

Sure Start Shrewsbury

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY316941
Inspection date	17 April 2007
Inspector	Juliette Jennings
Setting Address	Sunflower House, Kendal Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 4ES
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Registered person	Shropshire County Council Surestart Shrewsbury
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?

Sure Start Shrewsbury Children's Centre crèche is located within the Sunflower House Sure Start premises in the Harlescott residential area in Shrewsbury.

The crèche serves the local community, is open on a flexible basis as and when required and offers short periods of care for children whose parents access activities within the centre. The group do not receive funding for three and four-year-olds. Children can access a variety of sessions. The crèche is able to support children who have learning difficulties or disabilities or who speak English as an additional language.

There are currently 10 members of staff employed to work with the children. Of all of these staff, most hold suitable early years qualifications. The staff access regular training on early years issues and work in close partnership with the Sure Start team.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted satisfactorily because staff have implemented and follow sound procedures to ensure an environment which is clean and allows children to become aware of personal hygiene. For example, children have free access to the toileting area so that they can wash hands independently as they wish, with antibacterial soap and paper towels available for use. In addition, staff are diligent in following good practice guidelines in relation to nappy changing and make sure that resources are cleaned on a regular basis.

Documentation to supplement this aspect are largely in place, for example, written consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is in place for all children and medication records are completed as required. However, the accident and medication records are not always available on the site, sometimes being stored in a locked unit off site, so records are not readily available for inspection or review.

Children are encouraged to eat healthily because staff provide a good range of healthy snacks and make sure that the drinks that children bring with them are readily available at low-level. Staff are good at ensuring that children's individual dietary requirements are attended to because they are prompt at seeking this information from parents and altering the snacks as they need to.

Children have sound opportunities for physical activity, fresh air and light. They use the well-planned outdoor area within the routine of the day, sometimes using resources to help develop large physical skills and also utilising the creative activities which are provided under the shaded, covered area. Children become confident on the smaller climbing equipment located inside the room.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy and have access to a comfortable, suitable and sufficient environment where they have opportunities to play in a supportive space whilst their parents access courses provided by the Sure Start Children's Centre. Comfortable chairs, low-level tables and small-scale climbing equipment are available and staff provide a good range of resources so that children are busy and occupied during their time there.

The environment is organised suitably to meet children's needs. It is colourful and interesting, with brightly painted walls, displays of posters and pictures, plenty of activities available and appropriate provision for babies so that they can sleep and be cared for within their usual routine. Children benefit from having a good range of age-appropriate toys and resources available so that they can make progress in all areas of development, for example, toddlers are able to attempt climbing the small wooden frame and older children are challenged by age-appropriate puzzles.

Children's safety is largely ensured because staff carry out daily safety checks on the main room and outdoor play area, following set procedures which are detailed and specific to the setting. Staff were good at supervising the children so that they were safe and secure whilst playing, being careful about allowing visitors in and ensuring the main door was secured at all times.

However, children's safety in the toileting area is potentially compromised because there are plastic bags and plastic aprons accessible to them in a low-level drawer. In addition, accident records are not always onsite, so are not able to be used effectively for risk assessment review and evidence of public liability insurance is not available. Fire evacuation procedures are in place and are practiced regularly so that children and staff would know what to do in this event.

Children's welfare is ensured because staff work closely with the Sure Start team and follow agreed procedures which reflect Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines. Families are supported well because they have opportunities to access various courses at the centre whilst their children can be cared for safely and securely in the creche, with sympathetic and caring staff. Training is accessed on a regular basis so that all staff would know what to do if they had a concern about any of the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's development is promoted well during the short periods they attend because staff ensure that a good range of toys, activities and resources are readily available to accommodate all interests and needs. For example, toddlers enjoy exploratory toys and small climbing equipment, older children spend considerable time exploring and investigating the play dough and younger babies are held whilst being fed, given good one to one attention and supported to discover musical and other sensory toys. Staff are attentive, pleasant, caring and sensitive to children's needs.

Planning is used to ensure that children's likes and preferences, observed by staff during initial sessions, are accommodated within future activities, for example, play dough is a favourite activity with one child so staff make sure that this is included next time, to support the settling in process and ensure that children are always comfortable.

Children are busily occupied, positively engaged and interested in the range of activities on offer and settle very well into the routine of the creche, considering that the inspection took place on the first of 12 sessions. Children are supported in this because staff have extensive experience and knowledge of children's development and an understanding that all children have specific needs and preferences. They work very well together as a team to ensure that children's individual needs are met and that consistent care is given, allowing parents to access the activities available onsite in the children's centre.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's understanding of equality and diversity and their development of self-worth is good because they have good access to a wide range of toys and resources which promote positive images of diversity and staff are proactive in ensuring that their individual needs are met. Children settle well into the creche as they are supported by sympathetic and caring staff who know what to do to ensure children's self-esteem and confidence is promoted. Children have good opportunities to choose what they want to do and make decisions about what they would like to play with and who they want to spend time with. The procedures for supporting children with learning difficulties and disabilities are sufficient, with the organisation of the setting able to meet any specific needs and detailed procedures in place.

Children's behaviour is good because they are able to be busily occupied with a wide range of activities and have sensitive support from staff, who work hard to ensure they know about children's needs and thus can deal with any issues effectively. Children who choose to attempt to open the door, for example, are distracted and encouraged to become involved in appropriate activities alongside other children. Procedures describe the positive interaction from staff observed at the time of the inspection, which included lots of positive praise and smiles.

The partnership with parents is good and is a strong aspect of the provision. The setting acts as a support service so that parents can access the various activities and courses on offer to them by the children's centre. Staff work closely with parents so that children's needs are met and so that parents can confidently access their chosen activities with the sound knowledge that their children are being well-cared for by experienced and committed staff. Procedures are in place which allow parents to give details of any specific needs and requirements that their children have.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are secure in the setting because staff caring for them have gone through the necessary checks to ensure that they are suitable to do so. In addition, detailed recruitment procedures are followed to ensure that staff have appropriate experience and qualifications. The space is organised well to suit children's individual needs and all necessary equipment is readily available either within the room or brought in by the creche staff.

Children's development and care is ensured and sufficiently supported due to the staff's access to ongoing training, for example, in child protection, first aid and other child specific courses. Staff show a commitment to providing a good quality service and meet regularly to discuss any issues, with ongoing daily verbal feedback to each other to ensure all children's needs are met.

The documentation for supporting children in the setting is generally satisfactory. All appropriate documentation is in place, however, not all of the documentation is onsite at all times, for example, children's details, accident and medication records are only onsite for the duration of a specific creche. Although this is a breach of regulation in relation to National Standard 14.2, the impact on the children at the time of the inspection was minimal. Documentation is currently stored in a lockable unit offsite, so that it is not readily available onsite. Other documentation to support consistent care is in place such as appropriate consents and information about specific dietary needs. 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):

- make sure that all required records are available on the registered premises at all times
- make sure that hazardous items such as plastic bags and plastic aprons are not within children's reach
- utilise the accident records within the setting's ongoing risk assessments
- ensure that evidence of public liability insurance is available for inspection.

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