

Gascoigne Children's Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY340605
Inspection date	26 April 2007
Inspector	Theresa May
Setting Address	Gascoigne Children's Centre, 140 St. Anns, Barking, Essex, IG11 7AD
Telephone number	02087 241 147
E-mail	
Registered person	Gascoigne Children Centre
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?

Gascoigne Children's Centre was registered in 2006. The Crèche is based in Gascoigne Children's Centre, which is situated in the Gascoigne Estate, in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The Centre provides childcare for parents who attend the workshops, which are in support of their parental skills. It operates from one room within the centre. The crèche is registered for 10 children under five years. There are currently six children from one year to four years on roll.

The manager has relevant childcare qualification and experience. Hours of operation are 10:00 - 15:30 Monday to Friday during term time only.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted from a clean and well maintained environment where the staff implement good hygiene routines. The staff supervise the children to the bathroom to wash their hands before snack time and ensure the tables are wiped down with antibacterial spray

before the children sit down and eat their snack. As the parents are on site they are called to collect the children if they become unwell, which prevents the spread of infection and minimises the risk of cross infection. Accident and medication recording systems are in place and staff are clear on how to maintain these. Staff take the appropriate action if children hurt themselves which ensures that children's welfare is being maintained. There is a fully stocked first aid box and staff trained in First Aid are on the premises, however, it is not displayed which staff hold a suitable First Aid certificate.

Children are offered a snack and drink mid morning of fresh fruit and water which is healthy and nutritious. Parents also bring in their own children's snack and are verbally encouraged to bring healthy options. Snack time is flexible were children can decide whether or not to join in therefore not interrupting their play. It is an informal time where they can choose from the selection of fruits and a drink of water. Younger children sit on the staffs' laps and snuggle in while they are being fed with their individual food.

Children have regular opportunities to enjoy fresh air and physical activities to promote a healthy life style. Regular use of the fully enclosed garden gives children occasions to develop their physical and large motor skills as they play on the large wheeled cars and push prams.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are safe and secure as entry is through a main gate where visitors identify themselves and then sign in at the centre. The crèche is suitable for its purpose as children have adequate space to play and to move around safely. Children gain from playing in a warm and welcoming environment. It is well organised with the room made into areas where children are able to explore and select the wide range of good quality toys and equipment which are suitable, safe and appropriate for the children being cared for.

Staff carry out a visual risk assessment of the toys, equipment and crèche before it begins to ensure hazards to children are minimised. Staff are observant about children's safety as they anticipate accidents and talk to the children about their safety saying 'let's shut the garden doors so you don't hurt your fingers'.

Fire evacuation procedures are displayed, practiced and recorded, however, they are not practised regularly according to the pattern of the different crèches that operate. This prevents parents, children and staff to become familiar with the procedures in the event of an emergency.

The crèche has a comprehensive Child Protection Policy. Staff have a basic knowledge and understanding of the procedures and they are very clear that they would pass on any concerns to the facilitator of the course. This safeguards children's welfare in the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The majority of the children are happy and settled at the crèche. Parents settle the children and with staff's nurturing skills, children are comforted when they become distressed at the separation; staff give comfort and reassurance. This enables children to feel secure and settle quickly and engage with the activities.

Staff get to know the children's names as the children wear a sticky label identifying them. Staff get down to the children's level and engage with them at the activities, for example, playing at the water tray and talking to the children about sinking and floating, sitting in the book corner and sharing books, involving children in the art activity.

The manager and facilitator of the courses plan together using the Birth to three matters framework and the Foundation Stage. There is a loose key worker system, where staff make observations of the children which in turn informs the planning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have opportunities to learn about their own community and the wider world through a wide range of resources, including books and dolls, which show positive images of diversity. Equal opportunities policy is in place and staff have access to these.

The crèche has a special needs statement and children with disabilities and/or learning difficulties are welcomed.

Children are well behaved as the staff are good role models. They are quiet and calm. They listen to the children and use polite language with them and with one another. Staff use appropriate strategies to promote positive behaviour.

Parents are welcomed in to the crèche and information is obtained from the parents at registration to enable staff to meet the children's individual needs. Parents settle their children and are always available if they become distressed as they remain on the premises. Discussions about the children's general welfare are carried out at the end of the session to ensure continuity of care between home and the crèche. Parents have access to the policies and procedures file, however, there is no basic written information about the crèche available to parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit as the manager and the workshop facilitator organise the crèche well to provide the children with a safe and stimulating environment through a range of activities that are easily accessible and appropriate to the children's age and development.

The new manager is a permanent member of staff and has relevant qualifications and experience in child care. As the crèche use agency staff who are also suitably qualified and vetted, they are given a brief induction before the session giving them a basic knowledge of the policies and procedures, and implement these aptly for the benefit of the children.

All the required policies, procedure and records for the safe and effective management of the crèche are in place. This contributes to the welfare of the children.

The setting meets the needs of the range of the children 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 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):

- ensure the staff are informed of who are the designated First Aiders
- carry out regular fire drills to the pattern and attendance of parents, children and staff
- provide the parents with written information about the crèche

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