

Fun 4 Kidz Mobile Creche - Netherton Childrens Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY344328
Inspection date	26 March 2007
Inspector	Margaret Patricia Mellor
Setting Address	Netherton Childrens Centre, Magdelene Square, Netherton, Merseyside, L30 5QH
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Registered person	Fun 4 Kidz
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Fun 4 Kidz Mobile Crèche was registered in 2006. It is one of 11 settings run by an organisation and is based in Netherton Children's Centre, in Netherton, Liverpool. Children use three playrooms for their care and play experiences. There is a secure, fully enclosed garden for children's outdoor play. Children come from a wide catchment area as parents attend the centre to participate in a range of courses and other services run there.

The crèche provides care for a maximum of 45 children aged under eight years at any one time. It operates as and when required, seven days a week. There are 85 children on roll, aged from two months to five years. They support children with learning difficulties or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The crèche employs 11 staff to work with the children. Ten staff have a relevant qualification in childcare. They receive support from Sefton Childcare Services and an early years teacher.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's interest in a healthy lifestyle is fostered and encouraged. They relish the wide variety of fresh fruits at snack time, increasing children's awareness of a range of different tastes and textures. Children promote their fine motor skills and have plenty of fun as they do Easter lacing cards, paint and make models with play dough. Babies' eagerness to be physically active is recognised by staff as they encourage them to bear weight on their feet, which stimulates walking. Toddlers show plenty of curiosity as they freely explore their environment, and respond gleefully when climbing or rolling on the soft play. Children love to be active and develop their coordination and spatial awareness skills as they run in the fresh air, do bike racing, wriggle with hoola hoops and brush the floor. Children have a drink at snack time, but drinking water is not freely available at other times for children to independently help themselves when thirsty or after exercise.

Children are cared for in a very comfortable environment where there are good procedures for cleaning the premises. They thrive as staff are well informed of health care issues, for instance, wiping down surfaces, nappy changing and food handling. This helps to prevent the spread of cross-infection, promoting children's well-being. Younger children develop their awareness of simple personal hygiene through their crèche routine, and as staff sensitively help them with wiping hands or noses. Staff gently remind older children to cover their mouth when coughing and give clear explanations about how this helps to stop the spreading of germs. Children build on their awareness as they do dental hygiene activities, bath dolls and through visual displays of hand washing in the toilets.

Children's health is promoted well because staff act in their best interests when they are ill. This is supported by detailed sick child and medication policies. All staff have a relevant first aid certificate and the first aid box is kept fully stocked so that children's minor injuries are dealt with appropriately. There are effective procedures for sharing information about children's dietary needs, so that parents' wishes are respected and children stay healthy. Children's health is further safeguarded because staff ensure that they use sun creams, wear hats and play in the shade on hot days.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, safe and secure environment, which is maintained to a high standard. The play areas afford plenty of natural light and are spacious. Children play with a generally good range of quality toys and equipment that are suitable for their age and stimulate enjoyment. Staff creatively organise the equipment and space, providing interesting areas of play for children to freely and safely access. Children's self-esteem is promoted as they gain independence when searching out play materials that appeal to them from the tables, trays and toy boxes at child height. Relaxation areas enable children to sit together in comfort and the child sized furniture promotes children's independence.

Children move freely and safely in the crèche because there are good safety arrangements in place. Staff vigilantly implement procedures when visitors and parents arrive. This is well supported by door key pads and effective procedures for the collection of children in an emergency. All the necessary safety equipment is in place, for instance, door finger guards and

fire evacuation cots for younger children. Staff carry out a daily written risk assessment of the premises to effectively address any areas of concern. This helps to reduce potential hazards, minimising the risk of children accidentally injuring themselves.

Children enjoy a variety of safe challenges on the portable toys in a secure, enclosed garden. However, there is no large play equipment, consequently, children's gross motor skills are not fully extended. Children learn aspects of personal safety as they regularly practise what to do in the event of a fire. They build on their awareness through staff's gentle reminders about sitting on chairs. Staff give clear explanations to children about why they must stop what they are doing, for instance they may fall and hurt themselves. Children sleep in safety as staff regularly record checks on them and are close at hand to respond to their awakening. Children's well-being is further assured because there is a designated child protection coordinator. All staff have accessed training and show a generally good awareness of the procedure to follow should they wish to report a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have a good time in the crèche and are involved in a broad range of play opportunities, which actively engage their interests. This is supported by activities planned by staff, who use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to promote younger children's progress and development. Babies begin to develop a strong sense of self as they play with their hands or feet and spontaneously smile at their reflection in the mirror. Toddlers are developing their awareness of their physical needs, for instance, going to the toilet. They sometimes recite numbers, shapes and colours when playing and babies enjoy making repetitive sounds. Children learn to explore and investigate using their senses. They discuss the smell and texture as they feel and taste the different fruits. They listen to music and respond gleefully as they explore the different textures in the treasure baskets. Children enjoy singing and listen to stories with interest. Children show a good awareness of how to behave and keep themselves healthy and safe.

