



Town Field Family Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	500700
Inspection date	17 August 2006
Inspector	Angela Howard
Setting Address	Old School Way, Beckett Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN2 4AJ
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Registered person	NCH
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of 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.

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?

Town Field Family Centre opened in 2001. It operates from three rooms in a converted school building in the Wheatley district of Doncaster. The setting serves the local community and offers sessional day care; there is a crèche facility and after school care, as well as several universal family support services. Holiday playschemes and drop in playgroup facilities are also included. The centre is open Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 18.00, all year round, with the exception of public holidays.

The centre is registered to provide sessional day care for a maximum of 44 children under eight years at any one time. There are currently 72 children under eight years on roll. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The NCH - The Children's Charity is the accountable body for the children's centre and is responsible for employing staff who work in the setting. There are six members of staff employed

to work with the children in the setting. All staff have relevant early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority and Portage groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is clearly supported by staff who have a very good knowledge of health and hygiene procedures. The setting is very clean and effectively well maintained. Staff implement good hygiene practices, such as using antibacterial spray to ensure tables and changing areas are suitably clean. However, nappies are disposed of in a waste bin children use for disposing of paper towels. Therefore, there is a risk of cross infection. Children are becoming confident in their own personal care. For example, they all wash their hands before snack and staff talk to them about washing germs away. This results in children learning about the importance of personal hygiene. A detailed, well-written policy to exclude children who are ill is routinely shared with parents. This ensures that cross infection is minimised.

Staff effectively promote children's understanding of healthy eating by providing a varied, well-balanced and nutritious range of snacks and drinks. Children's self-help skills are successfully developed as the children help to prepare snacks. For example, they spread toppings on their toast, select fruit themselves and are encouraged to try and cut the toast into smaller pieces. Their individual dietary requirements are catered for and are recorded, which helps to ensure they remain healthy.

Children take part in a wide range of physical activities. They access a well-equipped outdoor play area on a daily basis. Children thoroughly enjoy riding bikes, scooters, building with large foam blocks and they kick and catch balls successfully. This enables children to develop a positive attitude towards exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Staff routinely complete rigorous risk assessments to ensure potential hazards are removed. This allows children to move around freely and safely. Children are successfully learning how to keep themselves safe. They are well supported by knowledgeable staff who allow them to explore and investigate their own limits in a safe manner. For example, children explore the feeling of flowers on their skin but are encouraged not to tickle people in the face as they may hurt their eyes.

Children access a very good range of good quality resources which are stored at child height to allow them to make choices safely. They independently select activities which interest them. Equipment is presented in an appealing manner; the use of baskets, textured and natural materials encourages children to participate. Resources are consistently monitored to ensure they remain safe and appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development.

Children are well protected as the staff have a very good understanding of their roles and responsibilities with regards to child protection matters. They have clear understanding of the procedures to follow and clearly recognise signs and symptoms of possible abuse. This ensures that the safety of children is always a priority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive at the setting happy and relaxed. They receive a very warm welcome and are eager to play and explore the vibrant environment. Children make informed choices about their play and choose from a very wide range of good quality activities which provide challenge, direction and motivation. For example, they have access to a wide variety of activity based and sensory play resources, such as the making of mini beast headbands and the exploration of paint, glue, chalks and sand.

Staff use the 'Birth to three matters' framework and the Foundation stage documentation effectively when planning activities to meet children's individual needs. A high priority is given to promoting children's personal and social development. For example, children are independent at choosing their own resources, are supported to take turns and are confident to express their feelings. Staff create an atmosphere where children develop good attitudes and dispositions towards learning.

Children relate extremely well to the staff. They share a very warm, kind and caring relationship with each other. This is due to the staff showing that they value what each child has to offer. All staff are actively involved in the children's play throughout the session to sustain their curiosity, imagination and concentration. Children respond very well to the adults' calm, quiet approach and their clear explanations and support.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Partnerships with parents and carers are highly effective. Staff are fully informed about children's specific needs and work in total partnership to ensure their changing needs are continually met. Information regarding children's progress is shared formally and informally. The easy, informal, daily discussions ensure that all information relating to the children is successfully exchanged. Documentation to support the review process is very detailed. Staff have built up a strong relationship with the children and their families to ensure that relationships are positive and meaningful. This clearly helps to promote children's welfare and development, enriching and enhancing their experiences.

Children are learning right from wrong in a very supportive, warm and caring environment. They are given clear and consistent instruction and guidance. This results in children knowing what is expected of them. Plenty of meaningful praise and encouragement is given as children play to promote good levels of behaviour.

Staff have a good knowledge of the setting's equal opportunities policy and the code of practice regarding caring for children with specific needs. Good communication with parents, outside

agencies and staff ensures that children are well cared for, included and are making good progress. Children's awareness of equal opportunities and diversity is fostered effectively through discussion and the use of a good range of play resources.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The premises are very well organised. Space is used effectively to maximise children's play opportunities and experiences. Children are comfortable in the predictable environment and move around with confidence. This contributes well to the child's overall well-being.

Documentation is kept in a well organised and professional manner. Confidentiality is maintained at all times. Parents have access to all relevant information which contributes effectively to the operation of the setting. For example, parents understand the sick child policy and know how to make a complaint.

The staff are enthusiastic and clearly enjoy their work with the children. Their commitment to improvement ensures the continuing development of the provision. This results in successful outcomes for children. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the 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):

- improve procedures to prevent the spread of infection with regards to the disposal of nappies.

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