



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 303834

DfES Number: 535307

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	16/02/2004
Inspector Name	Helene Anne Terry

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	The Children's Place
Setting Address	The Poplars, Free School Lane Halifax West Yorkshire HX1 2YE

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Childrens Place Ltd 3323047
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	The Childrens Place Ltd
Address	The Poplars, Free School Lane Halifax West Yorkshire HX1 2YE

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

Information about the setting

The Children's Place Nursery opened in 1997. It is part of The Children's Place Nurseries Ltd which operates across West and North Yorkshire. The nursery operates from four playrooms in a large detached property in the grounds of the Halifax Hospital Trust on the outskirts of Halifax town centre. The nursery serves parents employed by the Health Trust with some places open to the local community.

There are currently sixty-six children nought to five years on roll. This includes eighteen funded three- year- olds and six funded four -year- olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting does not currently support any children with special needs and has two children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 07:00 until 18:00.

There are thirteen members of staff who work with the children, six of whom have a level 3 qualification in early years. There are three members of staff with a level 2 qualification and four who are working towards level 3. The setting receives support from an early years advisory teacher and the company's management group.

They have the Investors in People award and recently achieved the National Day Nurseries Association Quality Counts Award.

How good is the Day Care?

The Children's Place Nursery provides good quality of care for children. There are very good comprehensive policies and procedures in place which effectively underpin the running of the setting in most areas and contribute to staff being fully aware of their roles and responsibilities. Space is clearly defined in the playrooms for the different activities available and the differing age groups. Staff work effectively as a team and have a good commitment to developing the setting which is evidenced by ongoing training and accreditation achieved.

Health, safety and hygiene within the nursery is fully addressed, ensuring that the environment is a safe place in which children can play and learn. Staff are active in promoting health and hygiene within the playrooms through good procedures and practices. Children's individual needs are effectively addressed including their dietary requirements and staff are aware of child protection issues.

A varied, flexible well planned routine is provided for the children, which includes activities indoors and outdoors. A very good range of activities in each of the age specific rooms are provided, are age appropriate and follow the Birth to Three Matters framework and the Foundation Stage. There is a wide range of resources available which cover all areas of children's development, some of which represent positive images of diversity in society. The majority of the resources and equipment are at child height encouraging choice and promoting independence. Staff fully involve themselves in children's activities which helps to foster the warm relationships apparent and impacts on the excellent behaviour of the children throughout the setting.

Partnerships with parents are very good. Parents have access to a wide range of information about the setting, both verbal and in written form and they are given the opportunity to regularly discuss the well being of their child with their key worker, thereby ensuring continuity of care.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the manager agreed to develop further the operational plan for the setting. Good improvements have been made. A comprehensive operation plan is now in place and is effective in its use as working document.

What is being done well?

- A good balanced healthy diet is provided for the children and they have very good access to drinking water throughout the day.
- The range of activities and resources offered to the children are very good and cover all areas of children's development. The Birth to Three Matters framework is used effectively in the under threes playrooms and children's assessment records are used skilfully to inform future planning.
- Safety, health and hygiene are fully considered ensuring that the environment is a safe place in which children can play and learn.
- Relationships with parents are very good. Parents receive good information about the setting and their children. They have access to their child's development records and key worker ensuring continuity of care is promoted.
- Staff develop good relationships with the children and effectively address individual needs. Staff listen to the children and involve themselves in the activities. This impacts on the children's interest in the activities and promotes the excellent behaviour of the children which was observed.

What needs to be improved?
the procedures for staff's domestic duties in the preschool room.

Outcome of the inspection
Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION
<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection	
Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure domestic duties do not impinge on staff's time spent with the children.

INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

How effective is the nursery education?

The Children's Place Nursery provides a high standard of care and education where children make very good progress in all six areas of learning in the foundation stage.

Teaching is very good. Staff have sound knowledge and understanding of the foundation stage and this is reflected in their planning of the curriculum and the challenges set for the children, taking into consideration their ages and abilities. Children's assessments are clearly linked to the stepping stones working towards the early learning goals and are used to inform future planning. Staff have built secure trusting relationships with the children, this impacts on the children's willingness to engage in activities and learn and in the excellent behaviour evident in the nursery. The setting provides very good resources to cover all areas of development. The areas of play are well organised and resources are all easily accessible ensuring self selection and encouraging independence. Effective systems are in place to support children with English as an additional language or those who have special educational needs.

