

Abbey Community Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	100569
Inspection date	19 July 2007
Inspector	Deborah Wilkinson
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Registered person	Abbey Community 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Abbey Community Centre Crèche which was registered in 1999 operates in the Kilburn area of Camden. Each of the sessions which run from 13.00 - 15.00 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during term times, can accommodate a maximum of 11 children aged under five years. Currently there are 22 children on roll.

The premises are purpose built and the secure crèche room is used at other times by a mother/toddler drop-in, an English as a second language provider, a Sudanese group and an exercise crèche. There is access to an enclosed outdoor area.

Attendance is reflective of the diversity of the local community. The group offers support to children who speak English as a second language and those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Three staff, two of whom are qualified work with the children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in clean, bright premises which are well maintained as staff implement thorough hygiene procedures. There are child sized toilet facilities with easily accessible hand washing facilities and a designated nappy changing area. One member of the creche staff is a qualified first aider and another person with this qualification is always on site. A fully stocked first aid box is available. There is a book for recording any accidents that may occur and parents sign to confirm they have been shown the report.

Procedures in place to promote children's health and wellbeing include, obtaining parents permission to act in loco parentis should emergency medical treatment be required and consent for staff to apply sun cream if needed. There is liaison with a dietician and dental health worker who visit to talk to parents and provide advice.

Children have lots of opportunities to get fresh air and exercise when they play in the secure outdoor play area.

The crèche has a healthy eating policy and children enjoy a snack of fresh fruit and rice crackers during the session; a jug of drinking water is always available.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident when using the self contained premises which are organised to provide space for them to play safely. There is a system to prevent unauthorised entry into the crèche, staff monitor arrivals and departures and an attendance register is completed. However, this does not include the times children arrive at and leave the crèche. Children's security is a priority, staff do ongoing checks to identify and minimise any potential hazards keeping a record in the housekeeping book. There is a fire alarm system installed, and while staff are aware of the evacuation procedure, this is not practised on a regular basis.

The small tables and chairs allow children to sit comfortably at activities and there is a range of well maintained play equipment for them to use.

The overall welfare of children is safeguarded. Written child protection procedures are in place and staff understand the action they have to take if they identify any issues. Parents are made aware that staff have a responsibility to report any concerns to the local authority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children present in the crèche are happy and involved in their play. The premises are organised into areas providing a choice of activities and the children move around confidently choosing the resources they wish to use. One busily uses a damp cloth to clean the wall mounted chalk board, two others parade around showing off their dressing up costumes. The children also have the freedom to use the outside area where they ride bikes and enjoy using the sand tray. Towards the end of the session the children listen to a story and join in the singing with enthusiasm.

The children are confident in their relationships with the staff who chat with them, giving support and praising the children for their efforts. There is a good selection of equipment, most of which is stored in low units enabling the children to select for themselves.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing their social skills when they play and co-operate with each other. They learn to share resources, and two move up to make room for a third who joins them at the chalk board. Staff are positive role models, speaking quietly, and children respond happily, helping to clear away when asked, 'can you help, because you are such good tidier uppers'. Children sit together for their snack which is a sociable time. While staff encourage them to clear away their cups and plates, opportunities to further practise their self help skills are limited when staff serve them with the fruit and drinks.

Staff know the children well, with information about individual needs recorded on the registration forms. Parents learn what their child has done when they chat with staff at the end of the session. They also receive the child's book of memories containing photos and samples of work when their child leaves the crèche. Prospective users are welcomed and told about how the group operates. There is a parents notice board and a useful welcome pack outlines key policies and procedures. Included in this is the complaints procedure, however currently this does not include the contact details for Ofsted. Parents are involved in the group attending parties and joining in the outings that take place in the holidays.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and confident in the crèche. They are cared for by staff that have been thoroughly vetted for their suitability and appropriate records are kept about the needs of each child. Knowledge of the written policies and procedures forms part of the staff induction process and helps them run the crèche efficiently. Responsibility for planning and presenting the activity programme is shared among the team.

Children's welfare is generally safeguarded, however, there are weaknesses in the system for recording daily attendance times and fire drills are carried out infrequently.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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 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):

- carry out regular fire drills
- record the times children are present in the creche
- provide opportunities for children to develop their independence at snack time
- include contact details for Ofsted in the complaints procedure

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