



Surestart Children's Centre Weymouth and Portland

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY316443
Inspection date	27 June 2006
Inspector	Dinah Round

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Registered person	Surestart Weymouth and Portland
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Surestart Weymouth and Portland registered in 2005. It operates from the ground floor of the Mulberry building, in the centre of Weymouth, Dorset. They have use of a baby room, toddler room, quiet room and training room, plus associated facilities. Children have no access to outdoor play facilities. Children attend the centre from Weymouth, Portland and the surrounding areas.

The centre provides sessional crèche facilities at various times, Monday to Friday all year round except bank holidays and Christmas. Parents use the crèche when attending courses or as a 'time out' childcare facility. The centre is registered to care

for a maximum of 32 children under eight years, and currently have 921 children as members. The centre supports children with additional needs.

There is a team of 11 staff working with the children, plus a deputy manager who is currently covering the manager's post. Of these, nine have a relevant childcare qualification. They are supported by a team of professionals which includes a Health Visitor, Speech Therapist, Midwife, Occupational Therapist, and Counsellor based at the centre.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are offered healthy and nutritional snacks. This includes a choice of fresh fruit, and drinks of milk or water. Some babies' food is supplied by parents, and the parents attending courses are able to continue breastfeeding. This means that babies' individual feeding requirements are followed. All food and cups are labelled, which ensures that children are given the correct food.

Clear nappy changing procedures are followed by staff which helps to protect children. This includes use of protective aprons, gloves, and cleaning of the changing mat. Children learn the importance of personal hygiene through the daily routines. For example, they wash their hands before snack time. Clear information is shared with parents to make them aware that children must not attend with infectious illnesses. This helps to reduce the spread of infection.

Children have opportunities for rest and sleep times within the session, according to their individual needs. They have some opportunities to develop their physical skills, for example, the babies enjoy wriggling and crawling around in the ball pool. The younger children are occasionally taken on buggy walks, but there is no outdoor play provision provided at centre. This limits children's access to fresh air and exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure environment. Effective security systems are in place, which means that children are protected from uninvited visitors and cannot leave the building unsupervised. Staff carry out visual risk assessments on a daily basis, however, this is not sufficiently effective in ensuring potential risks to children are minimised. For example, a looping telephone wire was within reach of the babies, and a child was able to pull over a dressing up rack.

Children are provided with clean, age appropriate resources and equipment to ensure their safety such as, child size toilets, low sinks, tables and chairs. However, the baby room is not maintained at a comfortable temperature for the babies. Children benefit from having access to an extensive range of clean, good quality toys. These are generally well positioned around the room to enable children to

independently select them. For example, babies are able to freely explore the different books and resources on the low units.

Most staff have a sound knowledge of child protection issues and their responsibilities, which supports them in their role of safeguarding children. Staff are clear of the procedure to inform senior staff of any concerns. However, some staff are less secure about some aspects of child protection. A child protection policy is in place and is shared with parents to make them aware of the staff's responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are secure in the warm and welcoming environment created by staff. Staff have a good knowledge of child development which means that children's individual needs are well met. Children benefit from the flexible routine followed by staff, as they offer activities and play opportunities geared to the ages and stages of children attending. Staff use the Birth to three matters framework and Foundation Stage curriculum to plan activities to promote children's development.

Babies' individual routines are followed well by staff as they allow times for active play and relaxation. Staff plan a good variety of stimulating experiences which include regular opportunities for babies to use their senses. For example, they enjoy exploring the interesting objects in the treasure basket, and have fun as they glue on the ladybird spots. The children benefit from plenty of physical contact and interaction by the staff. For instance, they enjoy a cuddle as they look at picture books and listen to simple stories.

The toddlers and older children happily get involved with the different activities and play opportunities provided. They use their imagination well as they act out real life situations in the role-play area. For example, children pretend to pour a cup of tea, iron the dressing-up clothes, and happily chat on the telephone in the home corner. Children enjoy creating their ladybird pictures, and concentrate carefully as they build their 'towers' from the wooden blocks. Staff ask questions and repeat words to stimulate the children's language and help promote their development.

Children benefit from the staff's warm and sensitive approach, and they relate well to the staff. They receive lots of praise and encouragement which helps build their confidence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are greeted by friendly and welcoming staff which helps them to settle. Staff liaise very closely with parents to make sure that the children's individual needs are met. For example, details of the babies' feeding and sleeping routines are fully discussed with parents as they leave the children. Children are valued as individuals and their achievements are recognised by staff, which helps them feel good about

themselves. They join in the 'hello' song in the toddler room to welcome everyone, and this promotes a sense of belonging. Staff offer reassurance to less confident children and identify when additional support is required. Children benefit from the close partnerships developed between staff, parents and other professionals, who work together to meet the children's needs. Children have access to a broad range of resources reflecting positive images of other cultures, which helps raise their awareness of the wider world.

Children benefit from the staff's clear behaviour expectations and boundaries. They co-operate well during tidy-up time such as, helping to put away the cushions after circle time. Staff provide a calm and sensitive approach to managing children's behaviour. For example, children are reminded to have 'kind hands' and to 'be nice to our friends'. Children respond well to the regular praise and encouragement given by the staff for effort and achievements. Staff liaise closely with parents over any behaviour issues, so they can work together and encourage consistency for the children.

Parents receive clear, detailed information about the provision through noticeboards and monthly newsletters. The effective systems in place to support parents and share information includes a home visit before they attend the centre. Children benefit from the close partnership developed between staff and parents. The two-way exchange of information at the beginning and end of a session successfully shares information about a child's individual needs. Staff working with the babies complete daily report sheets detailing, nappy changes, food eaten and activities they have enjoyed. This makes sure that parents are kept well informed about their child's care and welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a friendly and welcoming environment. Their independence is fostered well in the baby room as babies are able to easily select toys and resources. However, storage is limited within the centre, and this can impact on the free space available in the toddler room. Children benefit from the staff's clear knowledge of child development and how children learn through play. This means that children are offered interesting learning experiences. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children for whom it provides.

Staff meet on a weekly basis to discuss various aspects of the provision. However, recently the management structure has had some changes which has led to some lack of direction and clarity for staff. This has impacted on some staff being less clear about procedures within the centre. The deputy manager and staff have a positive attitude to on-going development of the provision and continual improvement for the children. Staff are provided with opportunities to develop their skills through training.

Policies and procedures are in place and are made available to parents. Clear recruitment and vetting procedures are followed, with a staff induction programme for new staff. All aspects of documentation are maintained, and this includes clear attendance records showing times children are present at each session. Records are kept secure and confidential.

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 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):

- make sure that the baby room is kept at a comfortable temperature for the babies
- implement systems to ensure that potential risks to children are effectively identified, monitored and minimised
- review organisation, to make sure that all staff are clear of the centre's policies and procedures, in particular, child protection.

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