

Sandwell Academy Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY348290
Inspection date	23 August 2007
Inspector	Jackie Nation
Setting Address	Halfords Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 4LG
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Registered person	Sandwell Academy Trust Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care, Sessional 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

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 SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Sandwell Academy Nursery opened in 2007. It is run by the governors of Sandwell Academy Trust Limited in West Bromwich. It operates from a room within the Academy and serves children of teaching staff and children in the local community. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

A maximum of 18 children under five years may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open weekdays from 08:00 until 17:30, and from 08:00 until 17:00 on Fridays for 47 weeks of the year. Children attend a variety of sessions.

There are currently 13 children on roll. The nursery has strategies in place to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

There are three members of staff employed at the nursery, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

The nursery receives support from the local authority early years service.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because good health and hygiene practice is promoted throughout the nursery. Children begin to develop an understanding about the need to practise good routines of personal hygiene and learn about the importance of personal hygiene through well-established daily routines. Babies and younger children become familiar with hygiene routines whilst having their nappies changed or when having their face and hands cleaned at meal times. Staff follow effective procedures to promote good standards of hygiene with regard to changing nappies, cleaning equipment and providing individual bedding for children, this helps to minimise the risk of cross-infection. Good standards of cleanliness are maintained in the nursery. These measures ensure children are kept safe from the spread of infection.

Children's health care needs are supported appropriately with policies and procedures which work in practice. For example, if they require medication, have an accident or become unwell. The nursery obtains written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. A member of staff, that is qualified to administer first aid, is on duty and therefore respond appropriately to accidents should they occur. However, their knowledge of notifiable diseases is limited as they do not have access to an up-to-date list, which potentially compromises children's welfare. Children are learning about healthy living as they know they need to put sun cream on and wear hats when it is sunny.

Children are well nourished and all aspects of their individual dietary needs are discussed with parents and information about specific needs are recorded. Good arrangements are in place for the provision of nutritious and appetising meals and snacks. Meals are freshly cooked on the premises each day and promote healthy food options, for example, they are served with a selection of vegetables and are offered fruit, such as apple and banana. Children's individual dietary requirements are respected. Fresh drinking water is available at all times and some older children confidently help themselves. Babies join older children for snack and lunch time to make it a social occasion. Children enjoy chatting to friends and staff at meal times, with older children sitting and organising the table using their individual place mats.

Daily routines and activities ensure a good balance of energetic play and opportunities for children and babies to rest. Babies' sleep routines are effectively accommodated because a quiet room for sleep is provided. Older children can also have a sleep or enjoy quiet activities after lunch. Babies are able to be physically active and staff ensure they have room to practise rolling over, crawling, standing and walking. They are encouraged to reach out and move towards toys and equipment. All children enjoy exercise and develop a positive approach to this through regular opportunities for indoor physical activity and outside play. Although the dedicated children's outside play area is limited, staff and children explore the extensive school grounds and visit local parks to promote children's learning. Staff also plan music and movement activities for children using the dance and drama studio and the sports hall when they are available. This helps to contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. The organisation of the nursery and use of appropriate resources helps children to become independent and explore

their environment in a safe manner. Children use a good range of child-size furniture, equipment and toys that are appropriate for their purpose, of suitable design and condition and well maintained. Good attention is given to cleaning toys and equipment to make them hygienic and safe for children to use.

Children play in an environment which is effectively organised and where potential hazards have been assessed by staff. Staff are vigilant and they supervise the children well. The setting has good security precautions in place and access to the premises is effectively monitored by close-circuit television. Visitors to the setting are required to show identification prior to entering the campus, sign the visitors book and wear a visitors badge to identify them as they are escorted to the nursery. All staff and children are signed in and out, therefore there is a clear record of who is in the nursery at all times. Effective procedures are in place for the safe collection of children from the nursery, parents are asked to keep the nursery informed of any alternative arrangements. Children understand the necessary boundaries in place to keep them safe because staff discuss safe practices with them as they use toys and equipment during their play, for example, when they use scissors or play in the sand.

