receive good care to enable them to settle in well and become confident members of the group. All essential documents and procedures are in place. However, the procedure for recording staff attendance is not implemented consistently; there is no deputy to take charge in the manager's absence.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints about the childcare provision

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

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 babies' hands are always cleaned before they eat meals and snacks
- make sure that all staff note their hours of arrival and departure on the attendance registers so that the records are accurate throughout the provision
- make sure that there is a named deputy who is able to take charge in the absence of the manager.

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