Children are clearly relaxed and at ease in the crèche, promoting their personal, social and emotional development. Younger children begin to appreciate the company of others as they play sociably alongside one another and with each other whilst staff are close at hand for reassurance. They begin to learn to cooperate and particularly enjoy playing peek a boo games with adults. Older children are gaining confidence as they build relationships with their peers and staff, who spend time talking, listening and playing with the children. They are becoming more confident communicators as they initiate conversations, sing rhymes and join in discussions at story time. They are keen to engage staff in their activities, for instance, as they do puzzles and play with the small world toys.

Children are happy, interested and involved in activities. They relate well to each other and adults, demonstrating good levels of independence. Children wash their own hands, put their paper towel in the bin and help to tidy away the toys. They learn about living things as they examine bugs with magnifying glasses, make butterflies and listen to stories about the hungry caterpillar. Children are encouraged to develop their creative skills and express their ideas and feelings through art and craft. Children explore colour, texture, shape and form through a range of media, such as collage, sticking, painting, sand and water. They build on their creativity as they dress up and role play in the home area. Children begin to learn about technology as they play with the programmable toys and babies respond gleefully at hearing the different sounds, further enhancing their crèche experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop very good levels of self-esteem and staff form close and caring relationships with children. The effective equal opportunities and special education needs policies ensure that all children are included and valued as individuals. New children are given the opportunity to freely explore their environment and become familiar with the crèche routine at their own pace. Children happily select activities, which help to make the environment relaxed, bright and attractive to the children, promoting a strong sense of belonging. Children begin to develop positive attitudes towards others as they play with the multi-cultural toys, look at books and do puzzles that reflect positive images of people in the wider community. They enjoy celebrating a range of festivals, such as Easter or Chinese New Year. Children attend from different family backgrounds and activities are non-gender specific, further contributing to children's awareness of diversity and equality issues.

Children are very happy and confident in the crèche because staff work closely with parents to ensure they understand children's individual needs and home routine so that children settle well. Parents are greeted as they arrive and there is plenty of discussion with staff about their children's activities, reassuring parents that children's interests come first. They are given crèche guidelines as part of the enrolment procedures, and a notice board keeps them up to date with developments. Parents say that they are very happy and satisfied with their children's care, activities and relationships with staff. This warm and meaningful relationship between home and the crèche greatly contributes to children's continuity and the quality of care offered.

Children's self-esteem is nurtured in a positive environment where children are encouraged to feel good about themselves. Staff are good role models and use plenty of praise to acknowledge what children have done well. They are very polite and attentive, encouraging children to express their interests and talk about what they are doing. Babies relish staff's close contact and cuddles as they have their bottle and play with the toys. Children begin to develop good social skills as they learn what is expected of them. They are very courteous as they spontaneously say please or thank you. Younger children begin to develop the concept of sharing and older children are supportive of one another as they willingly take turns. Children are confident to relax in staff's presence, for instance, as they sit together and chat at snack times.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a family group setting and an environment that is safe, warm and generally well equipped. There are rigorous procedures for the recruitment, induction and supervision of adults who work with the children. This is supported by effective procedures so that non-vetted persons are not left unsupervised with children. All the regulatory documentation is in place, stored appropriately and made available for inspection. There are written policies and all staff have accessed food hygiene, first aid and child protection training, which assists staff in providing an effective service for the children. However, the child protection policy lacks detail about the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures; and the complaints procedure in parent guidelines does not clearly identify the role of the regulator should they wish to report a concern.

Children benefit from good adult support and the experience of qualified and knowledgeable

staff. Staffing ratios exceed requirements affording children high levels of individual and group support, so that their experiences are happy and positive. Staff are enthusiastic about their own self-development through regular attendance on childcare courses, for instance, 'Birth to three matters', and courses on treasure baskets and heuristic play. Children are involved in purposeful activities, which are enhanced by the staff's knowledge of child development and how children learn through play, contributing to the quality of care offered.

Children are assisted to develop their independence and create friendships because staff creatively organise the environment with a good balance of activities, allowing for both active play and relaxation. Children are supported in small groups and staff enthusiastically motivate the children's learning, judging when to become actively involved and when to allow children to independently explore. Children are confidently accessing toys and pursuing activities that appeal to them. Information is shared with parents regularly, promoting children's continuity of care.

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):

- make drinking water freely available to children
- continue to improve the range of resources that promote children's gross motor skills
- review the child protection policy and guidelines for parents about the complaints procedure.

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