Children's welfare is further protected by staff's sound knowledge and understanding of child protection. Most staff have attended child protection training and understand their role and responsibility to protect children in their care. The child protection policy is shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at nursery, they play together happily and are comfortable in their surroundings. The environment is child-centred and the friendly approach of staff provides a relaxing atmosphere for children to play and learn. This results in children being happy and settled. Those who are new to the setting are helped to settle by staff that are sensitive towards their individual needs. Babies respond well to the staff's gentle responses, smiles and praise during play, care routines and meal times. They benefit from routines which are consistent with their home experiences and develop a strong bond with their key worker. Staff provide a good range of experiences and activities for children. Most of the activities are child-led and this helps children engage in their play and absorb the learning opportunities provided for them. Babies' early development is supported as they begin to roll, crawl and attempt to stand up and take their first steps. All children are able to explore their senses as staff plan a range of creative activities for them to take part in, for example, painting, play dough, sand and water play.

Staff have a good understanding of the range of experiences and activities to enable all children to make good progress in all areas of their learning and development. There are many opportunities for children to develop their independence and self-esteem. The environment is arranged with activities and resources which encourage this and gives children the opportunity to be spontaneous, creative and imaginative. Children enjoy choosing their own creative resources, cutting and sticking activities, free painting and playing with play dough. They use their imagination well and thoroughly enjoy playing in the tent with their friends. They like using the camera to take photographs, and use tape measures and binoculars as part of their play. Children are beginning to show a sense of belonging to the group as they greet each other and staff on arrival. Children are developing some personal independence, for example, in dressing, personal hygiene and helping to tidy away toys. Children are self-assured in their play and confident to try new experiences in a supportive environment. They are sociable and readily engage their peers, staff and visitors in conversation and play. All children benefit from warm

relationships with staff who are genuinely interested in what they say and do. They give children lots of praise and encouragement. This helps children feel valued and appreciated, which builds their confidence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals. Good detailed records of children's individual needs ensure they settle well into nursery life. Children are encouraged to play alongside each other sharing both space and toys. Good behaviour is valued and staff talk calmly to children, give gentle reminders and suitable explanations when issues arise. They praise what children do well and this contributes to children having positive self-esteem and helps them to become confident.

Children's understanding of the wider world and diversity is developing through planned activities and the use of positive images resources, such as puzzles, books, dressing-up clothes and outings in the local community. The setting is positive about inclusion and children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities receive appropriate support to ensure their welfare and development is promoted. Staff recognise the importance of establishing good relationships with parents and other professionals to ensure children with special needs are included in all aspects of play and make good progress.

Partnership with parents is good. A good range of information is gathered at the admission stage, this includes details of children's specific needs, care needs and parents' preferences. Parents are made welcome in the setting, staff spend time speaking informally with parents at the end of each day. Information shared is supported by a daily written sheet about their child's day. This includes a record of personal care such as how long a child has slept, what and how well they have eaten and how frequently their nappy is changed. Helpful information about the provision is available for parents; this includes information displayed on notice boards and access to the setting's policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from attending this well-organised, friendly nursery. The organisation of the nursery ensures that children are grouped appropriately so that they feel secure, confident and their needs are met. The routine is designed to support children having freedom of choice and there are opportunities for spontaneous activities as the children develop their own ideas and play.

Effective procedures are in place to ensure children are cared for by suitable staff who are appropriately vetted, suitably qualified and experienced to carry out their roles. Training opportunities available to staff help to maintain their professional development. Staff work well as a team and this contributes to the smooth operation of the day. There are a number of ancillary staff who work at the Academy who effectively support the nursery with regard to catering, cleaning and maintaining the premises. Registration systems for children, staff and visitors are maintained effectively. Children's personal information is stored securely which helps to maintain confidentiality.

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.

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):

- update knowledge of notifiable diseases identified as such in the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984.

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