

Royal Village Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Inspection date 07 July 2008

Inspector Lisa Paisley

Setting Address Royal Village Day Nursery, David's House, Alexandra Road,
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, SS1 1HD

Telephone number 01702 435435

E-mail info@royalvillage.co.uk

Registered person Village Day Nurseries Ltd

Type of inspection Integrated

Type of care 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.

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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Royal Village Nursery is one of three settings owned by Village Day Nurseries Limited. It opened in 2002 before changing ownership in 2008. It operates from a converted synagogue in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. A maximum of 100 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07.30 to 18.00 all year round. All children share access to a soft play gym and to a small secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 99 children aged from birth to under eight years on roll. Of these, 22 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local and wider areas. The nursery currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 20 staff. Nineteen staff, including the managers, hold appropriate early years qualifications. There are currently five staff members undertaking further professional development. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from being cared for in an environment where effective hygiene practices and procedures are maintained. Children learn about hygiene routines through washing their hands appropriately, for example, before snack and meal times and after creative activities. Photographs and signs placed at child's height in the toilet areas provide children with further reminders to wash their hands appropriately. Children have access to antibacterial soap, warm running water and paper hand towels ensuring the risk of cross-infection is minimised. Staff act swiftly and take effective steps in the event of any signs of infectious diseases, such as sterilising toys, equipment and all play areas of the nursery. Good dental hygiene practices are encouraged as children clean their teeth after the lunch time meal. Over half of the staff hold a current first aid certificate and comprehensive written care plans are in place outlining procedures to be followed. Staff have a good understanding of procedures for supporting children who may be unwell, have an accident or require further medical attention. As a result, effective and prompt action is taken in the event of an accident, administering medication or an emergency situation.

All children enjoy exceptional opportunities to engage in physical activities and have access to an extensive range of outdoor play equipment and soft play equipment located in the gym area of the nursery. Children have daily opportunities to use the soft play gym where staff organise both free-play and purposeful activities for children. They particularly enjoy bouncing large balls, going through tunnels, rolling hoops, building high towers and climbing in and out of the ball pool. Children use a very wide range of tools and equipment to develop their skills, such as Magnetix, threading, pegs and scissors. As a result, children are making excellent progress in all areas of their physical development.

Children's awareness of the benefits of healthy eating is actively promoted at snack and meal times. Children enjoy a variety of healthy snacks, such as fresh fruit and vegetables. Older children are able to self-select their snack and pour themselves drinks, fostering independence and choice. Meal times are a relaxed sociable time where children are effectively supported, the children are able to talk freely about everyday events, this includes 'my favourite food'. Young children are encouraged to wash their hands independently before snacks and meals and their requests for additional drink and food are responded to appropriately by staff. They learn why some foods are better for our bodies than others through general discussions and planned topics which include 'All about me'. Children are able to rest and relax in excellent surroundings according to their individual needs and daily routines. Staff maintain comprehensive written records for each child to ensure their individual health and dietary requirements are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The nursery has highly effective and secure measures in place to ensure that risks to children's safety, both indoors and outdoors, are minimised. This includes clear procedures for the safe arrival and departure of children to and from the nursery. Key coded entry systems for both the baby unit and main nursery entrances ensure all visitors are vetted prior to entering the nursery. Children's safety is further supported by comprehensive risk assessments and clearly written safety procedures in place that staff know about and that are consistently applied. Staff have an effective awareness of how to organise space, furniture and equipment effectively

to enable children to move freely and independently between activities and different play areas. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through regular fire drills and by gentle reminders from staff such as negotiating the stairs safely, tidying away toys and older children devise their own safety rules. As a result, children are settled and confident within the nursery and are safe and secure.

The nursery has recently been refurbished to create openness and natural light within all areas of the provision, subsequently an enabling environment for all children has been successfully created. All the group rooms and communal areas are brightly decorated with a combination of children's photographs, posters, displays, art work. Children continuously and enthusiastically look at the range of photographs displayed at their level. The premises are exceptionally clean, well lit, effectively heated and ventilated, ensuring that it is suitable for children to use at all times. The soft play gym area has recently been fitted with air conditioning to ensure children can play in comfort all year round. All children benefit from using a comprehensive range of toys, resources and play equipment which are maintained to an excellent standard. Children enthusiastically self-select their own play resources which are appropriate to their ages and stages of development. Play equipment and resources are effectively stored at child height, promoting independence and choice.

