



Sure Start Childrens Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY330694
Inspection date	29 November 2006
Inspector	Anne Walker
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Registered person	Surestart Childrens Centre
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Sessional 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Sure Start Children's Centre crèche registered in 2006 to serve the local area of Eastwood, Nottinghamshire. It is located from a single storey, purpose built building and is within easy access to the M1 motorway and Eastwood town centre. The centre comprises a range of facilities including drop-in support groups for parents, carers and their families and the crèche for parents and carers who are attending courses at the centre. The crèche operates from two rooms within the centre; the activity room and the quiet room and has secure areas available for outside play. The centre opens each weekday between 08:30 and 17:00. The crèche operates as needed to support the courses provided at the centre. It is registered to provide sessional care for 16 children under eight years from the local Sure Start area.

There is an overall centre manager who is supported by a management team. There are six early years staff who work within the crèche, all of whom hold an appropriate level three early years qualification. The crèche receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a comfortable environment. Their health is promoted effectively as their carers follow good hygiene routines when changing nappies and for keeping the nursery clean. Babies bottles are stored appropriately and items such as dummies are sterilised as necessary. There are clear procedures shared with parents regarding the care of children who are ill or infectious. This ensures they are able to work cooperatively with the setting to prevent the spread of infection and ensure the good health of all children. Young children wash their hands after using the toilet and after messy play. They quickly learn the importance of these routines as their carers are good role models and the facilities are accessible to promote their independence. Currently all staff who work in the crèche hold a first aid certificate. This ensures they can act appropriately and promptly if any accidents were to occur.

Regular drinks of water or juice are provided during the crèche session. Babies feeding routines are known and acted upon so that they remain content and settled. Children do not have a snack at the crèche due to the length of time it is open, however, they learn about healthy eating through participation in growing fruit and vegetables in the centres outdoor areas.

Children have good opportunities to play actively and develop their physical skills. Outdoor play is an integral part of the session and doors remain open so that children choose to be indoors or out. There is a broad range of equipment that fosters their physical skills appropriately. Indoors there is challenging equipment for toddlers who can climb steps to the imaginative area and then use a slide to get back down to the main part of the room.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The risk of accidents to children is minimised as the environment is well planned. Children can move about independently without the risks of trips and falls. They help maintain this environment by hanging aprons up after use and putting toys away. They cannot gain access to areas such as the kitchen or changing areas but the design of the room allows suitable supervision and visibility for staff to monitor them. Good staffing levels ensure that children always have a carer close by. Adults are deployed effectively so that risks to children are well managed. For example, when children choose to explore the steps and slide, staff are by their side. Children are not able to leave the crèche unsupervised but the coded door entry system is not always in place to monitor access to the room. This potentially poses a risk to children's safety.

The children have play materials that are of high quality. Items out at each session have good regard to the ages of children present so that they can play safely. Furniture is of good quality and allows children to access their play safely. Babies are able to be nursed comfortably when they are bottle fed and can sleep restfully due to the good resources and furniture.

The welfare of children is promoted as their carers understand their responsibility with regard to child protection. They know who to refer their concerns to within the facility and externally.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are welcomed into an impressive environment that is bright and stimulating. The organisation of space is commendable so that children have ownership and from a very young age can make independent choices. Although there are many well planned activities, toddlers also help themselves to items in low, accessible storage units, and decide whether they wish to play indoors or out, displaying great confidence in this decision making. They enthusiastically participate in everything the setting offers, painting large boxes, investigating the large snail, exploring the texture of wood shavings. They are highly motivated learners and often develop their own investigations leading from a planned activity, such as painting their hands and arms. Their curiosity as learners is fostered admirably by their carers who are skilled practitioners. Children are able to build on their experiences because their carers recognise what is happening and listen and respond to their ideas appropriately.

The children express their thoughts and needs well for their age, as their carers ask open questions that encourage young children to use language and develop thinking skills. Short group sessions help the children develop awareness of being together with their peers, listening and talking with others, taking turns and singing songs together. Non-mobile babies are given plentiful attention. They are provided with a broad range of sensory materials including natural items. They remain content and happy as their routines are known and acted upon.

Children's developmental needs are identified through praiseworthy systems. This means that staff plan activities that provide the right level of challenge to support children's next steps in learning and development effectively, even though the children may only attend the crèche for a few weeks.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The individual needs of children are clearly identified through records which are in place before the child starts at the crèche and parents wishes are known and respected. There are very good settling procedures that are encouraged, so that both children and parents feel comfortable and confident. The setting builds good relationships with parents and carers through the sharing of information about how the setting operates and providing any necessary feedback to ensure consistent care for children.

Children are productively engaged in activities and are valued and empowered in the setting as a way of helping them manage their feelings and emotions appropriately. Consistent, positive and developmentally appropriate strategies enable them to learn right from wrong and how to get along with their peers. They have good relationships with their carers and each other. Through their play materials and some planned activities the children are developing awareness of diversity in society and respecting peoples similarities and differences.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The welfare and development of children is given good regard. There is a well qualified workforce who care for them. Good systems are in place to ensure that staff are suitable for their post and have the necessary skills. Core training for all staff provides a firm foundation for consistent practice in the workforce. Sufficient time is provided for staff to plan and prepare so that during the session they are able to give their undivided attention to the children.

Record keeping systems are in place and efficiently managed. Booking in systems are clear and enable managers to ensure correct staffing at each session. Children's care is appropriate and meets with parental wishes as staff use the documentation effectively to underpin the day to day management of the setting. All records are stored confidentially to respect the privacy of families. The setting meets the needs 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 good. 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):

- improve the system for managing access to the crèche room to ensure children's safety.

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