



Children's Centre - Sure Start

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY288316
Inspection date	16 June 2005
Inspector	Patricia Webb
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Registered person	NCH West Midlands Regional Office
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?

Brierley Hill Children's Centre Crèche is sited within the new purpose-built children's centre. It is a joint venture involving Sure Start and the NCH organisation. A multi-disciplinary approach is employed to address the all-round needs of children and their families in the Brierley Hill area of Dudley.

The crèche offers places for the children of parents and carers who access on-going training and activities at the centre. There are currently 5 children on roll. The crèche operates from the family room and the under 5s base and is open Monday to Friday, all year round, times dictated by the training sessions offered at the centre to meet

the needs of parents and carers attending.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's physical, nutritional and health needs are met effectively as staff follow comprehensive policies and procedures. They are developing their independence in personal hygiene supported by staff who are aware of the positive role models they offer. At times, the multi-group use of the nappy change area outside of crèche sessions can result in some cleaning materials being misplaced leading to a possible risk of the spread of infection.

Children explore and develop physical control through experiences indoors and outdoors in the safe and secure play area. Staff have a sound knowledge of child development and the Birth to Three Matters framework providing tasks and activities appropriate to each child's age and stage of maturity. For example, younger children develop early climbing skills through scrambling over the chunky soft blocks in the family room. Older, more able children improve their skill and confidence as they access the larger, more challenging equipment in the under 5s room.

Children access drinking water freely throughout the session. Home-prepared bottle feeds are appropriately stored for the younger members of the crèche to reduce the risk of contamination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised as staff undertake regular checks around the setting, indoors and outdoors. All the staff within the centre are aware of children's safety being everyone's responsibility. Consequently, children's safety and welfare is maintained well as staff are competent in carrying out risk assessments and proactive in addressing any issues as necessary. For example, higher fencing has been erected to the boundary of the premises to reduce the risk of unauthorised entry.

Children access a varied selection of good quality resources that are presented effectively to develop independence and self selection. The larger room affords children ample space to play addressing all areas of their development. The smaller room is used when group sizes are smaller to ensure that the children feel safe and secure.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted as senior staff demonstrate a working knowledge of the child protection procedures and ensure that parents are informed of their duty of care to address any such concerns. Whilst the relevant information for contacting the appropriate agencies is on site at the centre, the correct telephone numbers are not immediately available to staff working daily in the

crèche, hindering how swiftly a possible concern may be addressed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive happily and settle well as staff offer a warm welcome. They immediately engage in meaningful activity such as exploring the treasure baskets, using all their senses. The children are encouraged and supported by enthusiastic staff who effectively implement the Birth to three matters framework for planning. Clear planning enables staff to pick up and run with specific activities reducing the risk of boredom or frustration for the children.

Children's individual needs are well met by intuitive staff who provide good quality adult-child interaction. Children are beginning to make sense of the world around them as they join in with gardening, planting their sunflowers, and cookery activities such as making chocolate krispie cakes. They are developing their listening skills through stories and nursery rhymes. They are encouraged to join in and follow direction by staff to develop communication skills particularly for children with English as an additional language.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the ethos of the centre to acknowledge and celebrate differences. A wide range of well researched resources are accessed to address individual needs including the use of skilled staff within the centre to communicate with families to discuss any specific special needs.

Children's individual needs are clearly identified and met positively. Information regarding their needs and interests is actively sought as staff liaise with parents before children begin attending the crèche. Additional services are employed to ensure that parents are clear about the ethos of the setting such as interpreting home languages. This contributes to ensuring that parents share relevant information to enable staff to care for their children appropriately.

Children are supported in sharing and taking turns. They are developing an understating of the concept of being sensitive to the needs of others as well as their own. High expectations of behaviour are fostered as staff are consistent and fair. Children's self esteem is effectively developed through the implementation of strategies appropriate to the age and level of understanding of each child.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the strong management and effective organisation of the setting. They feel settled, secure and confident in the care as senior staff take lead

roles in overseeing the day to day running of the crèche ensuring that policies and procedures are consistently applied. This is particularly relevant when employing crèche services from an outside provider.

Children enjoy engaging in the purposeful play opportunities presented as a result of the effective organisation of indoor and outdoor play spaces. All the legally required documentation contributing to children's health, safety and well being is in place and is regularly reviewed.

The good quality of care offered by the centre means that the crèche effectively meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

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 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 all the necessary resources are available to personnel for reducing the risk of cross infection in the nappy change area.
- Provide staff with current information for contacting the appropriate agencies when reporting child protection concerns.

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