Children are exceptionally well protected as staff have a very good understanding of child protection procedures and how to keep children safe as most of the staff have attended child protection training. A comprehensive written policy is in place and staff are able to recognise signs of abuse and know who to contact if they are concerned about a child in their care. A named staff member is responsible for child protection and they have a clear understanding of their role, through attending training and keeping up to date with any changes such as the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Parents are informed of the group's responsibility regarding child protection reassuring parents of their child's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

All children enjoy their time at the nursery as they are settled, confident and curious in a creative and child friendly environment. Staff are sensitive to children's needs and provide a wide range of activities which are interesting and stimulating. For example, treasure baskets, sensory materials, cog wheels, role play, low wooden playhouse and a good selection of soft play toys and books. Staff have developed warm and effective relationships with the children, enabling them to feel secure and develop a strong sense of their own self-worth. There is a designated messy play area for young children providing them with exceptional opportunities to participate in creative activities. This includes rice, painting, play dough, sand and water play. The two-year-olds particularly enjoyed making Naan bread, mixing the ingredients and rolling the dough mixture. Young children use both the outdoor play and gym areas on a regular basis to further support their physical development.

Babies and young children are encouraged to take the lead in selecting activities and staff support this by close supervision, praise and encouragement. Consequently children are able to take their time to explore and investigate toys and resources. Staff spend time talking to them and asking questions to help with the development of language and communication skills. Babies particularly enjoy treasure baskets where they can investigate natural and sensory materials. The nursery has successfully implemented the 'Birth to three matters' framework; they are now focussing on the implementation of Early Years Foundation Stage and effective steps has been taken through training, planning, reviewing and self-evaluating their current

practice. Consequently, babies and young children receive high levels of care and support that is based on their individual needs and interests.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of the curriculum. Staff have an excellent understanding of the Foundation Stage and they have also successfully implemented the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure the transition between both frameworks is smooth and seamless. Children achieve well as a result of clear planning and assessment systems and effective teaching methods. Plans clearly show how activities will be adapted to meet individual needs and abilities and ensure children are appropriately challenged. Staff have a good awareness of their role within an activity and support children well through effective questioning. Staff make good use of individual assessments to identify children's achievements and to plan the next stage in their learning. Children's comments and individual interests are beginning to inform future activity plans, ensuring that their learning is being successfully captured by staff. Staff provide a rich and stimulating play and learning environment to engage children's interests and enable them to enjoy their play and learning experiences.

Children are keen to participate in the range of activities provided and are encouraged to independently select resources and initiate their own activities and games. Children show a strong sense of belonging as they greet staff and each other upon arrival. They work well together and understand the importance of co-operation during group activities. For example, children take turns in answering questions during registration. They are very confident and skilled speakers, using a very good range of vocabulary to convey their experiences both real and imaginary. Children have access to a wide range of age-appropriate books and they particularly enjoyed listening to 'The Bear Hunt', this helps to foster their enjoyment of stories and reading. Children also enjoy recalling particular stories linked with topic work, for example, 'The Whale and the Snail' when children made a volcano. Name labels are used by children as part of daily routines, for example, self-registration and snack time. Children confidently use tools and resources to make marks and more able children are able to write their names independently. Children are developing a very good awareness of letter shapes and sounds and more able children are able to phonetically sound out their name.

Children are making good progress in their mathematical development, older and more able children are able to count up to 10 and beyond as there are continued daily opportunities for children to use mathematical concepts throughout daily routines such as addition and subtraction. There are excellent cooking activities, for example, baking biscuits. There is also daily water and sand opportunities for children to learn about capacity, weight and measurement and they use appropriate language to describe and compare size and shape. Children have excellent opportunities to find out about the natural world through daily discussions and enjoy exploring their environment, for example, trips out to the local park, beach and library and children are active participants in shopping trips when planning cooking activities. Visitors such as the police officer, fire safety officer and dental nurse are invited into the provision, developing children's sense of the local community and people's roles. They are developing a good awareness of the uses of information technology in everyday life and are able to operate equipment, such as the computer, domestic items and battery operated resources. Children talk with interest about their own lives, recent experiences and transitions, for example, children starting school. Children's imaginations and free expression are successfully encouraged when playing musical instruments, singing, painting, role play and craft activities. Their physical skills are effectively promoted through an extensive variety of equipment, for example, climbing frame, balls, hoops

