

Kettering Sure Start Childrens Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY342645
Inspection date	11 June 2007
Inspector	Elizabeth Culley
Setting Address	Montagu Street, Kettering, Northants, NN16 8RX
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Registered person	Kettering Sure Start Childrens Centre
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?

Kettering Sure Start Children's Centre Head Quarters opened in 2006. The setting opens daily providing crèche facilities and a network of support for local families including, child health clinics, parenting workshops and training. The crèche operates from two rooms in the purpose built premises situated just off the town centre in Montague Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. A maximum of 26 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The facility is open each weekday from 09:00 to 17:00 all year round. The centre uses satellite centres in other areas of the town and has close links with Ronald Tree Nursery and Little Stars nursery in the Grange Community Campus.

The centre currently employs a manager and seven childcare staff all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted well. They are cared for in a clean and healthy environment which is maintained to high standards of cleanliness. Children's physical well-being is nurtured as they enjoy the benefits of the natural light and playing in the fresh air. They are protected from the harmful effects of the sun as they play in shaded areas, wear hats and use suncream. Children have excellent opportunities to explore and develop their large body muscles as they play in the garden. They develop their hand eye co-ordination and fine motor skills as they learn to control small tools and link pieces together in puzzles. Children are learning about personal hygiene in their daily routines. They are taken to the bathroom after eating and messy activities where they learn how to wash their hands. Good nappy changing procedures are in place for babies and toddlers to prevent the spread of infection. All staff are trained to administer first aid, therefore, children receive good emergency care and comfort when they are unwell and parents are contacted immediately.

Healthy eating is promoted for children. They enjoy savoury snacks and a varied selection of seasonal fruits. Children have good opportunities to taste new foods, however, not all food offered is suitable for children under 12 months. Children's specific dietary requirements are discussed with parents and recorded on their child's information and their individual needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment which is brightly decorated with attractive displays. Their safety is promoted to high standards because the building is secure and there is a programmed key pad managed by staff to prevent them leaving unaccompanied. Children enjoy playing outdoors in the fully enclosed garden area which is only accessible from the indoor playroom, therefore, they are not exposed to uninvited visitors. Children independently use the safe and suitable resources and equipment that meets their play and development needs well. Effective risk assessments by staff and good use of safety equipment ensures children are protected from potential hazards. Older children are learning how to keep themselves safe as they practise emergency evacuation procedures.

Children are protected from harm or neglect because staff have a secure knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse, and the correct procedure to follow if they are concerned about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children's well-being is promoted effectively as they engage in purposeful play. They are flourishing and making excellent progress in their development because the staff have the experience, knowledge and understanding of children's development needs. They are effectively implementing 'Birth to three matters' and also consider the six areas of learning for children over three. Young children are making significant progress in their social skills as they share and play together. They confidently communicate with staff who enable them to develop their own ideas as they play, for example, sometimes children playing with the farm choose to add

additional wild animals and turn it into a zoo. Babies self-esteem is nurtured and they express their enjoyment by responding to staff with smiles and laughter as they play together. Children are making excellent progress in their language development. They engage staff in conversations during their play, learn about rhyming words and enthusiastically listen to stories and look at books. They are learning to count in their daily routines and measure height as they construct and build towers. Children enjoy being creative and have good opportunities to paint and make small creatures in the craft area. They are learning about the natural world as they play in the garden and watch plants growing. Children enjoy imaginative play and become immersed in role modelling through small world activity. Babies are developing an awareness of their senses as they enjoy tactile experiences, listen to sounds and follow brightly coloured objects.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed by staff and are extremely happy in their surroundings. They settle quickly with staff and show their emerging self-confidence as they eagerly talk to individuals, involve them in their play and build good relationships. Children with special needs thrive in the setting. The exceptionally good liaison between parents, staff and other professionals ensures children's individual needs are effectively met. Children have positive experiences of equality and anti-racist practice because they play with resources which promote diversity. They behave well because they are fully engaged in developmentally appropriate activities throughout their time in the crèche. Some children, however, choose to sit and play quietly on their own when they are tired and staff are proactive in selecting books and sitting quietly with children on their laps. Children flourish with praise and their self-esteem is promoted.

Parents receive well-documented information about the setting and its facilities. They meet frequently with staff to discuss their children's individual needs and have excellent opportunities to contribute to their progress records. Children's well-being, therefore, is highly promoted.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall the needs of the range of children are met. Children's welfare is promoted to high standards because all staff have relevant early years qualifications and experience. They are fully committed to developing their practice through training and have recently updated their first aid knowledge. Robust recruitment procedures, induction and staff appraisals monitors the quality of care provided for children. The effective organisation of space and resources enables children and families to attend together. Children are supervised in the crèche area by a high ratio of staff, therefore, parents feel supported and confidently leave their children whilst attending their relevant group sessions. All supporting documentation and records are maintained to high standards and supports good standards of care for children. Children, therefore, are making excellent progress in all areas of their development and their well-being is promoted.

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):

- ensure snacks are suitable for children under twelve months.

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