



Northend Children's Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY315517
Inspection date	18 July 2006
Inspector	Beverly Hallett

Setting Address	4a Lincoln Close, Erith, Kent, DA8 2EB
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Telephone number

E-mail

Registered person	North Bexley Sure Start
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Crèche
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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?

Northend children's centre crèche is part of the Sure Start Northend Children's Centre. It opened in 2006 and operates from one room plus toilet and kitchen facilities in a purpose-built building. It is situated on a residential estate in the Erith area of Bexley. A maximum of 12 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche is open as necessary for a maximum of four hours per session.

There are currently five children aged from three months to under five years on roll. Children come from the local area and their parents attend courses at the centre.

The crèche currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The crèche employs three staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health within the setting is well supported by good cleaning and care routines. Staff implement good hygiene routines, for example when changing nappies, and ensure all surfaces are cleaned at the end of each session. Children are beginning to learn about good hygiene routines as they help to wipe tables ready for snack time and clean their hands and faces before and after eating using wipes.

Children gain good understanding of healthy eating as a very good range of healthy snacks are offered. Children are encouraged to try new foods and fruits for example choosing from mango, carrot sticks or banana. Staff sit with and support children in making healthy choices in small ways such as holding up separate jugs of milk and water and letting children choose which they want to drink. Children talk about which fruits they like and which they haven't tried before.

Children enjoy some opportunities to enjoy physical play as staff put out large equipment such as a tunnel to crawl through mid-way through the session. However, children are not able to experience good levels of large physical opportunities due to limits on space, and lack of outside play opportunities.

Staff are aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Children enjoy good relationships with the staff, they go to them freely for cuddles and reassurance, developing healthy dependence to support their emotional wellbeing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very clean and well maintained environment. The room is brightly decorated and offers sufficient space for a suitable range of activities to be offered to children.

Toys and equipment are well set out into areas at the beginning of each session. This enables children to move around safely and independently and to have some choice in what to play with from the toys and activities set out for them.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised as comprehensive daily risk assessments identify potential risks promptly. Fire prevention is good and regular fire drills help children become familiar with the procedures so they learn how to leave

the premises quickly and safely. Children are also learning how to keep themselves safe as staff talk to them about holding on tightly when balancing or climbing.

Children's welfare is well protected. The manager ensures that procedures are up-to-date and that staff understand their responsibilities in relation to child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children using the crèche are generally confident within the setting and are building good relationships with the staff. The younger children receive lots of cuddles and have secure bonds with their carers which increases their sense of wellbeing.

Children enjoy participating in a well planned programme of activities which promotes learning in all areas. They energetically explore a good range of materials which enables them to develop new concepts, for example whilst experimenting with paint and malleable materials. They enjoy using their imaginations when role playing and dressing up in the home area and when playing with small world resources such as the cars.

Children are becoming skilful communicators as they chat to staff throughout the session and use non-verbal communication to make their needs known. Staff repeat and label children's actions encouraging the children's vocabulary, for example when children point, staff say, do you want to play with the garage? Children enjoy sharing books and stories whilst snuggling in with a familiar adult, and taking part in singing and movement sessions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individuality is well supported and staff treat all children with equal concern, taking account of their individual needs. However children have little opportunity to develop an awareness of other cultures as the environment is not rich in images which reflect a diverse society.

Children behave very well and are learning to relate to others. They receive much attention from staff and enjoy positive social and emotional interactions with adults and their peers. An excellent behaviour management policy sets out an excellent range of strategies based on the knowledge that behaving is a skill that children learn, and that behaviour is linked to other areas of development such as being able to communicate feelings, and adults having appropriate expectations of what children can achieve.

Staff work closely with parents to provide consistency of care for children and parents receive good information about the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Children are well cared for by well deployed, suitably qualified staff. Effective recruitment procedures ensure all adults working in the setting have been appropriately vetted and that children are always in the care of suitable adults.

Good systems for booking and recording children's attendance ensures children receive a high levels of staff supervision and attention.

Very detailed and well written policies and procedures support the safe and efficient management of the setting and promote children's overall welfare.

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

- develop opportunities for children to experience outside play
- increase toys and resources which offer positive images of diversity throughout the environment

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