



## China Fleet Under 5's

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	102898
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<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Sessional 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](http://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?

China Fleet Playgroup and Crèche has been registered since 1991 and is privately owned. It provides a service to members of the China Fleet Country Club which is situated on the outskirts of Saltash. The group operates from a purpose built, self contained building in the grounds of the club. It is registered for a total of 30 children. The playgroup is registered for 15 children aged 2 to under 5 years and the crèche is registered for 15 children aged 0 to under 8 years. There is a large enclosed garden available for use. The staff team consists of 9 staff who work with the children. Most staff hold a minimum of NVQ level 2 in childcare and education. The manager and deputy hold appropriate level 3 qualifications, and skills to be in charge of the

sessions.

During the week the provision is open from 09.30 to 15.00. A pre school session is offered from 09.30 to 12.00, for children from 2 years to 5 years. Children from birth to 8 years are able to stay in the crèche for a maximum of 2 hours. The provision offers a crèche facility on Saturdays. The group is not in receipt of funding for three and four year old children and currently does not have any children with special needs.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable environment. The playrooms are well decorated and attractive and the staff are meticulous over keeping all aspects of the setting clean and tidy. Babies are able to crawl around the setting in safety and are not at risk from unclean carpets. Older children can visit the child-sized toilets independently, and there are good facilities to encourage them to wash their hands regularly and appropriately. Staff change babies nappies according to their individual needs to ensure they are comfortable and content. Toys are cleaned before each session starts to make sure children are not at risk from contamination. Children use an excellent range of equipment, both indoors and outside, to improve their physical skills. Younger children access the soft play areas to crawl and climb, and push along and wheeled toys to extend their range of skills. Older children regularly use the interesting and stimulating play equipment in the enclosed outdoor area to develop their movement and balancing skills.

Staff hold appropriate training and documentation to ensure that in an emergency children are well cared for. Appropriate procedures are in place for the safe administration of medication. However, the records of any medication given to children are not confidential and are inconsistent in recording the time medication is given or if it is not given.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. The older children help themselves to drinks during the sessions. A snack of a various fresh fruits help children learn about healthy choices and introduce them to a wide range of tastes. Younger children have their dietary needs met on an individual basis according to their routines. Babies' foods are stored safely and given to children in a considerate manner. Daily information is exchanged about children's individual dietary needs so that all staff are fully aware of any specific care required.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very warm and welcoming environment. They have access to an extensive range of high quality toys and resources, which all meet safety

standards. Through training staff have an extremely good awareness of safety issues and how to maintain a safe environment for children to protect them from harm. They use risk assessments to evaluate the safety of all aspects of children's care, taking prompt action if required. Staff supervise children well, they encourage them to be considerate to others, raising their awareness of playing with equipment safely. Attractive posters and daily activities in the setting promote children's understanding of sun and water safety.

All documentation and procedures are in place to maintain and promote children's welfare. For example, staff have attended appropriate training in first aid and child protection to ensure that they are fully aware of their responsibilities in the event of any emergencies or concerns and will act promptly.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children, who attend the pre-school session, greet staff and very quickly pick from the excellent range of toys and activities offered. They soon become engrossed in making puzzles, playing with water, counting the fishes caught with magnets, or use the computer with good support from the staff. There is a good balance of activities offered to children, including free and structured play. In group activities children learn to take turns when playing snap and speak in small groups. They enjoy listening to stories, extending their vocabulary, learning to concentrate and develop their confidence.

In the crèche most children settle well. Babies are placed beside a large wall mirror and begin to become aware of themselves. Staff move the babies regularly so they can look at different parts of the setting. A good range of toys are offered to babies, which they can reach for and grasp. However, most of the toys tend to be made from plastic; there are limited natural materials available. Babies benefit from good interaction with staff, listening to staff talking and verbalising their movements, watching staff use facial expressions well to develop babies' communication.

Some toddlers do not settle well in the crèche, and are on occasions, discontented. Toddlers have access to various toys and a few activities, but are more limited in the play opportunities on offer. They can freely access the soft play area, a selection of push along toys, and some floor toys. There are some tabletop activities, such as peg puzzles, and an area for messy play, such as sand and play dough. However, the toddlers and staff tend to be distracted easily from any activity by the constant comings and goings of parents and children. Staff are often involved in caring for individual needs of the younger children, rather than playing and interacting with the toddlers.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children's needs are met well, staff obtain daily information from parents on each

child's needs and care required, especially for the babies. Parents and staff exchange information at the end of each session about the child's time at the group. Children behave well and learn to compromise, share toys and equipment. Generally, all children play well together although the toddlers still require adult intervention to help acquire these skills. Staff are sensitive and gentle with the children explaining why they need to share and take turns. Children in the Pre School are able to visit the toilet, access their drinks independently and choose freely from the activities on offer to them. This develops their independence and self-awareness. Children are valued and respected. Their artwork is well displayed and labelled, which increases children's self-esteem. Older children make simple games, such as snap, while at the session which they can take home and play with their families.

Children are beginning to learn about their local area, and resources promote a positive awareness of the diversity in society. Resources in the role-play area, such as books, life jackets and armbands prompt discussion on water safety and the role of people who help us, such as the lifeboat service. However, in the crèche, there are limited resources that promote positive images of equal opportunities and diversity.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The environment and the staff are well organised and prepared for each session. The well-planned toys and equipment are ready and accessible for when children arrive. This means most children can quickly settle and become engaged in play. However, the organisation of the crèche is less effective. A high staff ratio exceeds the requirements, and staff focus on caring for the needs of the youngest children, such as feeding and changing nappies. However, the staff in the crèche are also responsible for admitting and releasing children at various times. These constant interruptions take staff away from playing with the toddlers, who can quickly become unsettled and unhappy.

Policies and procedures are in place to ensure staff are well informed and are clear on their roles and responsibilities. Staff share children's information with parents to ensure consistent care is offered. However, some records, such as the times children leave the setting, the times of when or if staff administer medication, are not fully completed, and not all records maintain confidentiality. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend the setting.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection the staff agreed to improve the safety of the setting, with reference to the way risks are identified and action taken to minimise any hazards, and to store babies milk bottles safely. This has been achieved by members of staff attending detailed training in risk assessment. They use the knowledge gained to re-assess all aspects of the provision to ensure that any hazards are minimised. New resources and safety equipment have been purchased to improve the safety of all activities. Babies milk bottles are labelled and stored appropriately in the fridge in the kitchen area. This has a major impact on the children's safety whilst at the setting

and protects them from hazards.

The setting also agreed to ensure that the person in charge, who is present, holds appropriate qualifications and that children are given time to finish activities and prepare for the next one. The named deputy has completed her level three qualification and meets the requirement to be in charge of the setting. This ensures that consistent levels of care are offered to the children attending the setting. In the preschool, staff now give good warning to children about the change in activities, which allows children to finish their chosen task. Children are familiar with the routine which helps them to feel secure.

### **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):

- review the organisation and range of activities offered in the crèche to ensure that all children are well supported and have good opportunity to enjoy and achieve.
- review the records and documentation to ensure that all details are recorded clearly and confidentially, especially with regard to medication records and times children leave the setting.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)