

Little Stars

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY225426
Inspection date	04 May 2007
Inspector	Janice Rizvi
Setting Address	Swadlincote Adult Community Education Centre, Rink Drive, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE11 8JL
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Registered person	Swadlincote Adult Community Education Centre
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?

Little Stars crèche opened in May 2002 and is run by Derbyshire local authority. The facility is situated in Swadlincote Adult Community Education Centre. The crèche operates from one room within the Centre and offers places for children whose parents are attending courses at the Centre. A maximum of 15 children may attend the crèche at any one time. It opens each weekday during school term times from 09:00 to 14:15, or as required and depending on the length of the courses being offered.

There are currently 46 children under eight years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The crèche supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

There are five part time staff who work with the children. The manager and over half the staff have appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Young children are beginning to learn the importance of personal hygiene. Older children's independence is growing as they are encouraged to wash and wipe their hands on paper towels, especially after going to the toilet and before snacks. Children's good health is well-promoted as the majority of adults hold a current first aid certificate. The first aid box is easily accessible and suitably maintained. Accident records are completed and a fully detailed statement provided to parents.

Children's good health is generally protected through the sick children's policy. The crèche medication policy is not to administer medication, except in emergencies. Parents usually remain on site at all times. However, there is currently no procedure in place to request written parental consent for adults to seek emergency medical advice and treatment. This is a potential risk to children's health, as it may cause a delay if a parent is not present when such an emergency occurs.

Fresh drinking water and other drinks are freely available on request. Children are offered a healthy mid-morning snack of a variety of fresh fruit and raisins, with a drink which some children bring from home. Children select their choice of fruit which is served in colourful dishes. Snacks are planned to take into consideration children's dietary requirements that are recorded at registration. Children enjoy their snack in social atmosphere chatting to staff about their home and developing their conversational skills. Hygienic food preparation areas are available to prepare heat and store bottle feeds for young babies.

All children have freedom of movement within the crèche room, where they are able to use wheeled toys, engage in floor play and negotiate round objects. They enjoy marching and swinging their arms to nursery rhymes such as 'The Grand Old Duke of York'. There is a protected area for immobile babies with activity centre toys and soft mats for floor play. This ensures children have the opportunity to fully explore and develop their muscular strength.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well-maintained secure environment. The premises are secured by coded locks and children are closely supervised. Crèche staff consistently approach visitors entering the crèche who are asked to sign the visitors book. This good practice ensures children safety.

Children are kept safe in the crèche as staff have a good awareness of health and safety. The adults complete visual risk assessments to ensure hazards to children are minimised. The collection and departure policy is clearly stated and displayed to parents. The emergency escape plan is clearly documented, practised and recorded on a regular basis. Health and safety policies are available to parents and displayed on the notice board. Attention to these procedures ensures children's overall well-being and safety.

Babies have their own corner of the room to keep them safe from harm. Toys furniture and equipment are appropriate well-maintained and checked for safe use. Adults ensure safety harnesses are in place. Parents bring in babies pushchairs for sleep. There is access to natural

light and opening windows for fresh ventilation. The crèche has central heating with a comfortable temperature.

Children are suitably protected in the setting. Adults have a clear awareness of the child protection policy that is shared with parents. Adults have a sound knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and are aware of the policy relating to any allegations made against staff in the setting. Parents are provided with the written policy on child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play happily together in a small group. They are involved in organised activities such as, exploring shapes and different textures of soft and rough. They enjoy floor play using transport toys, constructing 'Brio' train tracks and wheeling their trains around the tracks. Younger children play in the role play corner putting things in their handbags and pushing their dolls pram. More able children are confident to approach visitors and talk about their favourite toys, for example, naming their toy engines. Children learn about the natural world as they talk about the weather chart and look to see what the weather is like today. They have access and use a wide range of books assorted soft toys and fit shapes into shape boxes. Adults interact well with children. They listen attentively and ask questions and join in with their play, supporting the development of their language and curiosity with open ended questions. This ensures children's learning is consolidated and extended.

Children enjoy a wide range of balanced activities that are planned in advance for each term. They make decisions and choose their activities, such as the 'Butterfly Song' The range of activities provided ensures that children make good progress. Toys and activities are rotated for different sessions. Some children regularly attend the crèche and staff know them well. Children enjoy their session at the crèche and talk confidently about their experiences. The mixed age group of young children is suitably organised. Staff support children's play and encourage older children to be sensitive to the needs of younger children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enter the crèche confidently and settle quickly. They develop self-esteem as they make requests, choices and decisions about their play. Children are well-behaved. They know some of the rules and are beginning to understand why boundaries are necessary. All children are included and supported to fully participate in the group. They are learning about different cultures and religions during planned activities, such as, making lanterns and painting their hands for Diwali to celebrate festivals and events. There is a good range of resources, books and toys that reflect positive images of gender and disability and this in turn encourages children to learn more about their community and the world they live in.

Children's individual needs are discussed with parents in detail. Staff listen to parents and make careful note of their wishes and instructions as they enter the provision. Any special requirements or information is discussed and consistent communication and information exchange takes place. The needs of children with learning difficulties and or disabilities are recognised and met sensitively.

Friendly relationships between staff and parents mean that information regarding children's care needs is shared and used effectively to meet children's needs. All children are registered

into the provision with full details recorded before they commence. The complaints policy is included in the parent's brochure and the certificate of registration displayed for parents. These measures ensure that children are looked after in accordance with their parent's wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The crèche is well-organised to provide a stimulating and child-friendly environment in which children can take part in a range of activities to support their care, learning and play. Space and resources are presented to provide children with a balance of interesting activities. Children's needs are met by a well balanced adult to child ratios and children benefit from the individual care and attention given.

Children's welfare is protected as the registered person has rigorous recruitment procedures in place. These ensure children are cared for by suitable staff that are appropriately vetted. The adult to child ratios are fully met. Adults are deployed around the group, giving children support in all areas of their play. For example, sitting alongside less confident children and interacting with older children to give encouragement and supporting children in their care routines.

There are good policies and procedures in place that are freely available to parents, and these work well in practice to promote children's welfare.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provision was given two actions. Firstly, to ensure that there are effective procedures in place for checking that staff are suitable to work with children. The registered person has completed new checks for all staff in post and has provided a list of reference numbers in evidence. Secondly, to ensure that Ofsted are notified about any significant changes or events. The regulator has been informed by phone and by email of significant changes, for example to managers in post and suitability interviews have been conducted by Ofsted. The provision's attention to the above issues have improved the quality of care and outcomes for children.

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 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):

- request written parental consent for emergency medical advice and treatment.

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