



## Willows Centre for Children

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY320122
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 June 2006
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<b>Registered person</b>	Willows Centre for Children
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day care, Sessional care, Out of School 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](http://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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Willows Centre for Children opened in 2005 and operates from North End in Portsmouth. A maximum of 80 children may attend the setting at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07:45 until 18:00 for 50 weeks a year. Sessional care is provided from 08:00 until 13:00 and 13:00 until 18:00. Playdays is open alternate Saturdays and school holidays from 09:30 until 15:30, with the exception of Christmas and Bank Holidays. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 163 children on roll. Of these, a number of children receive

funding for early education, alongside the maintained nursery children. The setting supports children with learning difficulties, disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The setting employs 45 members of staff. Of these, 41 hold appropriate early years qualifications. The Centre receives support from the Local Education Authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through daily discussions and routines, for example, they wash their hands at appropriate times and often talk about 'washing off the germs'. Children are exceptionally well protected and enjoy a clean and healthy environment because the staff consistently implement stringent hygiene procedures to help prevent the possible spread of infection. Comprehensive procedures are in place to ensure children's dietary needs and any allergies are clearly recorded and all staff are informed, helping to keep the children healthy.

Children are offered a range of healthy snacks daily which include fruit and vegetables such as carrots, pear and banana. Parents provide lunches and the setting have 'guidelines' of what the parents should include, helping to promote healthy eating and raise the parents' awareness of the settings aims and objectives in promoting healthy eating and lifestyles. Children benefit from the flexibility of the systems used during snack and meal times. These are great social events as staff sit with the children engaging them in purposeful conversation, this helps them to learn the importance of healthy eating as they talk about the foods they enjoy and what is good for them.

Staff have a clear understanding of the procedures to follow when recording accidents and the administration of medication. Parents are required to sign to acknowledge the entries, keeping them informed at all times. Most staff in the setting have a first aid qualification, ensuring that children will be attended to immediately and appropriately if they have an accident. Fully stocked first aid boxes are stored around the setting to ensure there is no delay if an accident occurs.

Children of all ages have ample opportunities to develop their physical skills inside and in the outdoor area. They are able to practise crawling, running, jumping and climbing using an extensive range of apparatus throughout the setting. Children are beginning to learn about healthy lifestyles as they talk about the fresh air being good for them during physical activities.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a safe and secure environment because staff are extremely vigilant and remove any possible hazards to protect the children in their care, for example,

reminding children not to leave things in the middle of the floor where others can trip over them. Comprehensive written risk assessments are undertaken regularly, ensuring that all areas of the centre and the equipment used is safe for the children. They are learning the importance of keeping themselves safe through the settings routines, such as practising regular fire drills at different times to ensure all children who use the setting understand what to do in an emergency.

Children benefit greatly from the extensive range of equipment and resources used daily in the setting. Resources are stored at a low-level and are easily accessible to the children, developing their independence and freedom of choice. All areas of the centre are vibrant and stimulating with a substantial range of posters and photographs on show. Children's work is displayed brightly and useful information to support children, parents and staff is all around the walls, making all visitors and families feel welcome. All areas of the setting are very clean and well maintained.

Children are extremely well protected because all staff have attended child protection training and have a detailed understanding of child protection procedures. Access to the building is monitored ensuring no unauthorised people have access to the children. All visitors must go to reception and wait to be greeted by a member of staff. All visitors have to sign in, ensuring a full record of everyone on the premises is maintained at all times, helping to protect the children. Security doors are positioned throughout the building to limit visitors entry to areas of the centre, staff accompany them to the areas they are visiting, helping to protect the children, their families and the staff team.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is outstanding.

Children arriving at the centre are eager to join in with the activities which they self-select from the extensive and stimulating range the centre offers. They benefit greatly from the organisation and layout of the setting. Children free flow between the activities and play areas of the centre and outside, building their confidence, self-esteem and freedom of choice. Staff effectively support the children in their chosen activity. They are skilful in their interaction, constantly encouraging children to expand on their own knowledge and skills, for example, children dressing-up are supported whilst being encouraged to undertake as much of the dressing themselves as they are able, further encouraging their self-care skills.

