

The Little Champions Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector Abigail Caroline Cunningham

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Registered person Little Champions 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?

The Little Champions Centre is a committee run organisation that operates from within the youth and community building which is part of the Abundant Life Centre in Bradford, West Yorkshire. The day care provision operates from one room which is separated into two separate areas, there is an area for babies and children under two years and an area for children aged two to eight years. Children also have use of an adjoining room and a foyer area for indoor physical activity. A maximum of 10 children may attend the setting at any one time. The setting is open each weekday from 09.30 to 17.30 for 50 weeks of the year. Children have access to two secure outdoor play areas, one of which adjoins the premises. There are currently 10 children aged from five months to under four years on roll. The setting serves children whose parents either attend training or work at the Abundant Life Centre. The setting employs five members of staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children have daily opportunities for fresh air and outdoor play, such as accessing the two outdoor play areas. In wet weather the children are able to run around safely and freely in a partitioned off area of the foyer. As a result, the children enjoy physical play and exercise, for example, they energetically run around the cones.

All staff and volunteers are fully aware of children's individual dietary requirements and preferences which are discussed in full with parents. The menu has been devised in consultation with a dietician. All meals are low-in-salt and saturated-fat and wherever possible the staff use organic produce. The children receive a good range of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks, such as savoury mince, Yorkshire puddings, sautéed potatoes, carrots and fresh fruit salad. The children have independent access to drinks at all times and babies are offered drinks regularly. The children have opportunities to sample foods associated with other countries to increase their knowledge of the wider world, such as chicken curry and stir-fry noodles.

Good methods for promoting personal hygiene are used, for example, there are paper towels and liquid soap available for children and staff to wash their hands. Each child has an individual flannel to wipe their hands and face with after each meal and the children's bedding is washed daily. Staff and children wipe the tables before meal times and most staff have attended food hygiene training. Good arrangements are in place for administering first aid and medication. There is a fully stocked first aid kit available. Two staff members holds a current first aid certificate. Written policies are in place regarding sickness, accidents and administration of medication; these are fully implemented and shared with all parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are clean, well maintained and welcoming. There is good evidence of children's play and activity. For example, parents, children and visitors are warmly welcomed on arrival and children's work is attractively presented on the walls. There is a good range of toys, furniture and equipment available which meets the needs of all the children attending, for example, there are cots, low-chairs and child sized tables and chairs available. All areas are well resourced with good quality products which are mostly made of natural materials, such as wooden furniture and toys. Additionally, there is a comfortable chair available for staff who spend a great deal of time, holding and feeding babies.

The children benefit from a good range of safety measures, for example, socket covers and safety gates are used. The children are supervised at all times, are unable to leave the premises unattended and are never left alone with persons who have not been vetted. The system for managing access to the premises is good and unauthorised persons are unable to gain entry and a record is kept of visitors.

Fire safety is satisfactory. There is a fire evacuation procedure and plan in place. The children and staff have rehearsed a fire drill, however, this has not been done on a regular basis. Fire equipment is checked annually and a fire blanket is sited in the kitchen.

Child protection procedures are good. All staff have completed child protection training, which is also covered during staff inductions. The staff know the possible signs and symptoms and the reporting procedure. They also have access to local child protection contact details. The settings child protection policy is shared with parents and is easily accessible to them as it is situated in the setting's policy file, which is available in the portable building.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The staff recognise the children as individuals and meet their differing needs well. For example, the staff have a flexible approach to meeting children's needs. They implement individual routines for meal times, resting and nappy changing. Most staff working with the younger children have attended 'Birth to three matters' training. They confidently implement the framework and the planning and assessment systems are very effective for this age group. Staff consistently talk to young children explaining what they are doing, which encourages children to link words with actions.

Because this is a small nursery, the same group of staff are consistently caring for the children. The staff are effectively deployed so that a significant members of staff are available to care for the children at all times. For example, the staff stagger breaks over the lunch time period and part-time members of staff are the first to be called upon to cover staff holidays and sickness. As a result, the children are very happy and settled in the setting and enjoy learning. Children are able to confidently assert their own needs and preferences, for example, one child informed a member of staff 'I need a cuddle'.

Planning is flexible and is based on the children's individual needs and interests. Activities are presented in an interesting and thoughtful way and the children have good opportunities to be involved in messy play; this is throughout all age groups, for example, babies play with the sand and finger paints. The staff encourage the children to try new activities, for example, throwing hoops and bean bags. There are a broad range of activities available for the older children, such as dressing up and making shopping lists, which encourages them to make decisions and cooperate with each other.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The staff are good role models, for example, they listen to children and make themselves available for positive interactions. The staff have created a secure atmosphere. As a result, the children show excitement and are motivated to learn. They enjoy receiving rewards for their good behaviour, such as individual attention and praise and encouragement. The children understand what is expected of them because the staff are skilled in encouraging good behaviour. As a result, all the children are very well behaved, for example, the children use manners without being prompted to do so, such as please, thank you and excuse me.

The children develop a positive attitude to others and a good understanding about the wider world and community. This is achieved through celebrating festivals, such as Eid, Chinese New Year, Christmas and Easter. The children have access to a good range of resources which show positive images, such as photographs, books, dolls, jigsaws, play figures and prompts for role play. The staff team are experienced in identifying and working with children with learning

difficulties and disabilities. As a result, the setting has effective procedures in place to support children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Parents have good opportunities to share what they know about their child through regular discussions with staff and an effective settling-in procedure. Because the parents are on site, they can stay and play or visit their child during the nursery day. Staff give good attention to meeting babies' individual needs for eating, changing and sleeping and exchange this information with parents, for example, through the use of daily diary. Additionally parents' notice boards prominently display relevant information, such as information about the nursery menu. Further information is available through the setting's policy file which is easily accessible to parents. Parents are also given a copy of each policy when their child initially starts nursery, such as the complaints policy. This policy includes the name and address of the regulator, however, this does not include their contact number.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The person in charge is suitably qualified and all the staff have a friendly and open manner. Suitable checks are undertaken on all staff. The staff and volunteers have an induction programme which prepares them well for their work, for example, this covers their roles and responsibilities and the implementation of all the settings policies and procedures. Staffing ratios are consistently high and the children are given very good support and encouragement. As a result, all the children are very happy and settled. The staff work extremely well as a team; they are motivated, enthusiastic and are committed to improvement. There are clear action plans in place for future improvements, for example, a new nursery and adjoining outdoor play area is currently in the process of being built. All the staff are fully involved in planning activities and attend regular planning meetings as well as staff meetings. All staff have regular supervisions, which take place once every three months. The staff are encouraged to attend training sessions and they choose courses from the local authority training directory, such as child protection, outdoor play and religious diversity training.

All documentation is up to date and correct. Any confidential papers are securely stored in a locked filing cabinet in the office. The registration system is effective and this clearly shows when staff, visitors and children are present. There are comprehensive policies which promote the safety, health and well-being of all the children. These include a lost child policy, a child protection policy, a behaviour policy and a complaints policy. There are individual records for accidents and medication, which protect the children's confidentiality. 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 complaint 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:

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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 that the complaint procedure includes the regulators contact number
- carry out regular fire drills.

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