



Stockingford Early Years Centre Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY301049
Inspection date 23 March 2006
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Registered person Stockingford Early Years Centre and Library

Type of inspection Childcare

Type of care Crèche

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Stockingford Early Years Centre Crèche opened in 2005. It operates from two rooms within the Early Years Centre in Stockingford, Nuneaton and children have access to an enclosed outdoor area. The crèche is managed by a voluntary committee made up of parents, governors and community members. The crèche is available for the children of students attending courses within the centre.

There are currently 15 children on roll and children attend for a variety of sessions. The crèche opens five days a week during term time and sessions vary each term in order to provide a crèche facility when students require. Currently the crèche is open

Monday and Thursday 12:00 to 15:00 and Friday 09:00 to 11:00.

Four staff work with the children and all staff have early year's qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Whilst attending the crèche children have access to a stimulating outside area where they benefit from fresh air, exercise and participating in a variety of physical activities. The outside area is currently being developed and children have helped to plant flowers and build a willow wigwam which will be a further resource for children to enjoy exploring.

Children learn about good health and hygiene through consistent routines and regular discussions with staff. For example, whilst washing their hands staff talk to children about their hands being dirty and needing to wash the germs away. Effective procedures are in place to minimise the possible spread of infections, including staff wearing aprons whilst preparing food, anti-bacterial spray being used to clean tables and children being provided with soap and paper towels for hand drying.

The health visitor who attends the centre often visits the crèche to support health topics and discussions planned by staff. Therefore children benefit from learning about other health and hygiene issues, including the importance of brushing their teeth. Parents are kept informed of their child's well-being and of all accidents involving their children. However, medication records do not require parents to sign to acknowledge that medication has been given, which may in turn compromise children's health.

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 also provided by the crèche, including breadsticks, crackers and fruit. Children are offered a choice of drinks at snack and meal times and are able to independently access drinks if they are thirsty, to ensure they remain hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely happy and settled in the clean and well-maintained environment. Thorough risk assessments are completed on a regular basis and all staff are highly committed to promoting children's safety. The premises are secure, only allowing authorised persons to have entry and children are closely supervised when playing inside and outside to ensure their safety. Staff are pro-active in promoting fire safety, are clear about the emergency evacuation procedures and provide regular opportunities for children to practise it so that they are familiar with

the routine.

Children have access to a wide range of good quality resources that are frequently checked for cleanliness and safety. Children are actively involved in taking responsibility for tidying away and looking out for the safety of other children. Children know that leaving small pieces of toys could be dangerous for babies, so tidy away eagerly when requested.

Children are well protected because staff have a professional understanding of the child protection procedures and are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities to protect the children in their care. There is a clear written policy in place, which is shared with parents. Staff know how to recognise the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and are confident about when to put the appropriate procedures into practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Staff work very well as a team and are enthusiastic and committed within their roles. They show obvious enjoyment in their work and take time to develop warm, caring relationships with the children in their care. They demonstrate an excellent understanding of child development and early year's guidance, including the 'Birth to three matters' framework. All children are extremely happy whilst attending the crèche and access a wide variety of activities which staff thoughtfully plan and prepare to encourage them to develop skills, knowledge and have fun.

The crèche room is an exciting child-centred environment and the children enjoy accessing the stimulating areas which staff have taken great care to accessorise using drapes and textured fabrics. Children currently have access to a beautifully decorated 'jungle area' where they are able to walk through the 'vines' to visit the wild animals or play with the African drums. Children take pride in their artwork and this is reinforced by consistent praise from staff and artwork being proudly presented in the form of photographs and wall displays.

Children engage in a wide range of interesting creative and sensory activities including play-dough, painting, custard, jelly and rice pudding play. Children enjoy making discoveries in the treasure boxes and talk about the textures of the items whilst deciding what they think their purposes are. Staff support these discussions allowing children time to fully investigate all items whilst praising children for the innovative ideas of what you could do with a hair roller.

Children also engage eagerly in a rich and stimulating range of activities that excite and captivate their concentration and curiosity. They develop their imagination as they sit in their cardboard box 'boats' casting out their scarf 'nets' to catch fish or play in the sand pit with their trowels and forks, digging up root vegetables which have been planted into the soil in their mini 'vegetable plots'.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and staff demonstrate a commitment to ensure all children are included and work in collaboration with parents and other professionals. Children have equal access to a good range of resources and activities that promote equality, including role play equipment, books and puzzles showing positive images. Staff also have the advantage of being able to access the well-equipped toy library within the centre to extend upon these resources. Children participate in a range of stimulating activities to promote their understanding of the needs of others and the wider world around them. Children are currently leaning about and exploring 'jungles' and were recently visited by an African story teller who brought his drums with him to accompany his stories.

Staff have a clear and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour. Children are well behaved, play well together and have formed positive relationships with other children and staff. Children have a good understanding of the boundaries and respond with enthusiasm to staff praise and encouragement. Children are able to take turns, with suitable adult support, and show care and concern for each other.

Positive and friendly relationships have formed between staff and parents, which contributes to children's well-being. Parents are encouraged to share information about their child's needs before they start at the crèche to promote consistency in care. Parents receive information about the crèche in the form of regular newsletters. They have access to the settings policies and procedures and their thoughts and ideas are requested via suggestion boxes and questionnaires. Staff respect the contributions that parents make and value the importance of their partnership with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The environment is very welcoming, due to the attractive presentation of children's artwork, which promotes children's sense of belonging and self-esteem. Children are cared for by enthusiastic and caring staff who enjoy their roles and who are committed to providing high quality care for children. Staff develop warm, positive relationships with the children in their care and take time to get to know them through talking to them and their families. Overall, the range of children's needs are met.

Children's welfare, safety and care are effectively promoted as staff ensure that all legally required documentation and records are maintained, however, the complaints log is currently not available to all parents to see on request. Staff are appropriately qualified and recruitment and vetting procedures are thorough, ensuring staff are suitable to work with children. Staff receive robust inductions into the policies and procedures of the setting, resulting in cohesive team working for the benefit of the children.

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):

- up-date the complaints procedure to include a complaints record to reflect amendments to the National Standards
- review the medication records and request that parents sign the record book to acknowledge the entry.

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