



## Childcare Plus - Hemlington

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY335079   |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 17 November 2006   |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Elaine Marie McDonnell   |
| <b>Setting Address</b>         | Hemlington Community Partnership, Cass House Road, Hemlington, MIDDLESBROUGH, Cleveland, TS8 9QW |
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| <b>Registered person</b>       | Childcare Plus   |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Childcare  |
| <b>Type of care</b>            | 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](http://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?

Childcare Plus - Hemlington is one of 20 crèche provisions owned by Middlesbrough Borough Council and is managed by them in conjunction with Sure Start. It has been registered since June 2006. The crèche operates from one room within a purpose built Sure Start building in the Hemlington area of Middlesbrough. A maximum of 12 children under eight years may attend the crèche at any one time, unless the room has been divided into two, then no more than six children under eight years may be cared for at any one time. The provision operates when required and at the moment sessions take place on a Friday afternoon from 13.00 to 15.00 and on a Monday morning from 09.30 to 11.30.

There are currently nine children on roll aged from three months to two years. There is an enclosed outdoor play area which belongs to the day nursery within the building and children attending the crèche are allowed access to this area.

Childcare Plus employs many members of staff, all are qualified at Levels 2 and 3. There are currently three members of staff allocated to work at this provision.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because staff follow good hygiene procedures. For example, the premises and equipment are kept very clean and hygienic, good procedures are in place for nappy changing to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate accident and illness procedures are in place to protect children's overall health. Children are beginning to understand simple, good health and hygiene practices with appropriate explanations and support from staff, for example, staff explain to children why they should wash their hands after messy activities and before eating. A suitable first aid box is available plus medication and accident records, which are appropriately completed and include parents' signatures.

Children are well nourished and receive a variety of fresh fruit each session. Children's health and dietary needs are met because staff work well with parents to obtain written information about individual requirements. Children are beginning to learn about healthy living, usually at snack times, when staff discuss why eating plenty of fruit is good for them. Snack time is observed to be a relaxed and enjoyable occasion.

Children have good opportunities to enjoy physical activity both indoors and outdoors. A very attractive outdoor play area is attached to the adjacent nursery and children from the crèche are allowed access to this. Children have good opportunities to rest and sleep according to their needs and individual routines, and sleeping children are allowed to wake up in their own time. Children are involved in quieter, restful activities at the end of each session such as singing and story times.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Good steps have been taken to ensure that children are cared for in a safe environment. For example, the crèche room is kept secure, socket covers are in place, low level glass is of safety standard and a risk assessment is completed by staff before children arrive. A record of visitors is maintained and emergency evacuation procedures are in place, have been practised and are clearly displayed. The outdoor play area is kept secure to promote children's safety and safe procedures for outings are available in the policy file.

The environment is warm and welcoming for the children as activities and toys are attractively presented for their arrival. They have suitable access to a varied range of toys, equipment and furniture. Staff ensure that resources are safe and suitable for children's use with regular checking routines. Children learn to keep themselves safe with appropriate explanations from staff. For example, staff encourage the children not to climb on musical equipment and show them the correct way to use musical instruments.

Children are well protected because staff understand their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of the different areas of abuse and of possible signs. A written procedure is in place and includes allegations made against staff.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are involved in a suitable range of activities that cover all areas of development. For example, staff ensure that a craft activity, books, puzzles, role play and physical play activities are available each session. However, there are limited resources, such as push along toys, available to promote younger children's physical capabilities and aid their walking skills. Children are observed enjoying painting, musical instruments, puppets, various activity toys, singing and action rhymes. Activities are well planned for children and incorporate the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem well when praised and encouraged by staff. For example, when tasting different fruits, learning what sounds different animals make and when attempting to walk. Children show interest in what they do and enjoy being in the crèche. They have opportunities to be independent and use their initiative when deciding what to play with from the selection of activities that are available, and when deciding what fruits they would or would not like to taste. Children are acquiring new skills and knowledge such as repeating words, naming different fruit and learning how to play simple musical instruments.

Children have various opportunities to learn about wider society and begin to appreciate their own culture and the cultural traditions of others. For example, they participate in activities in relation to different cultural festivals when they appear in the annual calendar. They also have access to a variety of play materials which positively reflect wider society, such as jigsaw puzzles, play people, puppets and books.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

A written procedure is in place to ensure that equal opportunities are promoted within the setting. Staff have a good understanding of this and ensure that it is well implemented. All children receive good adult support and attention, particularly children who are new to the crèche and are unsettled when parents leave them. Appropriate procedures are in place for the identification and assessment of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are currently no children with additional needs attending the setting.

Children enjoy the crèche and the activities available. They are settled and happy and make positive relationships with adults and peers. Children are well behaved and staff demonstrate a good understanding of how to manage children's behaviour.

The setting works well in partnership with parents. Staff receive written personal details about each child which are used as a basis for their individual care. Parents are kept informed of their child's development and progress through discussions with staff when they collect their child.

Parents of younger children also receive written information about their child's day. A parental involvement policy is in place to promote working in partnership with parents. Parents receive written details about the provision, which includes lots of useful information such as admissions, activities, staffing, child protection and behaviour. Other useful information is displayed for parents including details about measles, mumps and rubella, the complaints procedure, the registration certificate and details of the regulator.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Good recruitment and vetting procedures are followed and are rigorous and robust enough to ensure that children are well protected and cared for by staff with relevant experience, knowledge and skills. All staff employed by Childcare Plus have an appropriate childcare qualification. Staff have good access to training and development courses, and training in first aid is planned for some staff members. Two members of staff on duty at the time of the inspection have an approved first aid certificate.

Staff have high regard for the well-being of all children and children receive good adult care and attention. Attendance registers and observation indicate that adult to child ratios are currently above minimum recommendations. Staff deployment contributes positively to children's care, learning and play.

All documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available, well kept and up to date. Policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution and staff are aware of how to implement them effectively. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **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 complaint 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):

- provide resources to develop younger children's physical capabilities.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)