



John Smethurst Children's Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY336022
Inspection date	07 February 2007
Inspector	Wendy Fitton
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Registered person	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care, Out of School 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?

John Smethurst Children's Centre opened in 2006 and is operated by the local authority. The purpose built centre includes designated full day care facilities which incorporates maintained nursery education provision for 50 children and occasional crèche provision. The setting may care for a maximum of 119 children at any one time. There are currently 10 children on roll in the two to three year area. The majority of children on roll speak English as an additional language and a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are supported.

Children under three access a separate play area, there is a separate baby room for children aged under two, a meeting room, children's bathroom and changing room, kitchen, outdoor area and a separate building known as the scout hut which is also used to provide care. Other facilities within the centre include a maintained nursery school area, meeting rooms, family support rooms and administration offices. The day care provision is open between the hours of 08.00 and 18.00, each weekday, all year round except bank holidays.

A head of centre is employed by a project manager who acts as nominated person for the organisation. A suitably qualified day care manager is employed to oversee the running of the day care provision. Other care staff include team leaders and early years workers who are all qualified in childcare. There are support and maintenance staff, a cook, receptionists, administrative staff and family workers.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from infection and well taken care of if they have an accident or become unwell because staff follow current and appropriate health and hygiene guidelines. When staff carry out nappy changing procedures they wear disposable gloves and use wipes. They talk to the children about procedures and allow them to wear gloves too. There is good attention given to nose wiping, changing soiled clothes, and mopping and disinfecting areas. Parents sign consent to the seeking of emergency medical advice, and accident and medication procedures are well documented and signed by parents. Most staff have first aid qualifications and there are first aid boxes sited around the centre.

Children learn about healthy living and rest and sleep according to their needs. Children's physical development is well promoted as they use the outdoor grounds on a daily basis and ride on bicycles, balance and climb on obstacle equipment and access sufficient space to move and exercise their bodies freely. Children know and understand about simple hygiene routines as they are encouraged to wash their hands before and after food, after the toilet and after nappy changing. Staff are good role models to the children as they pay good attention to their own hand washing and discuss this with the children.

Children are really well nourished and have their individual health and dietary needs met because staff know about any allergies, religious or cultural needs. Children are helped to enjoy their food and the local dentist visits to encourage teeth cleaning. Food is provided from the centre kitchen and a cook is employed. Children's meals are well balanced and include meat, fish, vegetables, fruit and pasta. Drinking water is readily accessible via a water dispenser and younger children are provided with drinks from a jug that is set up in their area. Meal times are a positive social occasion where the children and staff sit together and discuss healthy eating and staff encourage children's independence as they feed themselves. Menus are planned and displayed for parents to view.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a very warm, welcoming and homely environment. The premises are purpose built and incorporate a number of services for children and families within the local community. Children feel a sense of belonging as they see their own art and creative work displayed and a number of posters, photographs and displays about everyday situations and activities they carry out. The setting is very well maintained, clean, safe and secure. There is

very creative use of space and a child-centred environment is evident as children are grouped according to their ages and stages of development.

Children make choices from an extensive range of safe and suitable resources, furniture and equipment including everyday household items. The furniture and fittings are all new and in good condition and of natural wood, and include low child-sized tables and chairs for varying development needs. Children enjoy playing with construction toys, dolls, soft toys, role-play equipment, musical instruments and jigsaws. There is effective storage of toys and children access low wooden units with plastic see through boxes for free choice, and the units make dividers to create separate play areas.

Children are really safe and secure as staff follow safety procedures and have all necessary equipment in place. All exits are key padded and there are clear booking in and out procedures for staff, children and visitors. The outdoor grounds are safe and secure and floor areas are fitted with safety surface floor covering. All the areas are child-centred and allow the children to explore and take risks as they are vigilantly supervised. Adults assess potential risks through regular risk assessments of the areas and emergency evacuation procedures are in place.

Children are well protected and safeguarded because staff understand their role and duty in child protection and follow the procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. There is a designated member of staff who is responsible for links with local services. The staff are sensitive to any signs and symptoms of abuse. There are up to date booklets and clear policies for parents and staff to read. Training is ongoing for staff through the centre training programme.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children make good progress and really enjoy and achieve during their time in the centre. Staff plan a range of interesting and exciting activities and experiences. Children are really interested and well supported during their play and participate in routines and activities linked to the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Staff aim to respond to children's individual needs and interests and this is highlighted in the planning of activities. Children choose to explore and experiment in the play environment and staff positively nurture and support them through open questions and explanations.

Children are happy and settled because they are familiar with the daily routines and relate to their key staff. They develop good self-esteem as they are rewarded through praise and a sticker if they eat their snack, tidy up or generally be helpful. Children really enjoy the creative activities as they paint on paper on the floor with large household paintbrushes, make music and sing with the musical instruments and construct with the building blocks. Children develop their physical, imaginative, creative and exploratory skills as they play with sand, water, snow, ice, access the computer, read books and play with dolls and the role play kitchen.

Children's individual development needs are well monitored as staff plan activities according to children's interests and needs. An 'all about me' profile indicates children's routines and their likes and dislikes, in liaison with parents. A seasonal theme is followed and all activities

are linked with the aspects and components of the framework for children under three years. Photographs, observations and evaluations of activities are detailed in children's files and this supports staff to plan for the next stage of learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for by staff who work with parents to meet individual needs and ensure children are fully included. Children have individual profiles that include information for appropriate care to be provided and family information. Staff have some knowledge of learning difficulties and/or disabilities and ensure all children have equal access to the resources and activities. Children are becoming aware of the wider society and learn about diversity as they read books, discuss and look at photographs, posters and everyday routines. They see clear labels on objects and pictures of their own community language.

Children understand responsible behaviour and work together when playing with the musical instruments and outside on bicycles and in cars. They make choices and decisions as they ask for or choose toys with confidence. Staff positively praise and encourage the children through support and nurture and so children develop good self-esteem. The environment is calm and staff are considerate towards the children as they explain and discuss what is happening or the next stage of the daily routine. Children are busy and content during their play, they are well occupied and not bored or frustrated and therefore challenging behaviour is minimal.

Children benefit from and feel secure through positive relationships between their parents and key-worker. Parents have access to information about their individual children via daily diaries and the development profiles. An induction procedure is followed when children start the care provision and parents are encouraged to stay with their children to settle them. Parents state that staff are friendly and approachable and that they are happy with the care provided. Some parents are not fully aware of the role of Ofsted in relation to complaints procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are protected and safeguarded as there are detailed recruitment and vetting procedures for staff. Each staff member is interviewed and selected according to the policies of the local authority. All staff are qualified to Level 3 in childcare and have opportunities to update their knowledge and skills through further training. Staffing procedures are in place and include regular meetings, induction procedures, one-to-one meetings and appraisal. Staff are aware of their own roles and responsibilities and work together as a team for the safety and well-being of the children.

Children benefit from an environment and practice that is organised to meet their all round development needs. There is effective use of space and children under three years are in a separate area and can play, eat and rest in comfort and safety. They are well supported as the numbers of children on roll are low at present and therefore staff give good support and supervision as staff ratios are well maintained.

Children's well-being is enhanced through some organisational policies and procedures for the effective management of the service. Some policies are still at the development stage and are not fully accessible to parents. All required records and documentation are in place, up to date and available for inspection. This includes attendance registers for staff and children, medication and accident details, children's individual details and staff personnel information.

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):

- continue to develop organisational policies and procedures and share these with parents
- ensure parents are fully aware of Ofsted's role in relation to complaints.

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