



South Leeds Family Childcare

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY103125
Inspection date	24 August 2006
Inspector	Ingrid Pine
Setting Address	Acre Road, Middleton, Leeds, LS10 4DE
Telephone number	0113 3950337
E-mail	
Registered person	South Leeds Family Childcare
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

South Leeds Family Childcare was registered in October 2002 and is run by a voluntary committee. Children are cared for in three rooms within the South Leeds Training Centre.

The setting is registered to care for 52 children. This includes full day care, wrap around care, crèche facilities for parents attending courses on the site, before and after school care and holiday playschemes. There are 60 children on roll.

The centre opens from 8.00 to 18.00 all year round, apart from one week at

Christmas.

Support is received from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

There are 15 members of staff, including the manager. All staff who work with children are qualified to level 2 and nine of these are qualified to level 3 in childcare

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well protected because staff take positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and take appropriate measures when children are ill. Children practise good health and hygiene routines, but staff do not always explain the reasons for doing so. For example, they wash their hands before eating and after going to the toilet. Younger babies have separate cloths for hands and face and staff wipe down tables before serving lunch with anti-bacterial solution. There is an appropriate written sickness policy in place which is understood by parents. Consequently the risk of cross infection between children is minimised.

Younger children have a sufficiently healthy diet. Food for the younger children is hygienically prepared in the centre's main kitchen and staff are aware that they need to further increase the nutritional value of some of the meals offered to children. Older children in the out of school club bring their own packed lunches. Staff encourage them and their parents to provide healthy options by making suggestions on the parents' noticeboard. Older children are well aware of the need to eat healthily and discuss the reasons why they now drink water and fresh fruit juices as opposed to high sugar drinks.

There is a key person system in place and young babies' emotional needs are well met as they have opportunities throughout the day to interact with a consistent adult.

The setting provides all children with a good range of activities that help to develop their physical skills. The outdoor areas for the younger children are attractively set out with resources that mirror the indoor provision. Babies enjoy stimulating activities, such as playing in a large sandpit, and the soft play surface ensures that they can toddle and crawl about in safety. The two to four year olds competently manoeuvre trikes and have fun on a spinning roundabout. The children in the out of school club enjoy outings to the local park where they take part in vigorous exercise on climbing frames and play football. They also use a soft play area belonging to the nearby leisure centre. However, there are safety issues relating to the use of this.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, well-maintained environment which is well organised and enables them to move around freely. Young babies have space to roll,

crawl and explore their surroundings in safety. Room in the out of school area is at a premium but resources are stored correctly so that children can have free choice and access the resources independently. All toys and equipment are maintained in a very good condition and are appropriate for the age of the children.

Children learn to keep themselves safe due to clear explanations from staff. For instance, children are helped to understand why they should tidy up toys to prevent them tripping up over them, and why they should not run outside in the playground. The access is secure and there are good systems in place for supervision and monitoring of children. Children are able to play safely within the play areas within the setting. However, at times older out of school children use a soft play area adjacent to the nearby leisure centre which is also used by local residents. Litter and glass make this area unsafe for children to play.

Children's welfare is well considered and they are protected at all times. Senior staff clearly understand their role in child protection and know how to put appropriate procedures into practice, if and when necessary. Staff are well supported by an experienced child protection officer. Clear policies for collection of children are in place and shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff plan a good range of enjoyable activities which mostly contribute to children's development. Children in the out of school club suggest their own ideas for activities and staff value their contributions. They competently organise concerts, tournaments and rotas for playing games, and they are happy, busy and interested in their play.

Young babies are skilful communicators and competent learners. A good range of tactile and creative play offered to young children encourages them to learn, using all their senses. They communicate with sounds and gestures and are happy and content. They eagerly sit on adults' knees to look at books, persist in finding a toy that they really want, and enthusiastically make music with a range of musical instruments.

Younger children have opportunities to use a wide range of toys and equipment. Outdoor play equipment is set out to mirror indoors and children can move freely between the two. They develop their imagination as they enact familiar situations in the home corner. They show their understanding of the world about them as they show an inspector what they learned about turtles and tortoises from visitors to their nursery. However, at times, activities are too structured and some staff have inappropriate expectations of children, particularly in number and literacy.

All children play well together; they learn to share and have respect for the feelings of others. Younger children share tools when playing in the sand. Older children in the out of school club organise their own rotas and self-regulate their time on the PlayStation and electronic games.

Assessment records are only kept for certain groups of children, for example, those

who attend for full day care. Therefore, staff are not always aware of children's achievements and cannot plan appropriately for their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel at home in a familiar, caring environment and staff respect children's views and ideas. There are good arrangements in place to care for children with learning difficulties and staff work well with parents and other agencies to provide the support needed. All children develop a good understanding about the natural environment and the wider community through celebrating festivals, trying food and learning about living animals. Positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability encourage them to respect each other's differences.

Children behave well and they are mostly given appropriate praise and encouragement. They begin to understand right and wrong through consistent boundaries and age-appropriate methods to manage behaviour, including explanation, distraction and alternative options. For example, a staff member explains to a child that he can use the watering can in the water tray outside rather than the one inside which is being used for a specific topic purpose.

There is a sound partnership with parents and carers. Parents are happy with the care and attention their children receive. Information is shared with parents through newsletters, daily chats and noticeboards. However, there is no formal system to ensure that parents contribute their knowledge of their children's progress and development to children's profiles or records.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by experienced and qualified staff. All are suitable to look after children. There is a good appraisal system which identifies staff's strengths and weaknesses, and they are all willing to develop their skills and knowledge through training.

The setting is well organised and each age group has its own specific area. Staff know their roles and responsibilities, but sometimes staff rotas are organised around staff's preferences rather than what is good practice for looking after children.

Children are kept safe and healthy through staff implementing all necessary policies and procedures. There is a complaints procedure in place and parents are confident that any issues or problems can be solved with the current managers and committee. However, several parents stated that they did not know who they could contact if matters could not be sorted out within the nursery.

All documentation for the welfare and care of children is in place. Management are presently re-organising documentation in line with the outcomes for children. All confidential documentation is kept safely locked away in a filing cabinet.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to: develop policies and procedures to highlight operational planning and implementation of policies; and improve safety matters, such as the appointment of a child protection officer, supervision in high chairs, parental permission for outings and emergency aid treatment. It was also requested to provide more challenging resources for older children and to promote a better understanding of equality of opportunity.

All these issues have been addressed. Monthly staff meetings have been introduced allowing staff to regularly review planning, operations and the day-to-day work of the nursery. Children's safety has improved because the staff now provide alternative seating for young babies whilst eating. Also, written permission for outings and emergency medical treatment is now in place. The chair of the committee is an experienced social worker and is now the designated child protection officer. A range of stimulating activities that challenge children's physical development and improve their understanding of equality of opportunity are now being provided.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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):

- encourage young children to understand the reasons for personal hygiene and further develop menus to enhance their nutritional diet
- ensure older children can play safely in the local environment through protection from hazards, with particular reference to the soft play area adjacent to the leisure centre

- select resources and provide activities, play opportunities and first-hand experiences that are appropriate for young children, particularly in number and mark making
- devise a system that enables parents to share their knowledge of their children's progress and development
- deploy staff effectively to ensure young children's developmental needs are met appropriately.

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