



T.O.T.S [Tinies on Track Service]

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	961816
Inspection date	21 February 2007
Inspector	Liz Margaret Caluori
Setting Address	The Robsack Community Centre, Bodiam Drive, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN38 9TW
Telephone number	01424 855222
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Registered person	The Fellowship Of St. Nicholas
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Tinies on Track Service (TOTS), is one of three settings run by the Fellowship of St Nicholas charity. It opened in January 1998 and operates from a room in the community centre and also has use of the main sports hall. It is situated in a residential area of St Leonards, within walking distance of local shops and schools.

A total of 36 children may attend the setting at any one time, when both the hall and the group room are being used. The number of children on roll may vary. The group operates a variety of sessions which cater for the needs of parents and carers attending courses in the community centre.

The group is able to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) as well as those who speak English as an additional language.

The manager works with the children each session and holds a childcare qualification which is equivalent to a level 3 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ). She is supported by a team of six sessional staff, all of whom have appropriate childcare qualifications. The number of staff present each session varies depending on the number of children booked to attend.

The group receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean, comfortable environment. This is maintained throughout the session by staff who wipe down tables before snacks and after messy play. Spills are cleared up promptly and good food hygiene procedures are in place. Children are well supported to develop good personal hygiene practices. They routinely wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. Appropriate procedures are in place for changing nappies.

Children enjoy healthy snacks during each session and drinks are constantly available. Parents regularly bring in fruit for children to share and are given written information advising them of the setting's commitment to promoting healthy eating.

Staff are not generally required to administer medication as parents and carers are on site at all times. However the required forms are available should emergency medication, such as inhaler, need to be given.

Children enjoy good opportunities for physical exercise. Soft play equipment is available in the group room and they have sufficient space to walk around and push buggies. The outdoor area is used whenever weather permits. Children play with balls and bean bags as well as ride-on toys. The group has recently bought a gazebo to allow children to play outside for longer periods on sunny days.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play with a wide range of toys and resources. These are of good quality and are well maintained. In addition to the activities set out for the children, resources are stored in low level units for children to safely access for themselves.

Children are well protected by the effective safety precautions in place within the setting. The manager and staff are vigilant in their supervision of children and competently ensure that all areas are safe. The garden is inspected each session before children arrive and equipment is checked as it is set out. Covers are placed in all unused electrical sockets and a gate restricts children's access to the kitchen area. Security arrangements are very effective as there is a buzzer entry system into the building and a second into the group room.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe through the advice and gentle reminders of staff. They also enjoy visits from representatives of appropriate agencies such as the police community safety officer.

Appropriate procedures are in place to protect children in the case of a fire. Evacuation drills are practised regularly and written records maintained. Staff with first aid are present each session ensuring that children can be treated in case of an accident and appropriate records are maintained.

The manager is responsible for reporting any concerns about children's well-being to the organisation's child protection officer. She has all the required information to allow her to refer any concerns and is trained to be aware of the potential signs and symptoms of abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

There are effective arrangements in place to help children to settle. They are warmly welcomed on arrival and generally separate easily from their parents and carers. Staff are very caring and patient with all children and, as a result, children soon develop confidence and are able to enjoy the activities on offer.

There is an area set aside for babies and very young children. Travel cots are provided and an appropriate range of toys is set out. There is also comfortable seating for staff to cuddle and feed children.

Activities are very attractively set out and children enjoy the freedom and encouragement they receive to explore their environment and to make choices. Staff are very skilful at extending children's language as well as their imagination. Children respond very well to their light-hearted banter and laugh delightfully as they play. They are developing very good levels of concentration and thrive as a result of the praise and positive re-enforcement from staff.

In addition to supporting children in their freely chosen play, staff also plan a range of activities to link with themes and topic work. Planning reflects the Birth to three matters framework. Children are provided with opportunities to learn about a wide range of interesting subjects such as looking at beaches and sea life. The work on these themes covers all areas of play and learning; for example, to interest children in the topic of beaches, the role play area was set out to represent the sand and sea. A display was also created including books, shells and cuttle fish which children can examine with a magnifying glass. Such activities stimulate a good deal of conversation and interest.

Resources and activities which are generally available each session including arts and crafts, construction, role play, books, small world toys and sand play. The manager has also attended specific training to provide a range of challenging but appropriate physical activities both inside and outdoors.

Children's individual care needs are well understood and given high priority. As a result, children are happy, confident and comfortable in the setting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

There is a clear, comprehensive policy which outlines the setting's commitment to the promotion of equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice. There are a range of posters and displays around the playroom which show positive images of people from different cultures and religions. There are also a range of books, puzzles and role play toys which support children to learn about different lifestyles and traditions. The organisation has a selection of dolls which represent a range of disabilities; however these are shared between all of the organisation's childcare settings and are therefore not constantly available for children to play with.

The manager has attended inclusion training and, along with the staff team, is confident in her ability to work with children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The building is fully wheelchair accessible and there are good arrangements in place to support children with a range of additional needs.

Children are very well supported to develop sociable and appropriate behaviour. They are engaged and occupied throughout the session and listen well to the advice and guidance from staff.

Relationships with parents and carers are positive and friendly. In addition to providing them with a good range of written information, staff take time to speak to each parent and carer when they drop off and collect their child.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

A recent revision of the organisation of the setting has resulted in an effective line management structure with clear roles and responsibilities for all staff. Comprehensive checklists are used to ensure that all staff are fully inducted and appropriate recruitment procedures are in place.

All required documentation is in place and records are up to date and easily accessible. There is a comprehensive set of policies and procedures covering all aspects of the service provided and these are reviewed regularly.

Space is well used to enable a large variety of activities to be set out at the same time and to ensure that children can move around safely. Similarly, time is also well managed to provide a good mix of restful as well as more lively activities.

Staff work very well as a team and are motivated and attentive to the needs of children. As a result children are happy, stimulated and confident. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection a number of actions were set against the National Standards. The setting has made significant improvements in all of these areas.

The organisation of the staffing structure has been improved and staff are now able to easily identify the correct person to whom to report specific concerns or significant events. Extremely comprehensive induction procedures have also been introduced. As a result of these changes every staff member is familiar with all policies and procedures and this ensures consistent practice and safeguards children.

Children are further safeguarded by the improvements to the fire safety arrangements. Evacuation drills are practised regularly and, in order to ensure that these are effective, staff are often not informed that a drills is to take place.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to taken 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):

- increase the range of toys and resources representing people with disabilities so they can be integrated into children's freely chosen play.

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