



Re:d Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY100151
Inspection date	05 October 2006
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Registered person	NCH
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of 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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Red Centre Out of School provision opened in 2001. It is a centre specifically for children and young people with special needs. It is situated in a purpose built building near Bury town centre.

The centre is registered to care for up to 14 children under the age of eight years at any one time. There are currently 160 children on roll, 38 of whom attend various tea-time and short break sessions.

The Out of School care operates Monday to Thursday from 15.30 until 19.30 and has weekend sessions during term time only. In school holidays the centre is open from 09.00 until 17.00, Monday to Friday.

Seven staff work with the children, all of whom hold a relevant qualification. The centre is involved in the NCH quality assurance scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Extensive policies and procedures are in place which promote the safe health and welfare of children. Staff work very closely with parents to ensure the consistent care of children. Individual planning means that the specific health care needs of children are effectively met. Records are highly detailed and carefully recorded to ensure that children receive the approved medical care. All staff are trained in first aid and emergency rescue medication treatment. Staff demonstrate effective hygiene practices to prevent risk of cross infection. They complete health and safety training to update knowledge and awareness of regulations.

Individual dietary requirements for children are successfully met. Staff keep detailed information on dietary, cultural and health requirements and have a high level of awareness of children's nutritional needs. Children's health is fostered through a varied and nutritious diet. Children benefit from the social meal times and opportunities to practise independent skills. For example, they like to help prepare some meals or snacks and help to wash up.

Children benefit from the highly stimulating physical play opportunities. They are extremely well supported by staff and the considerable range of specialised resources. There are different areas, indoors and out, where children can safely explore and develop their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a very safe and welcoming building. There is a secure entry system and CCTV to monitor people who enter the premises. Rooms are clearly defined for specific purposes and to suit all ages and abilities of children who attend. Children are gently stimulated in the sensory play room or benefit from more boisterous activity in the soft play area. They enjoy relaxing in the lounge as they play on the floor with toys or watch television. Toys and equipment are very well organised and maintained. There are extensive resources to promote development and inclusion. Tactile and sensory play materials are accessible throughout the setting.

Children are very well protected and their safety assured through the excellent awareness of the staff. Detailed policies and procedures are implemented in practice and are highly effective. Rigorous and thorough risk assessments are undertaken to ensure that all activities, areas and play materials are safe for children. Staff complete additional health and safety training to meet the specific needs of children.

Staff have expert knowledge of child protection procedures, which highly safeguard the welfare of children. Policies are very clear and effectively shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from the social opportunities to be with or near to other children. They enjoy carefully planned activities, in an environment in which they feel very safe. Activities and resources are stimulating and challenging for children. Staff plan meticulously for the groups and for individuals. Children are supervised constantly and receive consistent care from staff. They know the children very well and respond efficiently to different needs and behaviours. This means that children can be distracted from a situation and skilfully diverted in to an area of purposeful play. Children have a wealth of tactile and sensory play materials, indoors and out. They thoroughly enjoyed seeing and touching exotic animals, which were specially brought in for the children to experience. Children use all their senses to explore and investigate in the sensory garden.

After school the children have time to socialise as they eat together or play in the same rooms. Children who prefer more solitary play are taken by staff to quiet areas, or to an activity that the child particularly enjoys. During school holidays the children benefit from an extensive range of activities and outings. They relish the wealth of play opportunities that they experience. Children express their needs in different ways and are quickly responded to by staff. They develop confidence in communication as they recognise signs and pictures. Children are reassured and feel secure as they become familiar with the routines. Staff provide excellent levels of support and guidance to children in their activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Extensive policies and procedures are in place which are clearly known and effectively met by all staff. The individual needs of children are carefully considered, specifically planned for and comprehensively met. Diversity is reflected and very well promoted throughout the setting. Children see positive images of similarity and difference in all areas. Pictures and posters include different languages and scripts, resources promote equality of opportunity for all children. Staff include children in their evaluation and planning and value their contributions. The staff have a wealth of experience and excellent understanding of special needs care and inclusion. They attend training specific to children's health and safety, so that children are exceptionally well cared for. The centre works very closely with parents and other agencies to support the highly skilled care of the children.

Children receive excellent support and attention in the setting. They are cared for according to their needs, such as in a small group or on a 1-1 basis with a member of staff. Behaviour is managed very skilfully by staff who attend specific training in approved handling and management techniques. They also carefully plan appropriate strategies with parents, which ensures consistency for the children.

Partnership with parents is excellent. Staff continuously promote highly effective working relationships and strong links with the community. Settings information for parents contains comprehensive details of all childcare policies and procedures. Parents are actively involved in the evaluation and review process which monitors the service twice a year. There are very

effective communication systems in place between parents and staff. Planning for children is highly effective due to thorough discussions and conscientious recording of information.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are cared for by a consistent, highly skilled staff team in a very safe and secure environment. The setting provides unique and exemplary Out of School care, where children receive constant 1-1 attention and supervision. Management have clear aims and objectives and strive to improve the services offered to children. Staff are qualified and also continue to attend regular training in order to ensure highly effective childcare. They have an excellent understanding of the National Standards and continuously monitor and evaluate their practice. This strong commitment to enhance the quality of care ensures the best outcomes possible for the children.

Children benefit greatly from the very well organised key worker system. Staff communications are highly effective and they are very aware of their responsibilities as team members and individual carers. Policies and procedures are extensive and the organisation throughout the setting is meticulous. Records and documentation are highly detailed to ensure that the health, safety and welfare of each child is paramount.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to improve the security on the outside gate leading from the sensory garden to the adjoining school. The gate was locked at times which restricted access in the event of an emergency. Since then work has been undertaken at the school and the gate has been moved, resulting in improvements to the fire evacuation procedures and safety for the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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 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