



May Logan Centre Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY302517
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Inspector	Margaret Patricia Mellor
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Registered person	Liverpool Housing Trust
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

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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?

May Logan Centre Crèche has been operating since 1992 and following a change in provider was registered again in February 2005. The crèche is run and managed by Liverpool Housing Trust and based in the May Logan Healthy Living Centre located in Bootle, a suburb of Liverpool. The premises are purpose built with full disabled access and facilities. It primarily provides child care for parents who are attending courses in the centre or other local partnership projects.

A maximum of 13 children aged under 5 years may attend at any one time. The crèche provides an all year round year service with the exception of Bank holidays

and a week at Christmas. They run 2 sessions daily on Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 12:00 and then from 13:00 to 16:00. There are 75 children on roll aged 6 months to 4 years, and of these 34 attend various sessions on a regular basis. The crèche support children with special educational needs.

Children are cared for in a family group setting and use a large play room with a designated area for the babies care and play experiences. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area with fixed play equipment, safety and flagged surfaces.

The crèche employs two staff who have a relevant early years qualification. Agency staff are employed to support with crèche activities when needed. The crèche networks with Sefton Early Years Childcare Services and other local SureStart initiatives.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment which contributes to their good health. Good hygiene practices promoted throughout the crèche, such as practitioners consistently wearing disposable gloves and aprons when nappy changing, helps keep children well and prevents the spread of infection. Children are actively encouraged to learn about good personal hygiene through well planned activities and routines. They role play in the home area set up as a dentist and listen to stories about dental health such as Topsy and Tim. Children are gently reminded to wash their hands such as before snack or after going to the toilet and understand that this helps stop the spread of germs so they stay well.

Children greatly benefit from the practitioners effective implementation of the healthy snack policy. Children have regular drinks of water or diluted fresh juice, quenching their thirst and benefiting their health. Children are provided with a variety of nutritious, freshly prepared snacks and encouraged to make healthy choices such as wholemeal bread sandwiches, bread sticks, grapes, bananas or raisins. This enables children to experience many different tastes and textures.

Children take part in a wide range of activities which contributes to their good health. They march to Barney tapes, move to music and occasionally play in the ball pool. They play out most sessions to run in the fresh air, climb, play ball games and ride on wheeled toys. This enhances children's physical skills and helps them to balance and improve their coordination. All children are encouraged to be active or rest as necessary and babies have a sleep in line with their needs and parental wishes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Risks of children accidentally injuring themselves is minimised because all safety features are in place

and practitioners undertake daily risk assessments both indoors and outdoors to reduce potential hazards. Children learn about personal safety such as not swinging on chairs; this keeps them safe so they do not fall or hurt themselves. However, children's awareness of fire safety is less developed as they don't fully understand how to keep themselves safe in the event of a fire.

Access to the crèche is vigilantly monitored through the door intercom entry system and visitor records; this contributes effectively to children's safety. Children are well protected because practitioners have a relevant first aid certificate and a good understanding of child protection issues. Appropriate steps are taken to safeguard their welfare and keep them safe.

The environment is clean, warm and inviting. Children's art work is valued, their activities and outings are displayed throughout the setting; this fosters their self-esteem and sense of belonging as well as providing a welcoming atmosphere. Children independently choose activities from a wide range of play materials which comply with safety standards. The practitioners carefully select and monitor the toys to make sure they remain safe and are suitable for the range of children and their stages of development. Toys are organised on low level shelving encouraging free access. Toy baskets are at floor level enabling babies and young children to reach them easily and safely promoting their independence and sense of achievement.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and content in the care and play environment. Children's independence is positively encouraged through the practitioners consistent support and meaningful praise. Babies are encouraged to play with their toys and children are reminded to talk about what they are doing. The warm relationships developed between practitioners and children positively contributes to children's sense of belonging. Children make choices from a wide range of toys, books and activities which appeal to them. The practitioners have begun to use the "Birth to three matters" framework to improve their practice, such as adapting singing times to meet the needs of younger children. Children listen and respond gleefully to songs with actions and tapes of rhymes.

Children's development is well promoted through a wide range of activities and resources. They use their imagination in role play, enjoy art work and have regular story times which greatly contributes to their creativity. Children explore their environment through visits to the on-site toy library and become aware of the wider community through walks to the park and day trips. Their awareness of nature is fostered as they watch the sun flower and cress seeds they have planted grow. Babies and young children relish sensory experiences such as playing with a variety of textures, listening to music and finger painting. Children are happy and have fun while learning and developing through purposeful play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's home life is highly valued and children with special educational needs are warmly welcomed into the crèche. Children are respected as individuals and every child participates in the daily activities. This helps them feel secure and settled in the crèche. Resources such as posters, books and dolls are carefully selected by the practitioners so they positively reflect diversity and ensure that children attending the crèche have an awareness of the wider world. Children greatly benefit from a meaningful range of activities for example, listening to stories about Diwali, making a collage egg with chicks for Easter and tasting foods from a variety of cultures. Children learn about their own and other cultures and develop positive attitudes about the wider community from an early age.

Children behave very well. They begin to learn right from wrong through practitioners setting a good example such as being very polite and caring. Children's self-esteem is very positively encouraged through the practitioners excellent use of praise and encouragement. Children show care and concern for one another and learn to play cooperatively together, such as taking turns at the easel. They learn to care for their environment as they are encouraged to help at tidy up time. Children are confident and happy, enjoy each others company and relate well to staff.

Children benefit from parental involvement which is valued and encouraged. Children and parents are warmly greeted as they arrive at the crèche and there is much discussion about the children's individual needs. For example, babies settle well because practitioners work closely with parents to ensure they follow their home routine. Parents are encouraged to support children by attending day trips, crèche activities and charitable fundraising events. This builds meaningful relationships between all. The practitioners share information about children, their activities, interests and progress through detailed notice boards and chats at going home time. Continuity and consistency care of children is positively encouraged by practitioners valuing and respecting parents wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care and learning needs are well met. Children benefit from good adult support such as appropriate adult: child ratios and practitioners are suitably qualified and experienced in early years work. Regular attendance on training courses such as "Birth to three matters" broadens the range of children's experiences and extends practitioners knowledge. This contributes to children's quality of care and learning. The environment is organised creatively so babies play comfortably and safely at floor level and supports older children's emerging independence. Children are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning.

An induction programme, well written policies and procedures in combination with training such as basic food hygiene and child protection help practitioners keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. Information is shared with parents regularly which contributes to children's continuity of care. All daily records to ensure the safe, effective management of the crèche and promote children's welfare are in

place, completed in detail and stored securely maintaining confidentiality. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 children's awareness of fire safety so their sense of danger and how to keep themselves safe is further encouraged

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