

Eastfield Adult Education Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	509941
Inspection date	07 March 2007
Inspector	Margaret Bryant
Setting Address	Anlaby Road, Hull, HU4 6DT
Telephone number	01482 331600
E-mail	sue.robinson@hullcc.gov.uk
Registered person	Kingston upon Hull City Council
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

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?

Eastfield Crèche opened in 1996 and operates from a first floor room within the Eastfield Adult Education Centre, based on the Eastfield Primary School site, in the West of the City of Hull. It is approximately three miles from the centre of Hull. A maximum of 15 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche is open each weekday morning, Monday to Friday from 09.30 to 11.45 and on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12.30 to 15.00. The crèche operates term times only and is only open to students who attend the classes ran by Adult Education on the same site.

There are currently 25 children on roll. Children attend the crèche from many different areas of Hull. It supports a number of parents and their children for whom English is an additional language. The crèche employs five staff on a part time basis with staff available from another adult education site for relief cover if required. Over 90% of staff have an appropriate childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in premises which effectively safeguard their health and well-being. For example, all floor coverings are clean on which children sit and play and all toys and resources are also clean. Provision is available for children to rest, with pushchairs or beanbags available for their use according to age. All staff are expected to hold current first aid certificates and there is a procedure in place for sickness and illness. This is shared with parents who know their children cannot be cared for if they are ill. They also know they have to collect them if they are taken ill whilst in the crèche. This ensures that the health and well-being of all children is protected. Staff maintain accident records which are shared with parents. As parents are on the same premises, it is expected they will visit the crèche if their children need any medication. Although children do not have access to an outdoor area, they do have the opportunity for some exercise through the equipment there is in place. There is a small slide, tunnels to climb through and bikes to ride.

Children are provided with a snack which is satisfactory in terms of being healthy and includes biscuits or dried fruit. Some parents provide children's snacks. Parents bring in their own bottles of milk for babies. Staff hold babies as they feed them which helps them feel secure. Drinks for older children are given at snack time with water available in a cooler, though this is just out of reach for all children to readily help themselves. However, it is easily visible and children indicate or ask for a drink when they want one. Table tops are cleaned before snack times and children have plates onto which they put their food. This helps reduce any cross contamination of germs. Staff talk to children about healthy eating and give children different shaped fruits to colour. This helps children increase their knowledge and supports their current topic about being healthy and healthy eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

There are effective measures in place to keep children safe and free from harm. For example, all toys, resources and equipment are in a safe condition. Also the crèche room door is securely fastened after each parent has left. Along with their strict policy on place about collection of children, this means that no one unauthorised has access to children. This ensures their utmost safety. Staff ensure that activities are adapted and organised according to the ages of children present. For example, when caring for young babies, they ensure a separate area is created which helps them keep them safe. Staff are careful with the supervision of all children and ensure children do not access resources which are not appropriate for their safe use.

Useful information has been gathered by staff in helping the crèche achieve awards from the community health department for their scheme entitled 'Focus on Safety'. Staff share information with children which helps them begin to know about how to keep safe in the sun, near water and about fire safety. Records of fire drills, however, show that there has not been one held for several months. This means that due to the attendance rate of children, who are only in the crèche when parents are present at short courses indicates that most, if not all children have not had the opportunity to take part in one. All staff present at the inspection have attended child protection training and show some awareness of the local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. However, there is no one person in charge on site with designated responsibility for this. Staff are unwilling to assume this role as they believe any concerns they

have would be dealt with by someone other than themselves. This does not adequately safeguard children in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are cared for by staff who plan a timetable which is flexible. They ensure it includes all children with consideration for their differing ages and levels of understanding. Staff endeavour to ensure that as far as possible, all children on roll have the opportunity to participate in planned events and themes. They do this by extending the period of time over which they are covered. All children take home with them some of the pictures and craftwork they do. Some are also on display on the walls either individually or as part of a frieze. Children enjoy seeing their pictures on display. Each parent receives a useful and informative pack, on entry, which has books for children to read. It also includes some colouring books, a set of crayons and useful leaflets and information about joining the library.

Staff support children in their play and help them use and develop their imaginations. Children enjoy the pretence as they make ham sandwiches with play food and give them to staff to eat. Children show amazement as staff pretend to enjoy these. Children enjoy gluing and sticking shapes and have free choice of the pictures they will colour, from a good range available. Staff help children to know about colours and shapes as they complete their pictures. They also encourage children to speak about them. Staff ask children questions to make them think and recognise responses from them which may be non-verbal due to their lack of English. Staff help develop children's language skills through helping them to repeat simple words. Staff show interest in all children and talk continually to those children who are too young to speak. This shows children that staff are interested in them. Staff give children plenty of reassurance and guide them as they play. Children chuckle and squeal with delight as staff play peek-a-boo with them.

All staff are very caring with children, respond well to children's interests and allow them time for active play and relaxation. They help children know they understand what they have to say as they smile in acknowledgement. The friendly and approachable staff helps ensure all children feel confident to try out new activities in a safe and supportive environment.

