



Basildon Adult Community College

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY265273
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Inspector Jacqueline Oldman

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Registered person Basildon Adult Community College

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Basildon Adult Community College Crèche opened in 2000. It is one of two crèches run by the College. It operates from one room in a childcare resource centre at Basildon Adult Community College on the outskirts of Basildon. The crèche is for children whose parents are enrolled on courses at the college together with college tutor and support staffs own children.

A maximum of 12 children may attend the crèche at any one time and there are currently 42 children from birth to five years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports a small number of children who have learning

difficulties and/or disabilities and who have English as an additional language. The group opens five days a week from 09:15 to 15:15 during school term times.

The crèche employs four permanent staff and 14 part-time staff. Of these nine staff, including the supervisor, hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and the Pre School Learning Alliance (PSLA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children remain healthy because staff generally promote healthy practices throughout the setting. Surfaces in the playroom are wiped down before eating. Children learn to understand simple health and hygiene practices because staff encourage them to follow basic routines. For example, children learn to wash their hands after using the toilet and are encouraged to wash them prior to eating. However, children are not fully protected from cross contamination as they sometimes use a communal bowl for hand washing prior to eating. Satisfactory steps are taken to help protect children from infection as the crèche has a sickness policy and children do not attend if they are unwell. Staff keep clear records of any accidents or medication administered and can deal competently with minor emergencies or accidents as they hold current first aid certificates.

Children enjoy adequate physical activity within the constraints of the play room. They have limited opportunities to enjoy active play such as climbing and balancing but have some opportunities to take part in action songs. Children use a range of tools when experimenting with play dough and other creative activities; this helps develop their fine motor skills.

Children benefit from healthy snacks provided by parents and supported by staff. Children share this in a social group with members of staff; this helps prevent food sharing and provides good opportunities for children to learn about the importance of staying healthy. There are effective procedures to ensure staff are aware of any allergies or special dietary requirements to ensure that specific needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and explore in a safe and well-organised environment that is risk assessed to help minimise potential hazards. Play space is well-organised to ensure children have sufficient space to comfortably play and join in activities, eat or rest in safety. For example, a blue strip has been placed across the play room floor to remind children not to take push along toys into the area used for floor play. A varied range of good quality equipment and resources is available that are suitable for the ages of children attending each session. Sound procedures are in place to ensure equipment is safe and well maintained. Children access their own resources

independently; this helps to develop high levels of independence.

Children's welfare and safety is given careful consideration and staff help them learn to keep themselves safe. Children regularly practice the emergency evacuation procures; this helps to protect them in an emergency. Suitable fire equipment is in place and checked regularly to keep children safe. A mobile phone and walkie-talkie provide ready access to further support should any emergency arise.

Children are suitably protected because staff have an adequate knowledge of child protection issues.

Although staff know who to contact if concerned about a child's well-being, the associated guidance has not yet been obtained to ensure processes are up to date. The written policy does not include the required telephone contact details to ensure children are fully protected. The high regard given to security, recording of all staff, children and visitors to and from the crèche together with detailed policies for the collection and non-collection of children contribute to children being safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enabled to gain confidence and self-esteem and most settle well. They have a sense of belonging as the staff form positive relationships with each child. The crèche staff encourage parents to attend with their child prior to using the facility; this lays the foundations of these relationships. Children have good opportunities to choose from a range of age appropriate activities and resources which they find interesting and enjoyable. Toys and equipment are regularly rotated to provide children with variety and sufficient challenge to support their all round development. Children are well-supported by staff in their play. They are able to choose toys and equipment as these are easily accessible, helping to develop children's independence. The range of creative activities provided helps children to develop self-esteem.

Practitioners recognise that young children need a predictable environment in which to feel safe which encourages independence. The 'Birth to three matters' framework is used by staff to support the development of younger children. Staff talk to them, explaining what they are doing which encourages children to link words with actions. Young children are able to try out their developing skills as practitioners support them. This has a positive effect on encouraging children to set their own challenges and acquire new skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are warmly welcomed into the setting and feel a sense of belonging as their work is valued and imaginatively displayed. Children are mostly confident, happy and secure. Staff take time to gather information about each child so that good

relationships are formed and children are enabled to settle quickly. The daily sharing of personal care information ensures that children's normal routines are maintained in discussion with parents. This provides good continuity of care. Children are able to make valuable choices and take decisions about their activities and when they would like a drink. This helps children to become aware of their own needs and the needs of others.

Children have good opportunities to learn about the consequences of their behaviour. Staff use praise effectively to encourage positive behaviour and help children learn to work well with others. For example, they praise children for tidying away in preparation for snack and thoughtfully adapt activities to offer sufficient challenge to all children. This results in a calm and settled atmosphere where children of differing ages and abilities play harmoniously alongside each other.

The crèche offers a friendly and welcoming service to parents and carers who attend college courses. The staff complete daily information sheets to share with parents regarding their child's welfare and activities. A parent information board provides easy access to a range of child care information together with information regarding the day-to-day operation of the crèche. Parents are invited to view the policies and procedures to gain a good understanding of how the crèche operates and the care offered to children. However, the complaints procedure does not contain the contact details of the regulator and the policy requires reviewing to ensure it meets the revisions to the National Standards and associated guidance and ensures parents are fully informed of the roles and responsibilities of the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

There are effective procedures for staff recruitment and all staff have been vetted. Good adult to child ratios ensure children are secure and suitably supported. An adequate staff appraisal system identifies training needs and good contingency procedures for staff absence or holidays support the well-being of children. Space is well-organised and resources are made readily available to meet children's needs. This contributes to children's good health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and ability to take an active part in the setting.

Parents are invited to complete a questionnaire at the end of their college course regarding the service provided. This information is actively used to improve the service offered and as a result work is underway to develop, and make available to children, an outdoor play area. The setting has a sound understanding of most of the required documentation needed to promote the safety and well-being of children; this is regularly reviewed. However, some details need to be added to written policies and procedures to ensure they are in line with the National Standards and associated guidance.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the crèche was asked to meet the recommendations of the Fire Officer. A suitable fire log is maintained and emergency evacuation is regularly practiced to help keep children safe.

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 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):

- review hand washing procedures to ensure they are in line with environmental health recommendations
- improve knowledge and understanding of child protection processes by obtaining a copy of the associated guidance and ensuring the policy includes the contact details of Social Services
- review and update the complaints policy and procedure to ensure it meets the revisions to the National Standards and associated guidance.

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