



NCH Sure Start Dearne Community Children's Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY337308
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Registered person	NCH Dearne Community Children's 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Heathers Early Years Centre Crèche is provided by National Children's Homes. The registered crèche opened in 2006 and it operates from rooms within the Dearne Community Children's Centre, which is a purpose built building. It is situated on a housing estate in the village of Bolton-upon-Deerne. A maximum of 24 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche is open each weekday and Saturdays from 08.00 to 18.00 all year round. Children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently children from 10 months to three years on roll. Of these, 12 children receive funding as part of the two year olds pilot scheme. Children may attend for a variety of sessions from the surrounding areas. The crèche supports a number of children with learning difficulties and disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language. The crèche currently employs 3 members of staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy good health and begin to learn about healthy lifestyles because the staff have a secure knowledge of the setting's policies and arrangements which help to protect children from illness and cross infection. The playroom, children's toilet, wash facilities and nappy changing area are very clean, well organised and hygienically maintained. Children are reminded to wash and dry their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Staff explain why this is important and provide appropriate help and support to the children. Staff are very supportive to children's growing independence as they learn to control their bladders and use the toilet. Children are encouraged and praised for their efforts. Parents are well informed about the arrangements for sick children and there is a clear expectation that children will not attend the setting when ill or infectious.

Children are provided with a healthy range of nutritious snacks, which include a variety of fresh fruit, toast, milk, water and juice. Children are helped to enjoy these foods and staff talk to them about what they are eating and encourage children to become independent in feeding themselves.

Children's health and well being are promoted because they are encouraged to use their bodies and develop new and existing physical skills. Babies and toddlers have readily access a range of excellent play resources and equipment which encourage them to move, stretch, touch and feel. For example, children reach out and explore everyday natural objects, such as wooden pegs, spoons, corks and cones, which are contained in the exciting treasure baskets. Staff provide high levels of support and encouragement to children playing outdoors. Play experiences, activities and equipment challenge and support the development of motor skills and physical abilities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and caring setting because it has been very well planned and organised effectively, creating a child friendly environment, which enables children to explore and take risks, while being appropriately supervised. Children can move freely and are protected from harm. For example, staff skilfully support babies and toddlers as they explore and learn about their environment. Toys, equipment and resources are safe, clean and well maintained. They are made of good quality natural materials and are highly suitable to meet the varying needs of the children.

Crèche staff have a good awareness of security. They ensure children cannot leave the premises unsupervised and there can be no unauthorised access to them. There are clear procedures to ensure children are collected only by authorised people. For example, passwords are used when necessary for extra protection. Staff are deployed effectively and are vigilant about children's safety indoors and outdoors. For example, staff remind older children who are pushing the

prams and wanting to move into the toddler area, that they need to be very careful not to bump into the babies and so they must leave their prams outside.

Staff have a good understanding of how to protect children, and recognise this as their first priority. They are vigilant, aware of signs and symptoms of possible abuse and know the procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child. The clear safeguarding children policy is shared effectively with parents in both verbal and written form. There is a named person who is responsible for ensuring the concerns are dealt with promptly, appropriately and sensitively. Staff update their knowledge and skills through regular training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and contented in the crèche because staff are very warm and welcoming towards them. Parents are welcomed and acknowledged as they arrive and time is taken to exchange important information about the children. Staff offer consistent reassurance and support and as a result of this, children separate from their carers with increasing ease. Often, children have previous experiences of visiting the early years centre with their parents and this helps them feel secure and comfortable in their familiar surroundings, and sometimes with people whose faces they know.

When working with under-threes, the group uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework effectively to provide good quality care and education. Activities identify links with the relevant aspects of the framework and photographs of children engaged in activities and play are included alongside observations in the Mosaic diaries. These are shared closely with parents and they become more familiar with the framework. Digital cameras are loaned to parents to capture images of their children at home and these photographs form part of the children's learning story.

