

Sure Start Swaythling Creche (Bassett Green)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY340766
Inspection date	14 March 2007
Inspector	Sylvia Dindar
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Registered person	Sure Start Swaythling
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Sure Start Swaythling Crèche (Bassett Green) opened in 2006 and is one of the services managed by the Children's Centre at Bassett Green Primary School. Crèches are organised to support adult education classes and forums, as well as the needs of the local community. They run at various times throughout the year for children of all ages up to eight years and the number of children on roll varies. Specific rooms within the centre are used and there is a secure area for outdoor play. There are three qualified staff who are employed to work in the crèche.

The Sure Start Swaythling core team also manages and runs sessions for families, which support families in health education and child development both at the Bassett Green site and at other venues across the area.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children thrive in an environment where trained and experienced staff encourage them to develop an understanding of hygiene in their personal care and help them to make healthy

choices. Staff show an awareness of children's needs and offer them food when children show signs of being hungry. Children begin to learn about healthy eating as they select snacks from a varied range of fresh fruit. Information regarding children's dietary requirements are gathered from parents and acted upon to ensure that children's dietary and religious requirements are met. Snacks are appropriately prepared by staff that have relevant food handling qualifications. Children develop confidence in their personal care as staff encourage them in their toileting skills. They wash their hands at appropriate times, for example, after messy play, before snacks and after toileting. Paper towels are provided to minimise the risk of cross infection. Children observe staff cleaning routines, re-enforcing their learning as the crèche is kept clean and hygienic. Provision of a quiet area enables children to rest and relax as appropriate.

Children are protected from infections as there is a clear policy in place advising parents that children will not be accepted into the crèche when they are ill. There are effective procedures in place to deal with accidents as all staff have up to date training in first aid and a fully stocked first aid box is available. However, the setting has not secured parental consent for emergency medical treatment or advice, so do not have permission to deal with children appropriately in an emergency. Accidents and incidents are clearly recorded and shared with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in an environment, which is bright and light. The room is attractively decorated with posters and examples of children's artwork making it a welcoming place for children. Children have easy access to resources, from which they confidently select. The room is very well set out with specific areas for a wide range of activities to take place. For example an area for the home corner is easily accessed. It is divided off the other areas by low style partitions, giving the children a sense of security. Children independently explore the play room as the equipment is safe, of very good quality and well organised and covers all areas of learning. The outside area has been purposefully designed so that children play on safe surfaces and are secure. Children are provided with a range of age appropriate robust play equipment which ensures children experience a wide variety of outdoor activities.

Children's care is enhanced as staff are vigilant about their safety and well being. Regular safety checks of the environment and toys ensure the continuing safety of children. Staff are knowledgeable about children's developing needs to explore and take risks. They support them as they experiment and push their boundaries. Children sit at low tables and chairs for table top activities and snacks. Babies are secured into high chairs with harnesses, preventing them from falling. Children experience regular opportunities to practise the emergency evacuation procedure so that they become familiar with the process and can be quickly and safely evacuated in an emergency.

Children are safeguarded as the staff have sound understanding of child protection procedures and robust systems are in place to deal with any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children feel welcomed into the setting as staff meet and greet them warmly. Most children settle quickly and commence their play. Staff are skilful at settling those children who find detachment from their parents difficult. The play is child led so that children have the freedom

to make their own decision which results in meaningful play opportunities for children. Children are never bored because there are so many areas of interest.

They enjoy playing with the dough and painting and talk about the shape and colour. Their interest is captured as they play in the sand which is made attractive by added glitter and bits of hidden treasure. They explore the texture of the shaving foam making patterns and talking about how it feels. They add it to the sand and realise it changes and makes it sticky. Throughout staff are talking and encouraging children to extend their play.

Children are enjoying the books and ask a member of staff to read a favourite story and they cuddle up and enjoy the story. They join their friends in the home corner and pretend to cook dinner and care for their babies.

Provision of a quiet area enables children to rest and relax as appropriate, they are able to rest on soft cushions and enjoy reading books. Clever placement of the discovery toys means that children play spontaneously with pop up toys and construction. Older children play well with younger ones and involve them in their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the positive relationships developed between staff and parents. A settling procedure is offered to parents so that information can be exchanged and relationships established. Policies and procedure and children's records are shared with parents, however for some parents they are difficult to understand as they are only provided in English. Staff are open and friendly and spend time at the end of each session talking and communicating with parents with smiles and gestures, staff explain what their child has been doing. However, this is difficult for some parents for whom English is their second language, who are mostly supported by their friends and the English teacher, which means that for some parents there is limited confidentiality.

All children are included in all activities, as activities are adapted. Children play with an excellent range of resources, which help them learn about diversity and include books, toys and posters showing positive images of culture, gender and disability. Children behave well and are learning to share and take turns, supported by staff that use effective strategies for behaviour management. Children respond positively to praise and encouragement from staff as they play together and develop their social skills.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting meets the needs of the children for whom it provides care. Children enjoy a wide variety of experiences as staff organise their time to loosely plan a range of meaningful play opportunities for children both inside and outdoors. High staff: child ratios and good deployment ensure each child benefits from regular, individual attention. Good systems for staff induction, appraisal and training ensure that children are cared for by experienced and competent staff who work well as a team. Good support systems are in place to ensure ratios are maintained as staff from other projects are flexible and fill in any gaps when needed this ensures children get some continuity of care.

Most records for the safe management of children are in place and shared with parents. Records required by regulation are mostly kept effectively, however the attendance register does not clearly identify individual children. Documentation is stored in a confidential manner and shared with parents. A complaints policy and log is in place and available to parents.

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 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 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):

- ensure children can be clearly identified in the register
- request parental consent for emergency medical treatment and advice
- further develop ways of communicating with parents for whom English is their second language so that information given to parents can be understood and confidentiality maintained

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