



Washwood Heath Centre for Children & Families

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY286950
Inspection date	08 September 2005
Inspector	Susan Rogers
Setting Address	201 Sladefield Road, Birmingham, West Midlands, B8 2SY
Telephone number	0121 464 1810
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Registered person	Washwood Heath Centre for Children & Families
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care, Out of School 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.

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?

Washwood Heath Centre for Children and Families has been registered since 2004. It operates from a purpose built unit within Washwood Heath Nursery School in Birmingham, within walking distance of a main high street and public transport across the city. The setting has the use of two care rooms, kitchen, and children's toilets. The setting primarily serves the local community.

There are currently 25 children from 8 months to 4 years on roll. The centre provides nursery provision and out of school provision. The nursery operates throughout the year, opening between the hours of 07:30 and 18:00. The out of school setting

operates during term time, from 07:00 until 9:00 and from 3:15 until 18:00. During school holidays the group opens from 07:30 until 18:00. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting receives support from Washwood Heath Nursery School.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's nutritional needs are met as staff have an effective system in place to ensure children only eat food which is provided for their needs by their parents. Children easily access drinks at any time, as water coolers and sugar free squash are available throughout the session, and staff encourage younger children to drink regularly.

Good hygiene procedures mostly protect children from illness and infection, although there is limited ventilation in the nappy changing area. Children are well protected in cases of accidents and emergency, as a member of staff who is first aid qualified is present at all times of the day, and staff have a sound understanding of how they should react if there are accidents. Children who have specific health conditions have effective care as staff have the appropriate knowledge, are sensitive to the individual needs of children, and obtain prior written permission from parents before they administer medication. Children are well protected in the sun, as staff ensure parents provide hats and sunscreen, before allowing children to play outdoors and limit the amount of outdoor play when the weather is very hot. Children have limited opportunities to experience more challenging physical activities, as the outdoor area is currently out of bounds, due to building work which is soon to be completed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy good protection through risk assessments completed by staff who survey the rooms and premises at the start of the day, ensuring that all aspects of the room are safe and prepared for the children's arrival. Children are well protected against accidents, as there is a generous ratio of staff that are attentive and mostly vigilant of children's activities. Children enjoy care by staff who have an awareness of potential accidents, and how they can best supervise children. However during the lunch time period younger babies are cared for with the older children, where some of the toys and equipment are not suitable. Security is excellent, a key fob system allows staff to easily access the rooms, and ensures they do not have to leave the rooms when parents arrive.

Children enjoy generous amounts of space in which they can play. A wide variety of activities are available, due to there being sufficient equipment which is of an excellent quality, well organised and well suited to children's needs. For example there are climbing frames low enough for babies to safely use, home corner, dressing ups and construction toys for the older children. Children enjoy effective child

protection as staff have good knowledge of what would concern them regarding the care of a child. The child protection documents are comprehensive, staff have attended training and know how they would react and refer a child if they had concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy, approach their activities with enthusiasm, and relish the activities available. Children's development is stimulated through staff providing excellent support and exciting challenges whilst children are playing. Children benefit from staffs' excellent understanding of their individual needs, and developmental stages. This has a positive influence on the organisation of stimulating activities and care, which is specific to the child's individual needs. Children benefit from excellent staff interaction, which ensures that children enjoy wonderful activities that captures their interest.

Staff are very skilled at exploiting opportunities to communicate with children, therefore children benefit from considerable time expanding on their conversational skills. Some of the older children speak with confidence and become involved in interesting conversations regarding their home life and recent events. Children benefit from effective monitoring, planning and assessment systems. Children's individual development is understood by staff who are knowledgeable in their implementation of the birth to three matters, so organise stimulating activities and care that is specific to the child's individual needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Parents are very well informed, and have excellent information regarding the activities, ethos and planning of the setting. Children enjoy excellent continuity of care due to information on the care needs of their child and parent's opinions being actively sought, through daily diaries and regular conversations with parents. This includes any aspects of the child's care and home life, that may influence their care at the setting. Children benefit from staffs' exceptional skills in working with parents and skilled questioning techniques, which ensure parents are at ease when they discuss aspects of their child's day, and their specific development.

Staff offer excellent support for parents and children through additional information that is available in different languages. Staff can speak languages that parents understand and are highly skilled in reassuring children and parents. Children with special needs have excellent support, as there are specific staff who have attended specialist training, who have excellent skills in accessing the appropriate services, equipment and activities that meet their needs. Children are able to learn about the needs of others due to the wide ranging resources that reflect minority groups, and high levels of staff awareness of how these can be used to the best effect. Children behave well, staff have excellent understanding of how they can manage challenges,

and work alongside parents in managing any difficulties.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from care by staff who are checked, and have completed a comprehensive and well documented recruitment period, which covers all policies and procedures. Therefore children benefit from staff's effective understanding, and implementation of policies and procedures. Children enjoy continuity of care as the staffing ratio is generous and consistent, allowing children, especially those who are settling, to establish sound relationships with specific members of staff.

Children benefit from the effective deployment of staff. There are effective arrangements to cope with staff holidays, and the manager ensures that staff have the appropriate experience and skills to manage specific tasks. Children benefit from very good organisation, family groupings are arranged at the beginning, middle and end of the day, which ensures that siblings have opportunities to interact with each other. Children benefit from well prepared policies and documentation, their details are regularly updated, and contain all the relevant information that helps staff make well informed decisions regarding their care. Children benefit from effective storage of the equipment, this ensures there is sufficient space for children to explore and experience varied activities. Planning is detailed and flexible, and follows the interests and ages of the children. The setting meets the needs of the children that attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- ensure that there is sufficient ventilation in the baby room to allow for the changing of nappies, and that there are sufficient opportunities for children to regularly experience the challenges of outdoor play
- ensure that risk assessments include the suitability of toys for the younger age group of children

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