Leadership and management are very good. The nursery benefits from a strong management team who have responsibility for overseeing specific areas of development within the organisation. This leaves the nursery manager to oversee the daily running of the nursery. Staff are valued and well supported and display commitment and enthusiasm as a result. There is a strong desire to continue to improve the quality of care and education provided. A quality assurance award has been achieved.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are well informed about all aspects of the setting through a variety of means both verbal and in written form. They have regular opportunities to discuss their child's progress and there is an effective key worker system in place.

What is being done well?

- Staff provide a very good range of purposeful activities which stimulates children's development in all areas according to age and ability.
- Children are effectively beginning to develop their handwriting skills. Some three year olds can form recognisable letters of the alphabet and some four year olds are writing their own names unaided.
- Partnerships with parents are very good. Parents are provided with a very comprehensive range of information about the setting and have lots of opportunity to discuss their child's well being and progress with their key worker.
- The behaviour of the children is excellent, they have an awareness of the boundaries and expectations of the setting, they display good manners, take

turns, share and are considerate to one another.

- Staff build strong trusting relationships with the children which has a positive impact on children's dispositions to learn. Children are given time to immerse themselves into the activities and this has resulted in the high levels of concentration children display.

What needs to be improved?

- There were no significant weaknesses noted, however the following are aspects that would benefit from improvement.
- Systems for encouraging parents to be involved in their child's learning and extending this learning at home.
- Opportunities to boost children's self esteem, through helping staff do simple tasks such as give out snacks, drinks and set tables for meals.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The nursery has made very good progress since the last inspection in addressing the areas identified for improvement.

Staff now plan and organise some adult directed activities for specific children in small groups as a strategy to promote learning. Children spend short periods of time in small groups or doing one to one work with a member of staff on focused activities, which has improved children's ability to concentrate.

Strategies have also been improved to enable children to sit quietly in large groups and listen attentively to stories. Children now spend regular periods during the day in circle time and display excellent listening skills to stories and to each other.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children show good levels of curiosity and display high levels of involvement in all of the activities. They work well in groups, share and take turns and display excellent abilities to concentrate for long periods of time. Children have a very good understanding of the expectations of the nursery and have strong relationships with the staff, which impacts on the children's ability and disposition to learn.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children listen and respond with enjoyment to stories and songs and recall events in their own words. They interact, negotiate and speak clearly and use language to explore feelings, sounds and ideas. Children are beginning to link sounds to letters of the alphabet; they can write and form recognisable letters, with some four-year-olds writing their own names. They are beginning to understand that print carries meaning.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children confidently use and recognise numbers and use practical activities to solve mathematical problems, for example when using construction, sand and water. Children can reliably count up to ten, with more able four -year -olds counting well above this number. They also use mathematical language appropriately when they compare and describe size, shape and position.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children explore features of the living things and observe changes to materials and their environment using a range of tools. Children build and construct with a wide choice of materials and use technology very competently to support their learning. They learn about and respect different cultures and beliefs enabling them to understand the world in which they live.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move confidently and safely indoors and outdoors. They develop good control and confidence when using outdoor equipment, such as balls, swings, slide and balancing apparatus and use a wide range of tools indoors to develop their fine skills for example using pencils, glue sticks, scissors, and shape cutting implement. Children are showing a preference for being right or left handed. Children are beginning to develop bodily awareness, they comment when they are tired, thirsty and cold.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children explore shape, colour, form and texture, making models and paint or design collage. They practice real and imagined experiences in the home bay, vets surgery and whilst playing in the sand. They enjoy music, dancing and musical instruments and sing simple songs from memory. They have access to a wide range of materials to creatively express ideas, thought and feelings.	

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- There were no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- provide more opportunities for children to develop self esteem by encouraging children to be monitors for specific tasks in the setting
- reintroduce the system already available for informing parents of activities their children are involved in and ways of extending these activities at home.

The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.