



Buttercup Children's Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY317755
Inspection date	12 May 2006
Inspector	Hilary Mary Mckenning
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Registered person	BMBC
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	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.

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?

Buttercup Children's Centre opened in 2005 and operates from three rooms within the purpose built unit in the primary school grounds in Cudworth near Barnsley. All children share access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area.

There are 29 children under five years on register, from the local catchment area. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 08.00 to 18.00, throughout the year. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The provision employs six members of staff, five holding appropriate early years

qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing a clear understanding of personal hygiene. They are familiar with the daily routine and learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times throughout the day. This helps to promote healthy practices, prevents cross infection and contributes to their personal care and comfort. Appropriate procedures are in place for the care of sick children. Signs and symptoms are promptly recognised and parents are informed, which ensures children are cared for appropriately.

Children benefit from a varied and balanced diet that takes account of the wishes of parents and children's individual choices to provide a healthy and suitable diet. They are able to access drinks easily from their individual beakers.

Children have access to regular physical exercise to develop their physical skills and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Appropriate use is made of the outdoor play area and children are encouraged to enjoy the benefits of being out in the fresh air. For example, a suitable range of outdoor play resources helps to promote physical activities. Younger children access play resources that develop their physical stages, for example, the development of hand and eye coordination, crawling, jumping and participating in simple games and action songs. Rest routines are incorporated into the daily routine and children's individual needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe environment both indoors and out. For example, a fully enclosed outdoor play area means children can move around freely and safely. Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff are vigilant and risk assessments are routinely completed. However, systems are not sufficiently monitored to ensure all safety measures are maintained at all times. Appropriate fire precautions are in place. Fire exits are clear of obstructions and fire evacuation plans are clearly displayed.

Children have the opportunity to select independently from a good and varied range of age appropriate play resources that are clean, well-maintained and meet safety standards. Play provision is checked on a regular basis to ensure it is suitable and presents no hazards. Particular attention is given to play provision for younger children, for example, there are no loose parts that may cause a child injury. This helps children to become aware of their own safety and foster a sense of responsibility for others. Resources are stored securely at child height, which promotes their independence, confidence and the opportunity to make choices about their play.

Children are generally well protected as the staff have a reasonable understanding of their role and responsibilities concerning child protection matters. Although staff do not record existing injuries to children, they have an acceptable understanding of child protection procedures and recognise the signs and indicators of child abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a warm and welcoming environment, where they are happy and confident. Particular attention is given to the development of children's social skills. The staff are skilled in promoting children's self-esteem and they receive lots of positive praise and encouragement for their achievements.

Children form good relationships with each other and staff and enjoy being part of the group. They are given appropriate levels of support and encouragement, which helps to develop their confidence and self-esteem. They confidently make choices about their play, selecting activities independently from the balanced range available. Children explore freely in activities such as water and sand play and find out what they can do with play dough. Children under two years enjoy many pleasurable experiences. For example, they laugh with delight as they have fun in the soft play area and ball games.

Children are developing good communication skills as staff actively listen to children. They involve older children in conversations and respond to babies' first impulse to communicate. For example, they provide many opportunities for face-to-face interaction, echo babies' sounds and talk through their actions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are met appropriately. This is due to the staff taking time to get to know the children and ensure their daily routine are followed. Children are happy and content and are showing a sense of belonging. They are familiar with daily routines and form good relationships with each other and staff. This results in children being independent and feeling safe and secure, through which they develop self-confidence and healthy self-esteem.

Children's awareness of equal opportunities is fostered appropriately. They have access to a wide range of resources, and are beginning to learn about cultures and beliefs through discussion and the celebration of festivals. Children behave well as staff follow a clear and consistent approach. They are given clear guidance and as a result, they are aware of what is expected of them and learning right from wrong in a warm and caring environment.

Partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. Parents are confident to approach staff and they are kept generally well informed. However, the complaints process is

not displayed and does not identify Ofsted's role. The centre is developing a communication systems to ensure information is shared and parents are kept informed of their child's achievements.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment where they can move around and explore freely. Staff work together as a cohesive team as they promote children's welfare. Children readily participate in activities and make good progress within a structured and safe environment.

Children benefit as staff access appropriate training and development opportunities. Children are supported by a good ratio of staff and the environment is bright and organised in a way that allows children to access designated areas of play effectively. Most required documentation is in place and stored appropriately. A satisfactory range of policies and procedures and verbal agreements with parents contribute to the safety and welfare of children. 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 the last inspection. 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.

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):

- ensure risks and hazards are identified and reduced effectively both indoors and outdoors
- ensure a record is kept of existing injuries to children
- ensure complaints procedure has information regarding the role of Ofsted is displayed for parents.

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