



## Tiny Treasures Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY309551
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 June 2006
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<b>Registered person</b>	Sure Start Portheyl
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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?

Tiny Treasures Crèche and Hayle Children's Centre opened in 2005. They operate from the old Bodriggy Infant School site in the seaside town of Hayle, in Cornwall. The centre works in partnership with Hopscotch Day Nursery, a privately run nursery, which provides full day care from an adjacent building on the same site.

The crèche supports parents and carers in the community as well as providing child care for users of the centre. A maximum of 20 children under five years may attend the crèche at any one time and there are currently 180 children registered with the crèche. The crèche supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities as

well as children who speak English as an additional language. The crèche is open for various sessions throughout the week, depending on demand, and usually runs from 09:00 until 11:30 on Mondays and Fridays, 09:30 until 12:30 on Thursdays and 13:00 until 15:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays, for 52 weeks of the year. The children in the crèche have the use of a large play room, a covered outdoor play area, and a newly landscaped garden that is equipped with musical outdoor play equipment and a sensory play house.

There are three core staff employed to work with the children and additional bank staff available when needed. All but two of the staff are qualified to National Vocational Qualification level 2 or 3. The setting receives the support of a half-time qualified teacher who is based in the centre.

There is a range of additional services based on the site, including a toy library and community café. A variety of courses and support groups are held at the centre and various professionals work from the centre offering support and outreach to parents in the local area and surrounding rural community. The centre is managed by a board that consists of representatives from the community, parents and professionals. More than half of the board are parents or users of the centre.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from being offered an extremely healthy and varied choice of snacks, and healthy eating is promoted very well. Children eat fruit enthusiastically because it is attractively presented by staff and children can choose their own individual bowl and matching cup. As a result snack times are a social occasion where children can be heard laughing with delight as they tuck into fruit and vegetables. Details of children's dietary needs are discussed with parents and all staff are very aware of children's dietary requirements. For example, if a child is thought to be allergic to fruit staff arrange with the child's parents to give the child carrot and cucumber until the allergy is positively identified. Children are encouraged to drink regularly and more in hot weather. Children take their drinks outside and staff remind them regularly to have a drink to keep them hydrated. Babies are fed according to the wishes of their parents and the child's needs with appropriate and safe bottle warming facilities on hand.

The outdoor area is very effectively used to give children regular access to fresh air and physical exercise, which promotes their good health. The staff use the garden as an extension of the indoor play space by providing a wealth of activities such as sand play, painting and imaginative play, as well as by providing equipment that children can use to develop their large muscles. This results in the outdoor area being used frequently and this particularly benefits children who may not have the use of a garden at home. When children need a rest or quiet time there are ample facilities for them to do so, either by using a travel cot or by lying quietly on large cushions or in the sensory area.

Staff are stringent about hygiene, cleaning toys and equipment regularly, disinfecting tables and cleaning the outdoor area, to provide children with an environment where they are protected from the risk of infection. Children are encouraged to think about their own personal hygiene as they wash their hands before eating, using the toilet and after playing outside. This is also brought to their attention as they handle the pet land snails, have to wash their hands afterwards and watch staff wearing gloves to clean the tank. Hand washing facilities are easy for children to use with basins and paper towel dispensers being deliberately positioned at child height. Accident records are diligently maintained and regularly reviewed as part of the risk assessment and action taken to reduce any risks to children's health and safety.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are kept extremely safe in the crèche because of the security systems and procedures in place and the constant vigilance of staff. Closed circuit television is in place both inside and out, doors and gates are kept locked and visitors are rigorously signed in and out. Pass cards are given to parents to ensure only the authorised person collects the child. Risk assessments are in place and in addition daily safety checklists are undertaken. Fire drills are completed frequently and these are assessed and staff regularly reminded as the escape route has changed due to building work. This ensures that children can be evacuated quickly in the event of an emergency. Sleeping babies are checked every five minutes and this is recorded. Children's safety is further enhanced by the excellent staffing levels, which often provide one-to-one support for children. Furthermore, all members of staff have completed comprehensive child protection training, there is an ethos of sharing information or concerns and staff from the Children's Centre are available for advice if required.

The crèche is bright and spacious and provides plenty of space for children to play. It is arranged into different areas for different activities, such as a sensory area and a science area. The crèche is very welcoming to children and parents as staff have used their skills to create a wonderland for children. In their excitement to explore even new children separate easily from their carers and they are constantly occupied. There is a wealth of high quality resources that have been imaginatively laid out to encourage children to explore. There are some individual and creative touches that make the setting special for children, such as a pair of toy ducks that have been placed on a straw nest in the garden complete with its eggs. The crèche has its own safe and secure outside play area and staff are happy to take equipment outside to enable children to continue their play outdoors. Staff check toys and equipment for damage regularly and immediately remove any faulty resources.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children have a wonderful time at Tiny Treasures Crèche and really enjoy attending. It is a warm, happy and friendly place for children to be and they clearly enjoy their

time in the setting. They have completely free access to a range of quality toys and craft resources, which includes a wide range of heuristic materials. Children squeal with delight as they explore the exciting environment. They happily play in the garden pouring water from jugs on to water wheels, and are thrilled when they are allowed to chalk on the walls. Painting is freely available inside and out and children can choose from a wide range of writing materials. Children are encouraged to make their own choices about what they want to do, but staff are always on hand to offer support and encouragement. Children constantly chatter with staff who encourage them to think about what they are doing by use of effective questioning. Children are completely absorbed as they make 'porridge' with oats and lentils in the science corner, concentrating hard as they pour in the water and mix it with a spoon. The children learn to care for living things as they feed cucumber to the land snails and are fascinated to watch them move around the tank.

