



## **Bullion Lane Nursery**

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** EY312551  
**Inspection date** 04 January 2006  
**Inspector** Lynne Pope

**Setting Address** Bullion Lane Nursery, Bullion Lane, Chester le Street, County Durham, DH2 2DP

**Telephone number**

**E-mail**

**Registered person** Buttercup Nurseries

**Type of inspection** Childcare

**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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

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

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Bullion Lane Nursery is one of five provisions run by Buttercup Nurseries. It opened in 2005 and operates from purpose built premises. It is situated approximately one mile from Chester le Street town centre. A maximum of 44 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07.30 until 18.00 for 52 weeks of the year.

There are currently 26 children aged from 6-weeks to 5-years-old on roll. Children come from a large catchment area. The nursery supports children with special needs.

The nursery employs 10 staff. Seven of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is working towards a recognised early years qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment. The majority of staff hold a first aid certificate ensuring the physical safety of children. Children have an awareness of hygiene routines. For example, hand washing before snacks and lunch. However, the nappy changing bin is accessible to children causing a health hazard.

Staff have a clear understanding of children's dietary needs. Their wellbeing is enhanced by accessing a healthy diet. Babies' needs are responded to promptly. Staff make them comfortable as they have their bottles. Older children enjoy the positive experience at snack and lunch time as they sit together and chat to each other about what they have done. They are encouraged to develop their independence when feeding themselves. However, older children are not given opportunities to develop their independence further. For example, learning to pour their own drinks, make choices about food and serving themselves.

Children enjoy physical activities. They enthusiastically take an active part in physical exercise learning about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle. Ring games and parachutes are just some of the activities they take part in. They confidently manage their bodies to move around available space following instructions, or being spontaneous. Children are able to rest or sleep as they need.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a well-organised spacious environment. The playrooms are made welcoming with colourful posters and children's art work displayed, giving them ownership of the environment. Children enthusiastically select activities from a broad range of well-organised resources developing their independence.

Children benefit from a satisfactory range of safety measures. For example, socket covers, fire extinguishers, secure premises and a fully enclosed outdoor play area. However, they are able to access the kitchen when meals are being prepared, compromising their safety. They develop a good awareness of safety through practising emergency evacuations regularly. Babies and young children sleep safely and are comfortable. They are frequently monitored.

Most staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of the nursery policies and procedures that protect children.

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

The provision is good.

Staff in the setting provide a calm, consistent environment where children are happy and settled. Children build good relationships with staff and peers. They are motivated and interested in a broad range of developmentally appropriate activities which provide good levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. They are proud of their achievements talking about what they are doing. Some older children are beginning to understand the needs of others by understanding the concept of sharing. They co-operate well, for example, taking turns with the jumping frog.

Staff follow young children's lead as they explore the environment. Young children show emerging confidence and independence as they begin to select their own toys. They benefit from staff's close interaction with them as they get down to their level, establishing eye contact and talking to them about what they are doing. All children enjoy singing and listening to stories.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a positive attitude to others and gain a good understanding about the wider world through stories, songs, celebrating festivals and investigating resources in the nursery. Staff are beginning to raise their awareness through visits into the local environment. They are calm and consistent in their approach to behaviour management. They use timely interventions where they use distraction or clear instruction which protects the child. Children receive regular praise for their achievements developing their self-esteem.

A satisfactory partnership with parents is beneficial to the continuity of care that the children receive. They are kept regularly updated on their child's progress and the provision through a daily record sheet which informs them about all aspects of their child's day. Children settle well as a result of staff working closely with parents. The complaints procedure is in place, however, it does not reflect changes in legislation or make clear that parents can approach Ofsted with a concern at any time. There is no record of complaints in place.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children that attend. All records are accurate and up to date. Staff are enthusiastic and committed ensuring that children's time is fulfilling and productive. Close monitoring of group sizes and staff deployment contributes to children's safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to take part in the setting. A good balance is maintained between physical exercise and rest periods. Children are cared for in a well-organised environment.

Staff have access to relevant training and appropriate support, such as staff meetings and appraisal sessions. The required policies and procedures are in place which supports the care of the children. However, the recruitment, vetting and child protection policies need updating to reflect recent changes in legislation. The induction programme and good teamwork make sure that staff work together well. However, procedures are not sufficiently monitored to ensure that all staff are secure in the procedures for child protection.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

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. There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

## **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 satisfactory. 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):

- develop older children's independence at snack and meal times
- ensure that the nappy changing bin is not accessible to children
- ensure that children cannot gain access to the kitchen
- further develop the complaint procedure to reflect changes in legislation, to ensure a record is available and so that parents are aware that they can contact Ofsted at any time should they have a concern
- ensure that the induction procedure is robust enough so that all staff are fully aware of the policies and procedures, in particular child protection
- ensure that the recruitment procedure is updated to reflect changes in legislation.

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)