



Bridgemere Centre Breakfast and After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	954435
Inspection date	05 July 2005
Inspector	Fler Wright
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Registered person	The Bridgemere Centre
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Bridgemere Centre Breakfast and After School Club opened in 2002. It is managed by a voluntary committee and operates from a community hall in Eastbourne, East Sussex. The group use 2 rooms and have sole use of the premises during opening hours. There is no outdoor play area available. The club is open 5 days a week during school term times only. Sessions are from 07:00 to 09:00 and 15:00 to 18:00.

The club is registered for 40 children aged 4 to 8 years but also takes children up to the age of 11 years. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The Club currently

supports a number of children with special educational needs.

The Club employs seven staff. Four of the staff, including the supervisor and deputy hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Established hygiene routines enable children to learn about the importance of maintaining good health. Staff ensure children have access to a clean and hygienic environment to help them to begin to understand the importance of good hygiene and keeping healthy, and this is having an impact on the children as they automatically wash their hands after using the toilet and before cooking activities.

Children help to run a well organised tuck shop during each session where they have access to a variety of healthy snacks. Parents are involved in choosing what children are allowed to eat. The healthy options available help to encourage children to develop healthy eating practices. Drinks are available at all times and children confidently help themselves. This encourages children to think about their personal needs and ensures they are sufficiently hydrated. Staff gather all relevant information regarding diet and medical history. This ensures children's individual dietary and medical needs are met.

Children freely enjoy a range of activities that develop their physical skills on a daily basis. Although the setting are aware of the first aid requirements, only one member of staff holds a current first aid certificate as another had expired some time ago without anyone realising. This means, that at times, the setting runs without a qualified first aider thus putting children at some risk in the event of a medical emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious well-organised environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. They have easy and safe access to a good range of toys and resources appropriate for their ages.

The premises are secure and there are good procedures in place to prevent unwanted visitors gaining access and very effective procedures for the safe arrival and departure of children. Staff deployment is good and guarantees children are well supervised and safe at all times. However, children and staff do not practice the emergency evacuation procedures on a regular basis and the records of fire drills are not detailed. Children are therefore not as familiar as they could be of the routine to follow in the event of an emergency, and are consequently at a slight risk.

Staff have an understanding of their roles and responsibilities with regards to child protection, although the policy does not include the procedures to follow should an allegation of abuse be made against a member of staff. They are aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and have a good knowledge of the process to follow should they have any cause for concern. This ensures staff quickly recognise when a child is in danger and can act in the child's best interests.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, relaxed and confident. They approach staff for support indicating good relationships are built. Children are involved in, and enjoy a broad range of activities such as cooking, craft, construction and physical play that help to encourage learning and development.

Staff provide a well balanced range of activities that allow children to be involved in both quiet and active play on a daily basis. Bi-weekly topics ensure there is a variety of activities on offer that give children the opportunity to learn about new things. The mix between the structure and free play of sessions works well, and children are encouraged to be independent and move freely between activities. They are also able to make choices about the activities on offer helping to ensure they all have the opportunity to enjoy and achieve.

Children are able to make decisions, explore and investigate, relate to others, and are involved, interested and enjoy their play. They concentrate on activities for extended periods of time confirming that they are stimulated and that the opportunities and equipment on offer provide sufficient balance and challenge to meet their needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with respect and are made to feel good about themselves. Staff encourage all children to participate in the activities provided. This ensures all children have an equal opportunity to maximise their enjoyment and potential. There are an adequate range of activities and resources available that help to develop children's understanding of diversity although some staff have a limited knowledge of the meaning of equal opportunities.

Staff have experience of caring for children with special needs, as a number of staff work in a special needs school outside of opening times. Children's individual needs are recognised, and a one-to-one worker has been employed to give support to a child once a week. However, children attending other sessions do not benefit from this, as staff have not attended any specific training in this area to aid the other children in attendance, and have not contacted outside agencies to ask for help.

Children are well behaved and benefit from some basic ground rules that are

consistently applied. Children helped devise the rules and they remind each other on a daily basis of what they are, which helps to ensure they are able to enjoy themselves within the boundaries set. Staff offer regular praise and encouragement to children to help increase their confidence and self-esteem.

There is a communicative relationship with parents. They are encouraged to provide appropriate and relevant information about their children to the staff. This helps to ensure children receive individual care and attention.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The majority of the required documentation is in place, is confidential and well maintained. This helps ensure the safe and effective management of the setting in order to promote children's welfare. However, the medication policy does not reflect current practice at the setting and parents do not countersign medication records. Although there is an uncollected child policy in place, it requires some updating, and some staff have a limited understanding of the procedures to follow.

Children benefit from a well-organised environment where they receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. Overall, the needs of all children are met.

Staff ensure that children are protected from people that are not vetted, and have an understanding of their role in supporting children in their play and learning.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting were asked to update their documentation to include the correct regulatory body, update the medication policy, and ensure all medication records were signed by staff and parents.

The documentation has now been updated to include reference to Ofsted, and although the practice for recording the administration of medication has been amended, the policy still requires updating and the records require some further improvement to ensure all of the required information is obtained. Once the group achieve this, it will ensure the medication records held on each child are accurate thus contributing to each child's safety and welfare.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 at least one member of staff with a current first aid training certificate on the premises or on outings at all times.
- ensure fire drills are carried out regularly and the details are logged, in order to help children understand the risk of fire and feel confident about evacuating the building in an emergency.
- update the child protection policy to include the procedure to follow should an allegation be made against a member of staff.
- ensure special needs training is attended, and the knowledge and understanding gained at the training is implemented in order to help identify and meet the needs of children who attended a variety of sessions.
- devise a medication policy that reflects the current practice, and ensure all medication records are countersigned by parents.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk