



Surestart Lincoln Central Children's Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY337497
Inspection date	16 March 2007
Inspector	Melanie Arnold
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Registered person	For Under Fives Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care

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?

Sure Start Lincoln Central Children's Centre Day Nursery was registered in 2006 and is run by For Under Fives Ltd, a childcare chain based in Grimsby. It operates from open plan, purpose built premises in the children's centre which is sited on the grounds of Bishop King School. The premises also incorporate the school nursery class and these two provisions have open plan access to each other. The nursery is situated on the edge of Lincoln city. A maximum of 45 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open all year round from 08:00 to 18:00, with the exception of Christmas week. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 40 children on roll. The nursery currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs nine staff to work with the children. All staff either hold an appropriate early years qualification or are working towards one.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's growth and development are well promoted through the nutritional, balanced meals and snacks, which the nursery provides. Staff are working with children to encourage them to sit at the table while they are eating, to help them develop good routines. Children's well-being is promoted as they enjoy healthy options like fruit and vegetables at snack time and because the lunch time meal is freshly cooked each day. To enable children to become used to different vegetables and to encourage them to learn about what they are eating, vegetables are served alongside the main meal. Children have regular drinks of milk or water, which effectively promotes their health and development. Older children have free access to drinking water, ensuring their needs are well met. Children's dietary requirements are fully met because staff have a clear awareness of each child's individual requirements.

Children have lots of fun as they regularly play outside. They access a good range of resources which ensures their physical skills are developing. Babies have access to a good range of physical play equipment inside to help promote their skills. For example, children enjoy playing on a baby gym where they confidently climb steps and then skilfully walk down a slope.

Children's health is protected through staff implementing effective hygiene routines, which help to prevent cross-infection. For example, individual face cloths are used to clean children's faces, clean bedding is provided for each child requiring a sleep and hand washing is encouraged as appropriate for all children. Clear policies and procedures contribute to maintaining children's good health. For example, a sun protection policy ensures children's health is protected from the sun and a sick child and exclusion policy protects children from illnesses by excluding children from the nursery when they are ill.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming setting, which is well set out to create an accessible, stimulating environment. The baby room caters for younger children up to the age of two and the older room caters for children from two up to the age of five years. This enables staff to ensure children access appropriate toys, resources and equipment to meet their developmental needs. Children have independent access to a wide range of toys and activities within the older room, which helps to keep them occupied. Within the baby room, resources and toys are regularly changed to provide children with a varied range of activities to help keep them stimulated.

Children's safety is promoted and protected through the clear procedures the nursery has in place. For example, risk assessments show how potential hazards have been minimised, the setting is maintained securely and clear security procedures prevent inappropriate people coming into contact with children. Staff within the baby room are deployed well, they are

vigilant and supervise children effectively, which helps to keep children safe from harm. However, deployment of staff within the older children's room is less effective. Therefore, potentially compromising children's safety because incidents and behavioural issues are sometimes missed by the staff. Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff understand their roles and responsibilities with regard to child protection issues and concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are mainly settled in their environment. They access a developmentally appropriate range of toys and resources within each room, which helps to keep them entertained. Babies are provided with a good range of hands-on play experiences, which helps them to develop their skills through exploration. For example, children enjoy getting messy as they do hand painting, they also have opportunities to explore further messy play experiences like 'gloop', shaving foam and pasta. Babies are well supported and cared for as staff engage in play with them and continually chat or sing to them while they play. Planning and assessment systems are beginning to be introduced and completed, which are linked to the 'Birth to three matters' framework for all children under three years. This helps to ensure children have access to varied activities and when assessments are completed this will help to ensure children are making progress in all areas of their development.

Children within the older room are happy. The room is well set up to provide children with access to different play experiences. These include creative activities, construction activities, a home corner and quiet activities in the book area. Children freely access resources and activities within these different areas and initiate their own play experiences. For example, children have fun sticking, playing with rice or water in the creative area, playing in the home corner in the two storey loft house and they enjoy making resources in the construction area. Although children are occupied, the more able children are not always effectively moved on to the next steps in their development, as activities lack structure and challenge. Most children are beginning to develop positive relationships with their peers and they also get on well with the staff.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are met through staff liaising closely with parents and discussing each child's individual requirements. Staff have a clear understanding of equal opportunities, which ensures children are treated with equal care and concern. Children access a generally good range of toys and resources reflecting positive images of diversity, which helps to promote children's understanding of the wider world. Children with special needs receive a good standard of care to meet their specific requirements because staff work closely with outside agencies and the child's parents. Support is also accessed from outside agencies to ensure children who speak English as an additional language, are well cared for.

In the main children's behaviour is generally good, with staff regularly providing children with praise and encouragement to help develop their self-esteem. Staff are aware of relevant strategies to use when managing a wide range of children's behaviour. However, when these

strategies are not successful, staff struggle to control children's challenging behaviour to ensure all children's welfare and development is protected. Children benefit because staff work well with parents. Parents and children are warmly greeted by staff, which creates a welcoming environment. Good information is provided for parents in the nursery brochure and further relevant information is displayed on noticeboards around the nursery. This ensures parents are well informed of current information. Parents learn about their children's daily routine through discussions and written records for the younger children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by an experienced, qualified staff team. Their safety is ensured because the nursery has clear recruitment and induction procedures in place to ensure all staff are suitable to be in contact with children. In the absence of the manager, an experienced deputy is in place to ensure continuity of care for all children is maintained. Staff have access to additional services and professionals located within the children's centre, whom they can seek advice and support from to benefit children's welfare and development.

Children are cared for in two separate rooms, which are well organised to meet their needs. Space and resources are well set out to enable children to freely access their play resources. Children are well cared for and supported in the baby room by staff who deploy themselves well to make sure all children are effectively supervised. However, deployment of staff is not always effective within the older children's room, resulting in times when children are not fully supervised. This leads to occasions where children's safety and welfare are potentially compromised. All records and documentation are in place and most are completed with the required information, to ensure children's well-being is maintained. Clear, in depth policies and procedures contribute to the nursery promoting children welfare, care and learning. Overall, children's needs are met.

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 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 activities are sufficiently challenging for more able children
- ensure strategies to manage children's more challenging behaviour are fully implemented so that all children's welfare and development is protected
- ensure all accident records are signed by the child's parents/carers
- ensure staff are deployed effectively in all rooms to ensure the safety, welfare and development of children.

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