and tricycles. They move safely around the building, both indoors and out, enjoy balancing, running, skipping and using bean bags. Children have good opportunities for practising their finer manipulative skills such as threading, Magnetix, scissors and puzzles.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are warmly welcomed into the nursery which helps them to feel happy, secure and settled. Children benefit from having access to an extensive range of play resources which promote positive images of diversity and from participating in activities which promote their awareness of different festivals and cultures. For example, Diwali, Eid, Hanukah, Christmas and Shrove Tuesday. Parents are encouraged to bring in items or food linked with the festival. Children have good opportunities to learn about themselves, other people and the world around them through well-planned activities. Each child is valued and respected as an individual and the nursery staff know the children's individual personalities well. Staff work exceptionally well with children who have learning difficulties and have English as an additional language, for example, learning key words in their home language. Any special requirements or information are discussed and consistent communication and information exchange takes place. Consequently, an inclusive environment is effectively promoted.

Children settle quickly at the nursery as staff work successfully with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met. Staff actively seek information from parents before a child starts at the nursery regarding their interests and abilities. This enables them to build on and develop children's previous knowledge, understanding and skills. Children are consistently very well behaved and they have a very strong sense of caring for others, which is strongly promoted by staff. Children are well supported by staff who regularly use praise and encouragement to promote children's self-esteem. They learn to share play equipment, take turns and increasingly take responsibility for their own actions. Children have a very good sense of self-control through the positive role models that staff provide. The children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Partnership with parents and carers is outstanding. This contributes positively to the well-being of all children attending the nursery. Staff are professional, friendly and welcoming towards them as they share relevant information, which helps to promote a secure environment for the children. Parents have been informed about the Early Years Foundation Stage and how the framework has been implemented within the provision. There are regular newsletters and a comments box is available to parents. Television monitors located in both reception areas of the main nursery and the baby unit provide parents with a very good range of digital images of their child participating in a variety activities. Older children's learning within the home is linked with current topic work such as 'Summer'. Staff share information on a daily basis both written and verbal, as well as more formal meetings. This is further promoted through the 'open door' policy implemented by the nursery. Parents and staff work exceptionally well together to meet the children's needs. They receive excellent quality information about the nursery and in turn share their knowledge of the children.

Parents are aware of how to make complaints about the provision and these are dealt with in a prompt and professional way. Staff listen to parents' concerns and, where appropriate, adapt their policies and procedures accordingly.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care and developmental progress is enhanced by the effective and comprehensive planning and organisation of the nursery. Robust recruitment and vetting procedures are in place, ensuring experienced and knowledgeable staff who are suitable, work at the nursery. Staff make excellent use of all areas of the nursery, daily routines, resources and play equipment. As a result, children are able to move freely and independently around the environment accessing a good range of activities which support their play and learning.

All required documentation including policies and procedures and registration details are clearly formatted, comprehensive and are effectively organised which contributes to children's overall welfare, learning and development. Documentation is regularly reviewed to ensure high standards are maintained and that the nursery consistently meets the National Standards.

The leadership and management of the nursery is outstanding. The registered providers, managers and staff are highly committed, professional, enthusiastic and extremely well-motivated in their approach to providing all the children with positive early years play and learning experiences. The manager including the deputy have effectively supported the nursery during the transition with regard to the change of ownership. The new owners are very receptive to new ideas for areas of improvement, this includes staff development, the re-organisation of the baby unit and the purchase of new resources and equipment. Staff have recently taken on additional roles and responsibilities such as inclusion and health and safety and they carry out their roles effectively. Clear and effective induction procedures and appraisals have recently been implemented to ensure all staff feel fully supported and valued in their role. The positive changes with regard to staff roles, the organisation of the baby unit and additional resources has had an overall impact on the welfare, care and learning for all children. All the staff are effective in creating an environment that enables children to be active participants. Excellent staffing ratios are maintained at all times during the day to ensure children are effectively supervised and supported during activities and transitions such as lunch and sleep times. Staff have an excellent awareness of the policies and procedures which are in place. Consequently, children are cared for by knowledgeable staff and benefit from continuity of care.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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.

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The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of nursery education are outstanding.

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