



## **Educare For Early Years @ Radcliffe**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY309460
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Teresa Ann Clark
<b>Setting Address</b>	Mill Bank, Radcliffe, Manchester, Lancashire, M26 1AJ
<b>Telephone number</b>	0161 7249055
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Amanda Owen and David Owen
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Educare For Early Years @ Radcliffe has been registered since 2005. The nursery operates from purpose built premises, which are situated in the Radcliffe area of Greater Manchester.

A maximum of 100 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open from 07.30 until 18.00 all year round, except for Christmas holidays. Children are organised into play rooms according to ages. The outdoor areas are adjacent to the children's playrooms.

There are currently 42 children on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area and attend a variety of sessions. The nursery supports children with additional needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

There are nine staff working with the children. Of these, seven have appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery receives support from the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff protect children's health because they ensure the premises are maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. Outdoor shoes are removed when working in the baby room, which reduces the risk of infection to crawling babies. An effective sick child policy helps prevent the spread of infection and illness. Exclusion guidelines are followed to ensure children are protected from cross infection. There are sufficient staff trained to ensure children receive appropriate care and attention in the event of an accident or emergency. Children are developing some understanding about keeping themselves healthy. The daily routine includes children washing their hands before eating and staff wiping babies' hands. However, this is not consistent in all areas of the nursery at snack times, which poses an element of risk to children's health.

Children benefit from regular fresh air and exercise as they play in the outdoor areas. They practise their climbing skills using the apparatus and enjoy throwing and catching as they play with balls and the Frisbee. Children also benefit from the indoor soft play area, which they use regularly to jump, climb and stretch, which helps to promote their physical skills and develop their strength and coordination.

Children benefit from healthy and varied meals at lunchtime, which are freshly prepared and well balanced. Meals are presented attractively to appeal to children's appetite, which means children are well nourished with healthy, nutritious foods. Children have their health and dietary needs met because staff work well with parents. For example, staff liaise regularly with parents to ensure that babies' needs are met, such as bottle feeding and weaning, and that all children's dietary requirements are followed. Children are provided with drinks at meal and snack times and have access to drinking water throughout the day. This ensures children keep refreshed and hydrated.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a bright and spacious environment. They are grouped in rooms according to their age and ability, where space is well used to allow children to play, eat and rest safely depending on their needs. Babies and children have access to a range of good quality play materials, which are safe and provide a balanced range of activities. These are stored on low shelving, which encourages children to

be independent and select activities and toys of their choice. However, children have limited access to natural materials to promote their sensory development. The nursery continues to increase the toys and equipment to meet the needs of the rising numbers of children attending.

Children are kept safe within the nursery. They are well supervised and regular risk assessments identify and minimise hazards. Effective procedures are in place to ensure the premises are secure and to monitor children's arrival and collection times. Vision panels throughout the nursery and the intercom system help promote children's safety. The outdoor area consists of an impact absorbing surface, which reduces the risk of injury if a child falls. Children are learning about keeping safe as they practise the emergency evacuation procedure and staff gently ask children not to climb on furniture in case they fall.

Children are protected from harm because staff are aware of possible signs and symptoms which may give cause for concern. Staff are clear about their responsibility with regards to child protection issues. There are clear and effective procedures to keep children safe.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time in the setting. Staff take the time to build positive relationships with the children, which helps them feel safe and secure. They are sensitive to the needs of children who are new to the setting. The effective key worker system helps children to build relationships with a familiar adult, who encourages them to explore their environment and try new experiences. For example, exploring sand and dough. Older children are beginning to form early friendships and enjoy being with each other. Positive adult and child interactions support children's early communication skills. For example, children enjoy listening to stories and joining in action rhymes and songs. Children have some opportunities to select what they want to play with and staff provide a variety of different play and learning activities, which include messy and creative activities. A new planning and assessment system, which takes account of the 'Birth to three matters' framework is in place. This has not been fully implemented throughout the nursery to ensure all activities are based on the individual needs of children.

Children enjoy creating their own patterns using paint and string. They explore gluing and sticking with different shapes of paper. Children are excited and eager to tell staff and familiar adults about the Frisbee which has been thrown on the roof. They talk about how ladders will have to be used to get it down. Young babies are given lots of reassurance and cuddles. Staff encourage them to develop their walking skills with push along toys and younger children pull themselves up using the low-level furniture. Babies smile with delight when they have walked a few steps and receive praise from staff. Older children are developing their knowledge of colour and shape through activities, such as painting, collage and building with bricks.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children and parents are warmly greeted on arrival, making them feel welcome. Records detail the individual requirements of each child and include relevant consents and contacts. The effective key worker system ensures staff know children in their care so they can successfully meet their needs. Children's opportunities to learn about the wider world are limited, however, because there are too few resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Children with additional needs are well supported and benefit from the relationships formed with parents. All children are included in the life of the nursery and are given good support to help them access all play experiences.

Children are developing an understanding about right and wrong and their behaviour is generally good. They are learning to respect their environment as they put toys away when they have finished playing. Staff support children well and give them good explanations and time to adapt their behaviour. Children are reminded not to snatch toys from each other. They are encouraged to use 'please' and 'thank you' and receive praise when they do. This helps to develop children's confidence and self-esteem.

Parents are provided with good information about the provision. A settling in procedure, where children visit with and without their parents, helps them become familiar with the surroundings at their own pace. Daily exchanges of information keep parents informed about their child's well-being. Diary sheets are used for younger children, which include information about sleep, nappy and feeding routines. This ensures children receive continuity and consistency of care. Parents speak highly about the provision. They value the 'Friendly, approachable staff' and 'Lovely, bright environment for children'.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Effective recruitment procedures are in place, which ensures children are cared for by staff who are appropriately vetted and suitable. Both the manager and staff work hard to provide a warm and homely environment for children. As a consequence children are happy and secure. The nursery is still in its infancy and continues to develop as the numbers of children increase.

Staffing levels are organised to ensure the nursery is within the required ratios and children receive appropriate levels of support and attention. Staff are developing good teamwork as they communicate with each other throughout the day and have a generally good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. This promotes the safety and welfare of children. All legally required records and documentation are in place, which contribute to the smooth running of the nursery. This ensures that the welfare of children is fully safeguarded. The nursery is currently updating some of their policies to ensure they are in line with current legislation. Overall 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 are no complaints to report 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 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):

- improve hygiene routines by ensuring all children wash their hands before eating
- improve the opportunities for children to develop their senses, for example, providing natural materials
- continue to develop the planning and assessment systems using 'Birth to three matters' framework
- develop resources and equipment which promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

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)