



Sure Start Creche - Early Excellence Service

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY296182
Inspection date	03 May 2006
Inspector	Elaine Marie McDonnell
Setting Address	Early Excellence Service, Stainsby Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS5 4JS
Telephone number	
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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Sure Start Crèche - Early Excellence Service has been registered since December 2004. It is owned by Middlesbrough Borough Council and is run by them in conjunction with local Sure Start Centres. The provision is situated in Middlesbrough, in a building that was previously part of Whinney Banks Primary School.

Three rooms within the building are registered by the crèche. Up to 12 children under 8 years may be cared for at any one time, in two of the rooms and up to 26 children under 8 years may be cared for when the crèche takes place inside the hall. There is no outdoor play area attached to the crèche.

There are currently no children with special educational needs, or who speak English as an additional language, attending the setting. Sessions operate as and when needed, usually when parents or carers are attending training within the building.

Two members of staff are employed to work directly with the children and have appropriate early years qualifications. Other staff members are available when needed. At the time of the inspection three children are present, all aged 2 years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. Their health is well promoted as staff follow good hygiene procedures, for example, tables are cleaned before snack time, aprons are worn for nappy changing and regular hand washing is practiced. Appropriate accident and illness procedures are in place to prevent the spread of infection.

Children are appropriately nourished. Staff provide a healthy snack during each session, which is usually fresh fruit. Drinking water is readily available in cups that are appropriate for each individual child, for example, some have lids and some do not. Staff cooperate well with parents to receive relevant written information regarding children's individual dietary requirements and ensure that these are met. Snack time was a fairly relaxed and social occasion for the children, however, it was not well organised by staff. For example, the children washed their hands and sat waiting for some apple but staff had nothing to cut it with. The children went back off to play and returned later when the snack was ready.

Children have acceptable opportunities to be involved in physical activity indoors and enjoy rolling a large ball when playing skittles. There is also some age appropriate physical play equipment available, for example, a small tunnel and seesaw. Children have opportunities to be involved in quiet, restful activities too, such as drawing and listening to stories.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Possible risks have been identified and appropriate action taken by staff. The playroom is made warm and welcoming for children as a range of activities is attractively presented for their arrival.

Children have access to a satisfactory range of resources and activities. Staff ensure that resources and equipment remain safe and suitable for children's use with regular checking and washing routines. Health and safety policy and procedures are in place and are satisfactorily implemented by staff to ensure children remain safe. However, staff are not always deployed effectively and when a member of staff is attending to

children in the bathroom, this leaves only one member of staff in the crèche room.

Children's welfare is well safeguarded as staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and are aware of their responsibilities in relation to passing on any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are involved in a satisfactory range of activities and play experiences that cover development in all areas of learning. For example, some books and puzzles are readily available, the home corner, construction toys and physical play equipment are well used by the children. Some basic activity plans are displayed, both in relation to the Birth to three matters framework and the foundation stage of learning. However, the activity plan for this week does not reflect activities provided.

Children are interested in the toys available and remain busy and occupied for the main part of the session. Their confidence and self-esteem are promoted on occasions by staff, for example, the children are praised for eating apple at snack time and for sharing. Staff also clap when the children knock down skittles.

Children are acquiring some new skills and knowledge. For example, they learn how to roll a large ball rather than kick or throw it. They also learn to play a range of musical instruments in different ways, they do this by watching staff and listening to explanations of how to play each one. Activity plans include opportunities for children to learn about wider society as well as learning about aspects of their own culture.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Equal opportunities is appropriately promoted within the setting as all children are treated as individuals. Most of the children are beginning to settle in the crèche and are doing well considering it is only their second visit. Some staff work well with carers to support and reassure unsettled children. The children are well behaved and are beginning to form good relationships with staff.

There are currently no children with special educational needs, or who speak English as an additional language, attending the setting. Staff have a positive attitude towards caring for children with special needs and have access to relevant training courses. Appropriate procedures are in place for the identification and assessment of children with special needs.

The setting works well in partnership with parents. Parents receive an information leaflet that includes useful information about the provision. Policy and procedure documents are also available for parents to access at any time. Parents are kept informed of their child's development and progress through discussion with staff, usually at the end of each session. A complaints procedure is displayed for parents but does not include up to date contact details for Ofsted.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Rigorous recruitment and vetting procedures are in place to ensure that adults working with children are suitable to do so. Staff employed in the crèche have appropriate qualifications and have access to ongoing training and development courses. Since the last inspection one staff member has completed an introduction course in relation to the Birth to three matters framework and the other member of staff has completed a more in depth, 30 hour course. Management are currently in the process of devising an effective system for implementing the framework. Both members of staff state they have appropriate, up to date first aid qualifications, however, there is no evidence of this.

Adult-child ratios are maintained and for most of the session children receive appropriate adult support and attention. However, staff are not always deployed effectively to best promote the welfare and development of the children. For the most part, policies and procedures work in practice to satisfactorily promote children's health, safety and enjoyment. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Most documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the provision is available. However, not all contains accurate, up to date information.

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?
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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):

- ensure that staff are deployed effectively to promote the welfare and development of the children
- ensure that evidence relating to staff's first aid qualifications is available on site.

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