Lots of communication between staff and parents enables information about children's developmental levels and achievements to be shared. This knowledge enables staff to support children in developing their skills, whether physical, speech or social skills. There are very good strategies in place to enable children to settle well in the crèche and they are given cuddles and individual support as appropriate.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children respond extremely well to the excellent strategies staff use to promote positive behaviour. The adults set clear ground rules, such as children must wear a hat if they want to play outside in sunny weather. Staff take the trouble to explain to children if their behaviour is inappropriate and deal with any incidents in a very calm and positive way. Children's self-esteem is promoted by the constant praise and encouragement given to them by staff and any unwanted behaviour is quickly and sensitively dealt with. Children learn to share and take turns and to care for each other, for example older children are encouraged to show younger children how to sit at the table.

Children's awareness of diversity is promoted because of the setting's inclusive approach. There are many positive images of differences throughout the nursery, such as special needs toys and multicultural toys as well as male carers who provide positive role models. There is excellent support for children with learning difficulties or disabilities, and any specific needs can be identified and parents advised about support available. For example staff have received training in early recognition of speech problems and this has enabled parents and children to receive early support. Staff are very sensitive to children's individual needs, for example allowing a child to spend time with a member of staff in the sensory area until he felt confident to explore.

The staff in the crèche work very hard to promote good relationships with parents, which benefits the children greatly. They strive hard to meet parents' wishes, such as agreeing strategies for potty training. They communicate with parents at the beginning and end of the session, ensuring relevant information is exchanged to

promote the excellent care provided. Parents can use the crèche to access courses, keep appointments, or simply have some time to themselves, and this in turn benefits the children. Crèche staff are able to signpost parents to other services and support available. Parents are invited to give their feedback about the crèche and the care given and their comments are logged and used to further improve the provision. Parents are given ample information, both verbally and in writing, about what their child has done that day, including how they have eaten or slept and whether they have been happy.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children thrive in the crèche because of the highly effective organisation and attention to detail in the setting. They are cared for by highly skilled and well qualified practitioners who constantly strive to improve and develop their skills and knowledge through ongoing training and reflection. For example, staff in the crèche have identified that they would like to further develop the science area. They use self-evaluation as a reflective tool to honestly evaluate their provision and identify what they do well and what they would like to improve. Children are extremely well cared for by warm, caring, enthusiastic and professional staff and volunteers, several of whom are undertaking higher childcare qualifications.

Children are well supported because minimum staffing ratios are exceeded, giving the children lots of individual attention, sometimes on a one-to-one basis. There is a bank of workers to draw on to ensure that staff are available to cover at all times. Each child is allocated to a member of staff who is mainly responsible for their care and safety. This member of staff meets all their care needs, such as changing nappies, applying sun cream and taking responsibility for them when fire drills are carried out. Stringent vetting procedures are in place through the Children's Centre to ensure that staff caring for children are suitable to do so. Regular staff appraisals are completed and training needs are identified. The person in charge keeps detailed records so that she is aware who has completed training and can identify immediately when qualifications, such as first aid, need updating. Minimum standards are exceeded, for example all staff undergo first aid training and all have completed four-day child protection training.

The crèche has been well designed to ensure children's safety whilst providing a delightful child centred environment and fun place to play and explore. The space and resources are very well organised to meet the children's needs effectively. As well as different areas for a range of activities indoors, there is a covered outdoor play area and a garden, enabling a free-flow of activity between indoors and out.

Records are meticulously kept and clear policies in place to support the outstanding level of care given. All regulations are met, all records are securely stored and there is a policy of sharing everything with parents. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Additional Services**

Although most of the services running from the Children's Centre have been set up within the last year, they have quickly become established and cohesive, providing integrated support for children and families. The services have been set up in consultation with local families and are evaluated against the outcomes for children. The centre serves an area of high deprivation and unemployment, where many jobs are seasonal and poorly paid. There is a high level of teenage pregnancy and single parent families.

The Children's Centre provides a range of services that provide a life-line for some parents and enable children's needs to be identified and supported at the earliest opportunity. There have already been some tangible successes, for example training for local parents and providers in early recognition of speech concerns has meant that there have been no new referrals for speech therapy amongst children starting school in the Hayle area in the last year. Groups such as First Friends, a drop in playgroup for under ones run by the health support workers, have helped lower levels of post-natal depression and rural isolation.

The services are very well used by all sections of the community and outreach services are in place to support the rural villages. Health support workers are available for friendly advice during pregnancy and with new babies, and signpost parents to services on offer. Parents may initially come in to join one of the many groups, access the toy library or use the community café. They can also access training and the support of both voluntary and statutory services that are based at the centre. If they need childcare whilst attending courses or returning to work, there is a crèche on site as well as a privately run full day care nursery.

The additional services contribute significantly to improving outcomes for children in the Hayle area. Future plans include the setting up of a new centre in St Ives and building on links with the privately run day nursery.

### **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 outstanding. The registered person meets
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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)