



Stoke Heath Community Centre Crèche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223703
Inspection date	10 November 2006
Inspector	Myra Lewis
Setting Address	Stoke Heath Community Centre, Valley Road, Stoke Heath, Stoke Heath, Coventry, CV2 3JD
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Registered person	Children & Family Education Service
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Crèche

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?

Stoke Heath Community Centre Crèche is one of nine crèches run by the Coventry East Children and Family Education Services. It opened in 1992 and operates from a large room within a Community Centre in the Stoke Heath area of the City. There is access to a fully enclosed outside play area. The crèche provides support for parents accessing adult education and leisure activities. It serves the local and surrounding areas.

A maximum of 14 children may attend at any one time. There are currently 31 children from 0 to 5 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs, and who speak English as an additional language. The group operates during term times only. Opening times vary depending on the class programme and need.

Four part time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have appropriate early years qualifications and one member of staff is working towards a recognised early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health within the setting is supported by staff who have a secure knowledge of the routines in place. Children are encouraged to learn appropriate hygiene practices through the daily routines. They are accompanied to and from the toilets by staff, who help and support them to develop their independence skills. Satisfactory nappy changing routines are observed and the individual needs of children met. There is a suitable area provided for babies.

Children's health is protected through staff's knowledge of first aid and the satisfactory systems in place to minimise the spread of infection. Surfaces and toys are routinely cleaned with anti-bacterial spray and children use paper towels to dry their hands. Satisfactory accident and medication records are maintained and prompt action is taken if children should become unwell.

Children participate in a range of physical activities which promote their good health and well-being. Physical activities are provided during each session, for example, children enjoy crawling through the play tunnel and using the slide, where they learn to climb up and slide down. They are also able to play outside where they benefit from the fresh air and have more space to manoeuvre wheeled toys.

Children enjoy sociable snack times where they are provided with healthy foods such as fruit and raisins. Parents are asked to provide a piece of fruit to add to the fruit basket, which is then shared with the children. If children attend all day their meals are provided by their parents. Food items and bottle feeds are stored in the fridge as necessary. All children's personal belongings are clearly marked to avoid the risk of cross-infection.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and bright environment which is suitably organised so that children can move independently around the room. Toys and resources are safe as staff check toys and equipment each day, any broken toys are removed from use. The premises are safe and secure with satisfactory systems in place for the safe arrival and collection of children.

Children have access to a range of safe, suitable toys and resources appropriate for their age and stage of development. Toys with small pieces are not easily accessible to younger children as there is a separate area to accommodate very young children. Staff have conducted risk assessments of all areas used by the children to ensure their safety. However, risk assessments do not include the newly acquired outside play area, which may compromise safety. Satisfactory emergency evacuation systems are in place and practised with the children.

Children's welfare is protected as staff understand their role and responsibilities with regard to child protection and know who to contact should they be concerned.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well and participate in a good range of activities that are made available to them. Staff are aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to support young children's learning. They plan a variety of different play activities to stimulate children's interests and ensure they are fully occupied during each session. Children choose from activities set out by staff. However, opportunities for children to make independent choices about their play are more limited. Children enjoy activities such as painting, drawing, sticking, sand, water play, building bricks and various table top activities. Story time and singing sessions are also incorporated in weekly plans.

Children enjoy positive relationships with staff who support their they play effectively. New children's concerns over absent parents or carers are dealt with sensitively, staff reassure and encourage children as they are playing. Babies receive individual attention, staff spend time holding, talking and playing with them. They are able to rest or sleep according to their individual routines.

Photographic evidence demonstrates a good variety of interesting activities are provided to promote children's play and learning. For example, planting and growing seeds, role play hairdressers, balancing games and magician's visit. Displays of children's art work is well presented and the children are able to take some pictures home. Therefore children's overall learning is actively promoted.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

A warm welcome is provided for children, their parents and carers. Children are treated equally and their differences acknowledged and respected. The children have equal access to all activities regardless of their ability, gender or background. They learn about their own and other cultures through planned activities such as Diwali.

The crèche provides support for children with disabilities, learning difficulties or who speak English as an additional language. A clearly written policy is in place which details how the service will be provided. Any special requirements are discussed with parents and the specific needs of children are met accordingly.

Positive strategies are in place to manage children's behaviour. Children receive praise and encouragement from staff, which helps build their self-esteem and promote good behaviour. Children respond to staff's sensitive and consistent approach therefore they are beginning to learn to share, take turns and play together.

Children benefit from the open and friendly partnership between parents and staff. Information is shared daily and parents wishes respected. Staff make time available at the beginning and end of each session to talk with parents, and they are kept well informed about their children's activities. Parents written comments about the service provided are good, comments reflect that staff are approachable and their children are happy and settled within the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children separate easily from their parent and carers into this friendly environment. They join in with all activities provided and are supported by a staff team who are sensitive to the individual needs of children in their care. Staff have a clear understanding of their individual roles and responsibilities and work well together.

Relevant information regarding the children's individual care needs are discussed fully with parents, accurately recorded and stored appropriately. Children's daily activities are shared positively with parents each day, keeping them well-informed about their children's progress. All policies and procedures are made available to parents with additional information clearly displayed, which contributes to the well-being of children in attendance.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting were asked to, carry out risk assessments, maintain fire equipment, improve nappy changing facilities to ensure children's privacy needs; improve accident records and extend positive image resources.

Satisfactory progress has been made in response to the recommendations raised. Risk assessments have now been completed and action taken in response to identified hazards. Fire equipment is maintained by the community centre and children's accident records contain relevant information. Positive images are reflected through posters, toys and resources that reflect positive images of diversity.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any further action 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 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):

- develop the settings risk assessment procedures to ensure that any identified hazards in the outside play area are made safe or inaccessible to children.
- provide more opportunities for children to make choices about their play and learning

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk