



T.O.T.S [Tinies on Track Service]

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 961816
Inspection date 29 June 2006
Inspector Liz Margaret Caluori

Setting Address The Robsack Community Centre, Bodiam Drive, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN38 9TW
Telephone number 01424 855222
E-mail
Registered person The Fellowship Of St. Nicholas
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Tinies on Track Service (TOTS), is one of two settings run by the Fellowship of St Nicholas charity. It opened in January 1998 and operates from a room in the community centre and also has use of the main sports hall. It is situated in a residential area of St Leonards, within walking distance of local shops and schools.

A total of 36 children may attend the setting at any one time, when both the hall and the group room are being used. The number of children on roll may vary. The group operates a variety of sessions which cater for the needs of parents and carers

attending courses in the community centre.

The group is able to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) as well as those who speak English as an additional language.

The staff at the setting work on a sessional basis with a minimum of two present for each session. There are two supervisors for different sessions throughout the week and both hold appropriate childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, comfortable environment. They are well supported to develop good personal hygiene practices; washing their hands after messy activities, after going to the toilet and before eating. Appropriate procedures are also in place for changing nappies.

Staff with first aid qualifications are present at all times which ensures that children are appropriately cared for in case of an accident. There is a written policy in place regarding the administration of medicines. This clearly explains that in special circumstances staff may administer medication. However, as parents and carers are generally within the building during the group sessions, they are made aware that this is primarily their responsibility.

Children have constant access to water and enjoy a fruit snack and drink each day. Some parents also send in items and these are appropriately stored and served to their child at snack time. However, as parents are not encouraged to adhere to the setting's healthy eating policy they sometimes include items with a low nutritional content.

Children benefit from regular opportunities to take part in physical exercise. They play happily in the outdoor areas, running, pushing wheeled toys and rolling safely down the gentle grass slope. However, on very sunny days the lack of shade means that children are only able to spend very limited periods of time playing outside.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children play in a large open plan room. They are well supervised by the staff who vigilantly monitor their movements. They play with well maintained toys and equipment that are suitable for their ages and stages of development and are easily and safely accessible.

Children move carefully and sensibly around the setting. They are learning to keep themselves safe through the on-going support of staff. They are also well protected against the potential risks of the sun. They are provided with hats and do not spend

too long outside.

Fire exits are clearly identified and free from obstruction. However, there is no system for ensuring that regular evacuation drills take place and staff are not familiar with the sound of the alarm. As a result, children's safety in case of a fire is not sufficiently protected.

Staff are confident in their ability to identify the potential signs and symptoms of abuse. However, the process for reporting child protection concerns is not clear and therefore the setting is unable to ensure that children's welfare is effectively safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the setting and interact well with the staff and with the other children. They benefit from routines which are flexible but give structure to the sessions, supporting children to feel secure and settled.

Children's emotional and general care needs are very well respected. Babies are given cuddles and supportive contact and older children thrive in the relaxed, friendly environment. They chat confidently and enjoy the opportunities they have to explore and make choices. They are engaged and interested in the activities provided. These are well resourced and are very appealing to the children. They are skilfully adapted to be accessible to children of all ages and stages of development.

In addition to regular physical exercise, children regularly take part in role play games and a wide variety of art and craft activities. They also enjoy playing freely with the toys provided including a train set, construction, puzzles and books.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are made welcome and are respected as individuals. Staff offer new children very good support to settle and feel comfortable. Children are polite, well mannered and caring in response to the positive role modelling of staff.

Children play with a range of toys which promote positive images of people from throughout the community and the wider world.

The staff team has a positive attitude towards integrating children with LDD and meeting their individual needs. However, whilst they discuss each child with their parent, they do not make detailed written records. This practice does not sufficiently ensure that all staff who work with the children are fully informed.

Relationships with parents and carers are friendly. They receive a warm welcome and are provided with an adequate range of written information about the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The group runs a variety of sessions throughout the week and the number of staff present depends on the number of children booked to attend. This ensures that ratios are met at all times.

Space is generally used well to ensure that a wide variety of activities are able to take place. Similarly, time is also well managed to ensure that children are provided with an appropriate balance of relaxing as well as more stimulating activities.

The staff team is made up of sessional workers, two of whom are identified as supervisors. The arrangements in place to induct staff in the policies and procedures of the setting are not effective. There are also significant weaknesses in the line of communication between the staff working with the children and their line managers. As a result of these issues, staff are not sufficiently supported to follow the correct procedures to ensure the well-being and safety of the children attending. Specifically, they are not all familiar with the procedure to be followed in case of a child becoming lost or not being collected. They are not familiar with the emergency evacuation procedure and do not have all the information they require to report child protection concerns.

The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the group has undergone considerable changes, including a complete change in personnel. The last inspection report recommended that improvements be made to the management of children's behaviour. There are no longer any weaknesses in this area and children benefit from the calm and consistent approach of staff.

Recommendations were also made in relation to some written records. Information such as children's dietary requirements are now recorded and the documentation maintained is generally well ordered. However, due to the weaknesses in staff induction and organisation, some recording systems are not effective. As a result, children's welfare is not sufficiently safe guarded.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- develop and implement an action plan detailing how staff induction procedures will be improved to ensure that staff are familiar with all policies and procedures relating to the setting
- ensure that appropriate fire safety precautions are in place and are understood by all staff
- ensure that the management structure is clearly identified and understood by all staff

These actions are set out in a **notice of action to improve** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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