Children have ample opportunities to explore and investigate the resources and materials available, for example during a craft activity one child, slowly trickled the glue over her hand, she spent some time watching the glue fall on to her hands, feeling it and wiping it on her picture. Staff have a clear understanding of the developmental needs of children. They recognise that she needed to do this to build her confidence and begin to understand the properties of the resources and materials she was using. This level of understanding results in children being given the time they need to create their own ideas.

In the day care unit, children of all ages mix freely, benefiting from observing and learning the skills of their peer group. The setting is flexible to meet the needs of the

children and staff supervise the interaction exceptionally well, enabling all the children to play together, building strong relationships. Staff effectively use the Birth to Three Matters Framework to support and enhance the development of children under three-years-old. Staff interact exceptionally well with the children and support and assist them as necessary. Many of the children are at the parallel stage of play, staff recognise this and effectively praise and encourage the children when they share or take turns with each other, developing their ability to recognise the needs of others effectively. Children's individual progress is monitored effectively and activities are planned to ensure their next steps are being met. Staff interact extremely well with children of all ages, developing their speech and social skills, enabling them to become skilful communicators as they progress through the centre. Each child is making rapid progress from their own starting points and staff take pride and satisfaction from watching the children's skills develop.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is outstanding.

Staff have an exceptionally clear understanding of equal opportunities and implement the setting's comprehensive policies effectively. Each child is treated as an individual and staff work closely with all the parents to ensure the children's needs are being met in the best possible way. Staff take the time to get to know each child and their families well, they are friendly and approachable and work hard to build trusting relationships. Staff are able to talk to the children about events at home, their siblings and other family members, helping to develop strong relationships with the children. They have equal access and time to participate fully in all the vast range of activities provided. Children have access to a variety of multi-cultural resources, helping to develop their understanding of the world around them.

The setting has extremely clear procedures in place to support children with special needs and who have English as an additional language. The special needs co-ordinators have attended training and have a detailed knowledge of their role and responsibilities. They work closely with the parents and liaise effectively with other agencies to fully support the children and their families effectively. Children's individual care packages are incorporated into the programme to support the children and build their confidence within the group environment.

Children are extremely well behaved because clear rules and boundaries are implemented consistently by all members of the staff team. Children know exactly what is expected of them and they respond well to the high expectations of the staff. The full daily programme ensures children are busy and engaged in activities at all times. Staff praise and encourage the children at every opportunity. Children feel valued and respected because they are listened to and staff respond fairly. Children are exceptionally well mannered and polite because staff are very positive role models, they thank the children and say please when asking them to do something. Children learn from this behaviour and use their manners well, rarely having to be reminded.

Children benefit greatly from the strong relationships between their parents and the

staff. Parents reflect that they are exceptionally happy with the centre, they are kept fully informed about their children's experiences and progress. Staff always make time to speak to the parents and details of the Birth to Three Matters Framework is displayed clearly on the parents' notice board. The manager meets with all parents to discuss the format and explain how the children benefit from the system in the setting. They have access to their children's records at any time on request, helping to keep them fully informed of the children's progress and their next steps.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Daily routines are organised exceptionally well and run extremely smoothly. The children move freely from one activity to another, never having to wait around. This ensures they are fully occupied and stimulated throughout the day, which has a very positive effect on behaviour. The ratios are maintained at all times and staff deployment is very effective, enabling staff to provide high quality support and supervision for all the children. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Comprehensive and detailed procedures are in place to ensure all adults are checked. New staff complete an in depth induction programme, ensuring children are safe. Children are exceptionally well protected because all policies and procedures are implemented effectively. All the required paperwork and documentation is maintained to a very high standard and is readily available for inspection at any time.

## **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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)