



# Lollipops Nursery School & Crèche

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY311830
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 February 2006
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<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Lollipops Nursery School and Crèche was registered in 2005. It operates from ground floor premises located near Hereford city centre. A maximum of 55 children may attend the setting at any one time. The setting opens six days a week all year round. Sessions are from 07:00 until 18:00 on weekdays and from 08:30 until 17:30 on Saturdays.

There are currently 105 children aged from 3 months to under 5 years on roll. Of these, 52 children receive funding for nursery education. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs and also supports

children who speak English as an additional language.

There are thirteen members of staff who work with the children. Twelve of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from a mentor teacher from the local authority.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is protected through well-planned daily routines and learning from example. They receive sensitive support in learning to manage their own personal care as they wash their hands before meals, after toileting and outside play. Good procedures are in place such as staff consistently wearing disposable gloves and aprons for nappy changing. These help sustain high levels of hygiene and help to prevent the spread of infection. The nappy changing area is colourful and stimulating with mobiles and murals for the children to explore whilst having their nappy changed. Children's needs during rest and sleep times are carefully considered, with comforters and special toys kept close by so that children always feel emotionally secure. The premises and equipment are maintained to a good standard of cleanliness and older children enjoy helping with appropriate tasks to keep the room and equipment clean and tidy.

There are good arrangements and policies in place to care for children who are ill. If children become ill whilst at the setting, staff ensure they are made comfortable and cared for sensitively while waiting to be collected by parents. Staff are trained in administering first aid and have appropriate permissions and records in place regarding the administration of medication to children. Records are kept of all accidents in the setting and are effectively shared with parents. Tissues are readily available for the children, who learn to cover their mouths when sneezing or coughing to avoid spreading germs.

Children benefit from outdoor play each day, when the weather permits. They develop confidence and enjoy moving with control as they use their bodies in different ways and through the use of a range of equipment and resources. Babies and young children are given plenty of space to roll, move and kick, and they learn to use their hands and fingers through playing with shape sorters and simple interlocking bricks. They also benefit from being taken out for walks in the turtle bus to enjoy the fresh air and explore their surroundings. Pre-school children develop a good awareness of the importance of exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. They recognise when they are thirsty or out of breath and have a developing understanding of warming up their bodies before they exercise. Children enjoy running around in the fresh air with their friends and develop climbing and balancing skills as they use a range of equipment. They move spontaneously with increasing control and coordination, and are developing an awareness of personal space. They successfully manoeuvre themselves to avoid bumping into each other as they play. Children enjoy practising their throwing, catching and kicking skills when playing with staff. They effectively use tools to roll and cut out shapes in dough and demonstrate

increasing control when making marks with crayons, pencils and paint brushes.

Children's individual dietary needs are met effectively, as these are discussed in detail with parents who provide wholesome packed lunches for their children. A range of healthy and nutritious snacks are provided for children, including banana, apples and oranges. Mealtimes are sociable occasions and staff provide children with opportunities to develop their independence by choosing their own snacks and pouring their own drinks. Older children are encouraged to learn to open wrappings and cartons to help them learn the skills they will need when they attend school.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. They are based in rooms according to their age and stage of development. Children use a wide range of safe, good quality and developmentally appropriate resources. They have good access to their playthings, which are well organised in boxes at child height to encourage their independent access. The setting is welcoming to children and their families. Brightly coloured murals have been painted on a few of the walls around the nursery and many pieces of children's art work are displayed all around the building.

Indoor and outdoor space is organised effectively, creating a child-friendly environment which enables children to play and explore while being appropriately supervised. Children can move freely and are protected from harm. There is a good ratio of adults to children present, and staff are appropriately deployed, ensuring children are always well supervised. Babies and young children sleep safely and comfortably and are frequently checked. Parents' wishes regarding the length of time that they wish their child to sleep for are respected. Older children have a developing understanding of safe practices, for example, staff encourage them to tidy away toys and equipment to prevent tripping and remind them to not swing on their chairs. This helps children to take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe. Equipment is kept clean and in a good state of repair and is regularly checked for safety.

Children are protected and their welfare promoted through regular risk assessments of equipment and premises, regular fire drills and detailed risk assessments for outings. Effective security measures are in place to ensure children cannot leave the premises unsupervised. There are clear procedures to ensure children are collected only by authorised people. There is a clear child protection policy that is shared with parents and made available for all staff.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop close relationships with adults and each other as they play together in small groups and receive close attention. They benefit from staff's enthusiasm to

join in with their play and the steps taken to find out what children like, their interests and favourite activities. The daily routine and some basic planning provides children with a balanced range of varying learning opportunities, such as using their imagination during free play, talking about their lives during circle time, and learning about colours and numbers. They enjoy songs, counting everyday objects, stories and printing with paint, and often initiate their own play, such as making a dragon's den by placing a piece of material over a table.

Children enjoy their time at the setting and turn to staff readily as they play. Basic planning for the younger children at the setting ensures that they receive a suitable range of activities and experiences, but this would be further promoted if staff had regard to the 'Birth to three matters' approach. Babies and young children are well cared for because staff meet their individual routines and take time to hold, cuddle and play with them. They enjoy exploring natural materials and enjoy the sensory experience of paint and dough.

Daily outside play helps children to learn to move their bodies in different ways and to develop new skills such as pedalling bikes, learning to twist, climb and balance on the climbing frame or simply running across the grass with their friends.

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

The provision is good.

Children are made welcome and are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are well met and their individual likes and dislikes are well catered for. The children have the opportunity to learn about the needs of others and are encouraged to acknowledge differences in an open and honest environment. Children enjoy a wide range of resources and benefit from well-planned activities that promote a positive view of the wider world. This increases their awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. There are clear procedures in place to ensure that children with special or additional needs are included at the nursery and have their needs well met. Staff liaise closely with parents and are aware of the support available from outside agencies and health professionals.

The setting's environment is a positive one. There is a written behaviour policy which is shared with parents in order to secure a shared and understood approach. Children's behaviour is very good as they respond positively to the clear and consistent expectations and calm manner of all the staff. They learn to share and to take turns and to consider the effect of their behaviour on other children in the nursery. Children benefit from warm praise and encouragement from the staff. Good relationships have been formed between the children and their peers and also the staff. Children are tactile and loving and enjoy each others company.

Close relationships with parents and effective verbal and written systems for gathering and sharing information about children's needs, contribute positively to these being met. Parents are kept well informed about what their children do and are warmly welcomed into the setting. Trusting partnerships have been established with parents to help promote children's well-being, development and progress. Parents' knowledge of their child's needs and interests is actively sought prior to a placement

commencing and information continues to be shared throughout the child's time at the nursery. Parents know how to raise a complaint or concern on behalf of their children if they wish to. However, these are not recorded within the nursery and staff have not yet considered how this information can be shared with other parents on request. Parents are provided with an attractively presented prospectus and benefit from formal written reports on the child's care and development throughout the year.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The environment is effectively organised to allow the children to move freely between well spread out activities and select from a range of resources. Staff are well managed and there are good systems in place to provide clear direction, support and leadership. For example, regular staff meetings take place, and recruitment and induction procedures are effective. Staff training is given high priority and they have the opportunity to regularly attend local short courses to ensure that they are up-to-date with fresh ideas and information.

All of the required documentation is in place with the exception of records of existing injuries and incidents that arise. All records are well maintained, contain sufficient detail to enable appropriate care to be offered and are stored securely. The setting has a range of clear policies and procedures that are understood by staff and are effectively implemented in practice. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

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):

- continue to develop the range of opportunities and experiences for children under three, for example by using the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- devise a system for recording parental complaints or concerns in line with the new amendments to the National Standards
- ensure that existing injuries and behavioural incidents are recorded.

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)