



North Bexley Sure Start

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY313049
Inspection date	12 December 2006
Inspector	Linda Patricia Coccia
Setting Address	174 Chandlers Drive, Erith, Kent, DA8 1LW
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	North Bexley Sure Start
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?

North Bexley Sure Start Children's Centre Crèche opened in 2005 and operates from one room in a purpose built building. It is situated in the town of Erith Kent. A maximum of 16 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche is open for planned sessions to support parent courses. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The crèche employs four staff who all hold appropriate early years qualifications.

There are currently children aged from three months to under five years on roll. Children come from a local catchment area. The crèche supports some children who speak English as an additional language.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children participate in effective personal hygiene procedures. They wash their hands after using the toilet, playing with messy play activities and before snacks. Toilets are kept clean and fresh. Staff dispose of nappies into a disposal bin and ensure that whoever uses the baby changing facilities cleans the changing mat after each use. Children are aware of personal hygiene issues as they are reminded to wash hands regularly. Accident records are well maintained and because parents are on the premises any medication or emergency treatment is carried out with parents present.

Children are given snacks which are healthy and nutritious. A dietician is on site who is able to give parents dietary advice for their child. Children are made aware of the food available to them at snack time and help choose what they would like. One child chose 'bread sticks and a drink please'. She also received bananas and apples. However, drinks are not made available to the children throughout the session for them to access for themselves. They have to wait till snack time. Staff are very aware of the individual dietary needs of children with different religious or medical backgrounds and provide appropriate options. Children's individual dietary needs are met.

Children play with a good range of physical play equipment from ride-ons and climbing frames outdoors to rolling around and climbing on soft play cushions and matting indoors. Children love to jiggle about to music and participating in group singing and action rhymes at the end of each session. Children enjoy their physical play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure environment with a welcoming atmosphere. The room is bright and airy. There is plenty of space for children to move around and play freely within safe boundaries. Toys and equipment are checked regularly to ensure they are safe and appropriate for all ages and stages of child development. An effective risk assessment procedure ensures potential hazards are identified and reduced. For example, the outdoor play area is checked every day before children go out, to ensure there are no safety concerns. Posters are displayed which remind children about being safe. For example not touching hot drinks or choking on small items. However, children have not had the opportunity to practise the emergency evacuation procedures, despite the centre testing the alarms every week. Children are beginning to learn about safety.

There are well written, clear, concise procedures for dealing with child protection issues which help keep the children safe. Staff are covered by Bexley Council's employment policies which include procedures to be used if any allegations are made against staff. The written information is shared with parents which ensures they have a good understanding of the group's role in protecting children. Children's well being is promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The provision is outstanding. Children enjoy their time in the crèche. They achieve well because staff are highly skilled and use their exceptional understanding of early years guidance, such as Birth to three matters to provide high quality care.

Most children arrive happy and eager to participate. New children are helped to settle by staff who are sensitive towards their individual needs. They are distracted from feeling upset by the staff's use of blowing bubbles and staff skilfully manoeuvre children onto other activities when they are ready. The youngest children make excellent progress because staff recognise the uniqueness of each child. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. High quality adult-child interactions are extremely supportive of early communication skills. Children begin to make sense of the world and express their ideas as they join in a diverse range of exploratory and sensory experiences. For example, feeling the vibrations on the bubble tube and playing in gloop. They become other people as they play in the well equipped home corner and thoroughly enjoy the range of craft materials available during each session.

Children experience a wide variety of activities and equipment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are highly valued as individuals. They develop a positive attitude to others and gain a good understanding about the wider world and community through celebrating festivals, tasting food from a variety of cultures and having access to a good range of play resources which show positive images of culture and ethnicity, although more could be provided on gender and disability. Currently no children with learning difficulties or disabilities attend but procedures are in place which would cater for their individual needs, such as a fully trained special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO).

Children behave well. They begin to understand right and wrong through consistent boundaries, praise and the age appropriate methods staff use to manage behaviour. Children are friendly, well behaved and learn to share and take turns. They understand the difference between right and wrong. This is because staff are good role models, support children according to their individual ages and stages of development and regularly praise their achievements and good behaviour.

All children benefit from consistency of care, due to staff and parents working closely together to support their needs. The provider takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept well informed about all the relevant policies and procedures available and through parents information boards and verbal communication at the end of each session.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The group displays their registration document. The provider ensures that the staff are suitable to work with the children through a robust recruitment and vetting procedure. All staff have been vetted and hold Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks. Induction procedures are available for students or newly employed staff. All staff have regular one to one sessions with managers, leading to a yearly appraisal system. The provider is planning to instigate staff meetings on a regular basis to allow staff to exchange ideas and skills. The provider also encourages staff to improve their childcare knowledge by attending courses and workshops. The provider ensures that all regulatory paperwork is in place, such as fully completed attendance records and complaints log. All paperwork relating to children and their families are stored appropriately and maintained confidentially.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- ensure water is made available to children throughout the session
- ensure children and staff have the opportunity to practise the emergency evacuation procedures.
- ensure positive images of disability and gender are available to children at all times.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk