



The Cherry Tree Centre, Sure Start Children's Centre for Lozells

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY331786 |
| Inspection date | 19 January 2007 |
| Inspector | Karen Cooper |
| Setting Address | Graham Street, Lozells, Birmingham, B19 1QY |
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| Registered person | Sure Start, Lozells |
| Type of inspection | Childcare |
| Type of care | Full day care, Sessional 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Cherry Tree Centre, Sure Start Children's Centre for Lozells has been registered since 2006. It is situated in the Lozells area of Birmingham. Children have access to three rooms in the centre. There is a fully enclosed outdoor area available for play. The location is convenient for schools, parks and public transport. The nursery serves the local community.

A maximum of 28 children aged from three months to five years may attend the nursery at any one time. There are currently 27 children on roll. Children attend a variety of sessions. The nursery is open each weekday from 08:00 to 18:00 for 50 weeks of the year. The nursery supports children with disabilities and learning difficulties.

There are four permanent staff employed to work directly with the children, all of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification. The nursery receives support from a teacher from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene through daily routines and appropriate adult support and guidance. They know that they wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Older children can tend to all their personal needs, younger children still need and get appropriate support as they learn to develop personal independence.

Children are effectively protected from the spread of infection with a written sickness policy by which the parents are informed that children will not be cared for when they have any infectious illness. The children are appropriately cared for in the event of an accident and all staff are trained in administering first aid. Good quality documentation is maintained regarding the administration of medication and accidents, which supports children's well-being.

Children are beginning to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. Staff take a range of positive actions to encourage healthy eating. For example, children are provided with a range of healthy snacks such as raisins, dates, yoghurts, vegetable sticks and fruit. Food provided by parents for lunch is labelled and stored appropriately and any perishable foods are kept in the fridge. Meal times are relaxed, social occasions when children and staff sit together to enjoy their food and each other's company. Children are provided with a drink at snack time and have independent access to jugs of water which ensures that they do not become dehydrated.

Through well-organised indoor and outdoor activities children are provided with good opportunities to make progress in their physical development. They enjoy the benefits of exercise when using the outdoor play area for more active play. Babies are learning to acquire physical skills such as crawling, climbing and balance because they have regular access to large soft play apparatus, such as activity rings and the sensory area. Older children competently use balancing boards, push-alongs and climbing equipment, this helps them to develop confidence moving their bodies in various ways.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, welcoming environment where space is effectively organised. Children are grouped according to age into rooms which provide opportunities for them to rest, eat and play in comfort. They have access to a good range of safe and appropriate toys and resources and can move freely and safely around the premises because staff carry out rigorous safety checks and risk assessments.

Children are safe as a result of the staff's good awareness of safety issues. There is a high ratio of staff to children and staff are appropriately deployed, ensuring children are always well supervised. The staff carry out safety checks before each session and appropriate precautions are taken to prevent accidents. Good security procedures are in place for example, external doors are secured, internal doors are fitted with a fob system and closed-circuit television is installed within the centre. Access to the premises is monitored and staff check identification

of all visitors. There are clear procedures to ensure children are collected only by authorised people, if necessary a description, name and a password are used for extra protection. Appropriate fire equipment such as a fire blanket, alarms, smoke detectors and extinguishers are provided and are regularly checked to ensure they are in good working order. The children's awareness of safety is achieved through discussion and daily routines, for example they learn about fire safety and know the procedure to follow for evacuation in an emergency. This helps children to begin to take responsibility for themselves and others.

Children's welfare is protected through the staff's appropriate knowledge of child protection procedures. They are aware of signs and symptoms of abuse and of their role and responsibility to protect children in their care. However, to ensure children's safety is not compromised staff need to improve their knowledge of what to do in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the nursery and show eagerness and enthusiasm within their play. They are well settled and close and caring relationships with staff increase their sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of belonging. They have access to a good range of resources that are suitable to their age and stage of development.

Babies and toddlers respond well to the stimulating environment. They enjoy joining in with action rhymes such as the 'wheels on the bus' and 'row row your boat'. Older children enjoy activities such as washing the dolls, showing their enthusiasm with laughter. Staff respond promptly and with genuine interest to children's reactions and enthusiasm, this helps them to feel valued and appreciated. Staff are aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and use their knowledge effectively to support children's learning. Children's self-esteem and confidence is enhanced with the use of praise and encouragement. The staff expect appropriate behaviour and any lapses by children are dealt with in a kind and friendly manner. Taking turns, sharing and good relationships are fostered in this nursery.

Daily routines are flexible to ensure that the needs of the children are met. The children are beginning to develop their independence as they are able to access most of the toys and resources that are stored at low level. They use the outdoor facilities daily and frequently use the public park for more energetic play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children have access to the full range of activities, they are treated with equal concern and any differences respected. The children are helped to consider and value diversity and to appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences. They have access to a good range of resources, play opportunities and activities which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences.

Children benefit from the staff's understanding of behaviour management. They manage behaviour in a way that is appropriate to each child's age and stage of development. They promote a calm organised environment and are good role models. They are consistent in their dealings with the children and work diligently to reinforce good behaviour. The children have clear boundaries that they understand and older children are involved in negotiating the ground rules.

There is a good and effective partnership with parents throughout the nursery. This ensures that children are happy and confident during their time at nursery. Parents are provided with written and verbal information about their children's activities and progress on a daily basis. Policies and procedures are clear and available for parents to view. Staff regularly liaise with parents ensuring that children's records contain information which enables appropriate care to be given, including initial baby routines.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from attending this well organised, friendly nursery. Children enjoy and participate fully in activities because space and resources are well organised. Recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are cared for by suitable staff, who follow the setting's policies and procedures. Staff are happy, motivated and work well together as a team. They have access to good training opportunities and the staff ratios and group size supports children's learning and play.

Children's personal information is stored securely, which helps to maintain confidentiality. All required documentation is well organised and regularly reviewed, which ensures that parents are well informed about the service offered and of their children's achievements and progress. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of 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):

- improve staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures with regard to allegations of abuse being made against a member of staff.

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