Children are involved in a broad range of planned activities and spontaneous events, which support their individual development and learning. Planning and topics link in to children's interests and currently a transport theme reflects some of the activities set out. Children enthusiastically play with a variety of different vehicles and staff take opportunities to extend children's language by encouraging them to name the different types of vehicle, such as crane, fire engine and break-down truck. The rooms are set out for the children's arrival and activities provide a rich play and learning environment. For example, children experience sand play, play dough and painting. They explore the wide range of tactile materials and use their imagination and creativity when using pom-poms, shiny materials and ribbons to make collage pictures. They begin to develop fine motor skills as they use scissors with support and use the glue spreaders.

Staff play and talk with the children and they encourage them to express themselves. For example, children speaking on the telephones provides a link with home and this leads to imitative and imaginative play. Young children re-enact familiar scenes with the help of adults, props and resources. For example, they enjoy role play at the hairdressers. Children are engaged and motivated as they begin to play co-operatively and brush each others hair and to manipulate the large rollers to make hair curly for a pretend party.

Children listen and respond well at story time. They enjoy sharing stories, song and rhymes. Puppets are used to encourage listening and responding. For example, children can't contain their interest and excitement when having their turn to select a puppet or doll from the feely bag. They join in singing familiar songs and rhymes, such as 'Two Little Dickie Birds' and 'Miss Polly had a Dolly'

Children are relaxed and begin to settle well. This enables them to make good progress in all aspects of their development. Careful consideration is given to the individual needs of the children and important emphasis is placed on working with parents in the care and everyday routines of their children. Children who need to sleep or rest do so in comfort and warmth. They are closely monitored and supervised by staff.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop a good sense of belonging to the setting and become familiar with routines. They begin to enjoy secure relationships with trusted adults, who listen to them and are attentive to their needs. Staff crouch down to communicate with the children and establish and maintain contact with eye, voice or light touch. Children benefit from this close and sensitive interaction and this contributes towards developing good self-esteem and growing confidence. Children are encouraged to consider the effect of their actions upon others. For example, children finding it difficult to share are gently reminded to be kind to each other and possible conflict is dealt with sensitively by staff who are calm and consistent in their approach to the children.

The group's equal opportunities policy is understood and implemented by staff and is shared with parents. Staff work closely with parents to find out about children's specific needs and this helps them to provide individual, appropriate care and support to them. The setting is carefully organised and monitored to ensure all children have access to the full range of activities and excellent resources. A diversity of play materials encourages positive feelings and ensure children with different needs are catered for. For example, dolls, puppets and books which reflect children and families from different cultures are used. Children who have English as a second language are also invited with their families to the centres language group 'Play and say' and this helps break down barriers for families and improves language and social skills for the children.

Partnership with parents is good because they are well informed about their children's achievements and progress. They are welcomed into the setting and are valued as the first educator of their child. Parents views and opinions are respected and any concerns or complaints are dealt with sensitively and appropriately and in line with requirements.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The provider complies with all conditions of registration because robust procedures are in place to ensure crèche staff are selected following the National Children's Homes rigorous recruitment, selection and suitability procedures which ensure persons are suitable, appropriately experienced

and qualified to care for children. However, written documentation does not currently clarify that pool crèche workers, who are used for contingency arrangements when staff are absent or when managing numbers of incoming children, are subject to the same procedures. The student policy ensures they are clear of their roles and responsibilities and that students have no unsupervised access to children.

Policies and procedures underpin most aspects of the care, welfare and development of the children. An outline of these policies is shared successfully with parents both in written and verbal form and therefore parents are kept well informed of the service provided and their child's activities. However, there is no clear and consistent arrangement for supervisory cover in the crèche co-ordinators absence because there isn't a named deputy identified and the arrangement to ensure crèche staff allocated to care for babies and toddlers are sufficiently experienced, competent and familiar to the children isn't always clear.

The documentation and records relating to the day to day activities and about the children are comprehensive. These are stored securely and maintained in a highly confidential manner. 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 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):

- demonstrate the arrangements for supervisory cover in the crèche co-ordinators absence by identifying a named deputy

- ensure that the provider's robust procedures for the recruitment of suitable, appropriately qualified and experienced crèche staff also covers pool crèche workers who are used for contingency arrangements when staff are absent or when managing numbers of incoming children
- ensure crèche workers have the competency to care for babies and that where possible babies benefit from care by faces that are familiar to them.

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