



Explore Learning

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY307799
Inspection date 02 May 2006
Inspector Carol Newman

Setting Address Sainsburys, Kiln Lane, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 1EQ

Telephone number

E-mail

Registered person Explore Learning Ltd

Type of inspection Childcare

Type of care Out of School 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Explore Learning (Epsom) registered in September 2005 and operates from one room in Sainsbury's Supermarket in Epsom. A maximum of 30 children aged from 5 years to 8 years may attend the provision at any one time. The provision is open each weekday from 15:00 to 20:00, Saturdays from 10:00 to 18:00 and Sundays from 10:00 to 16:00 term time only. The provision is also open from 10:00 to 18:00 throughout school holidays.

There are currently 240 members of the provision. Children come from a wide catchment area. The setting currently supports a number of children with special

educational needs and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The setting employs 13 staff. The Explore Learning group operate their own training programme that all staff attend and 3 members of staff hold a suitable, current first aid certificate.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The environment is clean and tidy and children receive appropriate support to develop good personal hygiene. A poster on the toilet wall reminds children to wash their hands.

Parents give prior written consent to administer medication that ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. However, as sessions are short, the administration of medication is not usually necessary.

Three members of staff hold a current first aid certificate that meets the requirements of the National Standards. This means they can give appropriate care if there is an accident, no food is allowed on the premises as sessions are very short. However, fresh drinking water is available at all times and children confidently help themselves. This encourages children to think about their personal needs.

Children's opportunities to participate in physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle are limited because this is a computer activity based provision.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The room is well organised and children can move freely from the learning area to the "Surf Club" at the end of their computer session. Children play and learn in a safe, secure, welcoming environment where the children's achievements are celebrated through motivational charts on the walls. Children enter their names on the "Uno" league chart which develops a sense of belonging.

There are excellent systems in place for the safe arrival and departure of children. Children sign in and out for themselves and are also recorded on the computer system. The gate is locked and children are handed over to their parent or carer at the end of their session.

Children learn the importance of emergency evacuations through carefully documented procedures that are given to parents. Staff are given specific training so that they are aware of their responsibilities and procedures are clearly displayed in the setting. This ensures the children's safety in the event of incidents such as fire. Staff carry out regular risk assessments to minimise hazards and ensure the safety of

the children.

The Manager and her deputy are aware of child protection policies and understand the procedures to follow if they have any concerns. This supports children's welfare. However, some staff are unaware of child protection issues and therefore would not be able to implement the policies and procedures in the absence of the designated member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children relate very well to the staff and to each other. They confidently approach staff for support indicating good trusting relationships are built. Children visit the provision to take part in a structured programme of computer activities to develop Mathematics and English skills. Computer activities are adapted to meet the individual children's needs.

Children benefit from lots of praise and encouragement through reward points, certificates and verbal praise. Activities are self rewarding when children are successful and children applaud the success of others. Staff are effective in supporting children who are less confident and challenge the more able children by open-ended questioning, encouraging them to think.

Children are well behaved and develop a good understanding of right and wrong. Staff use the incentives of the progress through the programmes "Thorny Devil" to "Salamander" to motivate the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children talk happily about their home life and things that are important to them. Constant praise and encouragement helps children develop a positive self-image. Staff encourage all children to participate in the activities provided. This ensures children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential.

The setting has experience of caring for children with special needs. This means staff are able to adapt activities to ensure all children are included. Staff manage children's behaviour calmly and patiently. This encourages children to respond effectively to any guidance and praise.

Most written parental permissions are in place to protect the children and to acknowledge parents wishes. However, written parental permission for photographs of the children to be taken and displayed is not requested.

Parents and staff work together and share information about children's individual progress and development. Continual assessment and monitoring ensures children's individual needs are fully met. Relationships with parents are friendly and supportive. Parents feel welcome and staff encourage them to become involved with their child's

learning and development through the four parent conferences each year. Staff ensure parents know how their children are progressing.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The room is very well laid out and staff show a clear understanding of their role in supporting the children in their play and learning.

Staff regularly attend "Explore Learning" training which is currently being accredited in order to meet the requirements of the National Standards. This ensures staff have sufficient knowledge of current child care practices to support the care and learning of the children. Staff work well as a team and clear communication and guidance allows them to provide a stimulating well-balanced Mathematics and English programme.

There are effective recruitment procedures in place. This means that suitable persons look after the children. All documentation required for the safe and effective management of the provision is in place. This contributes to the welfare of the children.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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):

- request written parental permission to take and display photographs of the children
- ensure all staff are aware of child protection issues and are able to implement the policies and procedures in the absence of the designated member of staff.

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