.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff make every effort to ensure that all children feel fully included and good about themselves. They find out as much information as they can from parents about their children's individual needs. Staff on occasions need to consult with course tutors who help them in finding out information. This is because many parents and children do not speak English. Many parents use the crèche to care for their children whilst they attend classes to help improve their English. The help staff receive from tutors ensures they have all the necessary information they need which enables them to care for children appropriately. As a result all children feel valued. Staff increase their knowledge of other cultural backgrounds through the attendance at courses. This helps them understand how families are helped to integrate into another country, from that in which they were born. This benefits children as staff know about their individual cultures and beliefs. All parents and carers receive a leaflet on entry which helps them know about the

crèche. Help is offered with interpretation if needed. The leaflet includes brief guidance on: collection of children; sickness policy; evacuation procedures and arrangements for nappies and bottles. It also informs parents about the wide range of policies in place. This ensures parents know about the care their children receive and understand about the methods they operate. They also receive a fortnightly newsletter with topical information for their interest and attention. On a daily basis parents receive information about what their children have enjoyed whilst in the crèche. All parents spoken to are happy with the crèche and the care their children receive from staff.

Staff ensure all children are helped to appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences. There is a variety of resources which reflect positive images of race including dolls, dressing up clothes and books. Staff celebrate other cultural festivals with children including Eid, a Muslim festival and the Chinese New Year. Children interact well with each other. Staff give children lots of praise in their play and for their efforts and this helps raise children's self-esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff warmly greet children when they arrive at the crèche which helps them develop a sense of belonging. The crèche is bright with many colourful displays of children's work and all toys and resources are easily and readily accessible. This allows children to independently help themselves and decide what they do. Staff are recruited through local council procedures and these are secure. All staff are appropriately checked which ensures their suitability to be in the proximity of children. The majority of staff who care for children have worked in the crèche for several years and attend training on a regular basis to expand their knowledge and benefit children. Courses they attend include: first aid; child protection and health and safety. There are staff in the crèche with a qualification equivalent to a level 3. However, there is no identified person approved as suitable by Ofsted, to have day to day responsibility for the crèche. Staff receive support from line managers, most days by telephone, but they do not work in the crèche.

Records as required by regulation are in place and of a satisfactory standard. Not all staff, however, demonstrate a secure knowledge of these. Nor are they able to immediately access these for inspection purposes. For example, staff show limited knowledge of medication and complaint procedures. This means that there could be delay in ensuring parents wishes and concerns are properly followed and implemented. Records are kept locked away when not in use. This respects confidentiality of information and overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection in 2004, there were several issues the crèche were asked to address. These included the following:

They were asked to ensure Ofsted were notified of changes in the staffing structures including submitting an action plan detailing how supervisors would achieve a level three qualification. They were also asked to ensure 50% of staff hold a level 2 childcare qualification and to nominate a suitable person in charge with day to day responsibility for the running of the crèche. This person then would be interviewed by Ofsted. Of the three staff in the crèche one has completed a level 3 qualification. 50% of the rest of the staff are appropriately qualified, however, there

is no nominated person with day to day responsibility working in the crèche. This has been recommended again as a result of this inspection.

The facility were asked to review hygiene practices with regard to the multi-use of the single sink and seek advice about nappy changing and hand washing from environmental health. There is now an additional two sinks in the crèche for different uses though staff are unclear about whether environmental health were ever consulted. However, improvements which have been made help reduce the cross contamination of any germs and protects children's health.

They were asked to review the behaviour management policy, and increase staff awareness of dealing with children's behaviour in a consistent way. Observations of staff with children raise no concerns in their approach with children. All are gentle and caring and as a result children are content.

They were asked to implement procedures for gathering information from parents about their children. Also to ensure parents have contact details of Ofsted. There are now systems in place which help staff gather all relevant information from parents and a complaints procedure is displayed with contact details of Ofsted. This ensures staff are able to care for children's individual needs, according to parents wishes and that parents know who to contact in case of complaint.

Finally they were asked to ensure the crèche child protection statement included details of the procedure to follow in the event of allegation of abuse against staff members and to ensure staff were fully aware of local child protection procedures. The local Safeguarding Children Board procedures are now present in the crèche and staff have attended child protection training. They show some awareness of the procedures, however, there is no one person on site with designated responsibility for child protection. Staff assume no responsibility for this role and, therefore, children are not appropriately safeguarded.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 complaint 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 there is a suitable named person in charge with day to day responsibility for the running of the crèche with a level 3 qualification. Ensure Ofsted is notified when this person has been identified so as suitability can be determined
- ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities with regard to the Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Also ensure there is a designated person within the crèche with responsibility for child protection concerns
- ensure all staff are aware of the records that must be kept and that all are readily available for inspection purposes. Also ensure staff use knowledge gained from courses to benefit children
- ensure fire drills are held on a more regular basis, to ensure where possible that all children have the opportunity to participate.

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