



Sure Start Creche - Thorntree

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY296176
Inspection date	09 March 2006
Inspector	Elaine Marie McDonnell
Setting Address	Thorntree Community Centre, Birkhall Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS3 9JW
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Registered person	Sure Start Middlesbrough
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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Sure Start Crèche Thorntree has been registered since December 2004. It operates from a designated room within Thorntree Community Centre, Middlesbrough. The crèche operates as and when required, usually when training sessions for parents are taking place, also within the community centre.

The provision is registered to provide care for up to 16 children under 8 years and the number of children attending varies each session. The number of staff on duty each session also varies depending on the number of children expected, all staff employed by Sure Start have experience of working with children and all have a relevant child

care qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because staff follow very good hygiene routines. For example, gloves and aprons are worn during nappy changing tasks and surfaces and hands are thoroughly cleaned before snack time.

Children are well nourished and during each crèche session they receive a snack of fresh fruit. Drinking water is always readily available for them. Staff try to introduce less common fruits, such as Kiwi, so that children have the opportunity to taste a wider variety. Staff work closely with parents to obtain up to date information about each child and ensure that individual dietary needs are well met.

Children have good opportunities to be involved in physical activity. There is no outdoor play area attached to the crèche but children have good opportunities to be involved in physical activity indoors, as this is planned into each session. Children have appropriate opportunities to rest and sleep according to their individual routines and appropriate furniture and resources are available.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. The play room is made very welcoming for children with a good range of activities and resources attractively presented for their arrival. Children have access to a good range of toys and play materials that cover learning in all areas of development. Staff ensure that resources are kept safe and suitable for children's use as they are checked for safety before and after each session.

Risks assessments are completed for crèche room before each session and before children are allowed access. Staff take appropriate steps to ensure a safe and secure environment for example, electric sockets are covered and the entrance door is kept secure. Children are beginning to learn to keep themselves safe with appropriate and timely explanations from staff, such as not to throw sand in case it goes in their eyes.

Children's welfare is well protected as good child protection procedures are in place and are understood by staff. Staff have access to training and to relevant documents and information in relation to child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are involved in a good range of activities that promote learning in all areas of

development, for example, they enjoy craft activities with drawing, painting and sand. They make good use of the book corner and the construction and role play areas.

Some members of staff have had training in the 'Birth to 3 matters' framework and others are due to attend training in the near future. Although the programme of activities for children is varied and suitable, it does not yet take account of the framework with regards to providing activities specifically for babies and the younger children.

Children's confidence and self esteem are well promoted as they receive lots of positive attention, praise and encouragement from staff. Children show lots of interest in what they do and enjoy playing with the resources available. Staff are sensitive to the children's needs and ensure that they are kept busy and occupied, for example, when the children pick up books staff promptly ask them if they want the story reading. Activity plans include appropriate opportunities for children to learn about wider society and the available resources and displays reflect positive images of other cultural backgrounds.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Equal opportunities is very well promoted within the setting as all children are included, valued and involved. Children receive excellent support and attention when separating from their parents and staff are skilled at helping them to settle into the crèche. Staff are sensitive to the children's needs and offer them drinks and take off cardigans when the children get warm.

Good procedures are in place for the identification and assessment of children with special needs however, there are no children with special needs or who speak English as an additional language currently attending the crèche. Children are well behaved and staff provide an environment which encourages good behaviour as children's confidence and self esteem are well promoted.

Staff work well in partnership with parents to ensure that children's individual needs are understood and are well met. Parents are kept informed of how their child has been during the session through discussions with staff. Parents views are effectively sought; if their child has attended for a 10 week block then parents are asked to complete an evaluation form in relation the care provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Recruitment and vetting procedures are rigorous and robust enough to ensure that children are cared for by appropriate staff. All members of staff have been vetted and all have an early years qualification. They have good access to ongoing training and development courses.

Adult-child ratios are above minimum requirements and result in children receiving

excellent care and attention. Staff deployment effectively contributes to children's care, learning and play and the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

All documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the provision is available, up to date and well kept. The policy and procedures of the provision work well in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and contribution in the setting.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 activities for younger children, for example, by using the Birth to three matters framework

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