

Happy Days Playroom

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY281409

Inspection date 25 September 2007

Inspector Jo Rowley

Setting Address The Living Room, 8 - 10 The Glebe, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 0DJ

Telephone number 01438 355649

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Registered person The Living Room

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?

Happy Days Playroom was registered in 2004. It operates from one room in The Living Room, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. A maximum of 12 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche is open every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 to 12:10 and 12:55 to 14:40 for 50 weeks of the year.

There are currently 45 children from three months to under eight years on roll. Children attend the crèche whilst their parents use the facilities within The Living Room.

The crèche employs four staff, all of whom, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the directors, project leader of The Living Room, and the early years development worker.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from infection with effective paperwork and well-managed hygiene routines, which they are fully encouraged to follow. For example, there is a clear sick child policy and good hygiene practice by staff as they encourage children to blow their noses and cover their mouths when they cough. Children are developing their independence as they wash their hands before snacks and after messy activities. They are learning, under the staff's guidance, that they need to wash their hands to get rid of germs before eating their snacks. This minimises the risk of cross-contamination when they have their snacks together. All of the required documents and procedures are in place to enable staff to act in the children's best interests, if they need medical attention. All of the staff hold a first aid certificate so that they can treat minor accidents if the need arises. Information is shared appropriately with parents to provide consistency in their health care.

Although the crèche does not have an outside area, children's physical development is fully encouraged with regular inside physical play. Children challenge their physical skills using the range of play equipment, such as bats, balls, tunnels and hoops. Staff use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to provide a range of play experiences for younger children and are developing their knowledge and understanding of the forthcoming Early Years Foundation Stage in order for them to promote outcomes for children. The crèche is well organised to ensure that children can move freely and there are two separate comfortable areas for rest and story time. Children are settled with the staff and receive close attention to ensure that their emotional well-being is promoted. Staff provide healthy snacks and drinks during the sessions, however, children do not have access to fresh drinking water and therefore, their health is potentially affected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment; they have access to resources which are bright, colourful and stimulating. Toys are stored at the children's level, therefore, they have opportunities to self-select and make choices about their play. Children's safety takes high priority in this well-organised setting. All the necessary safety measures are in place and the staff know what to do in an emergency. Access to the provision is monitored by staff, visitors sign in and staff request that only one of the parents for each child brings them into the crèche, therefore, children's safety is protected. Vigorous risk assessments and physical checks of the environment are completed, twice a day, before each session, further protecting children's safety.

Children adhere to the setting's rules to keep them safe, for example, they know not to run inside so that they do not fall and hurt themselves. They learn how to protect themselves through interesting activities, which reinforce their understanding of safety. For example, they practise the fire drill regularly to learn about the dangers of fire and the need for an emergency evacuation. Children's welfare is very well protected because all staff complete regular child protection training. They are aware of the required procedures to follow if a concern arose and specific documents, which are in place, to keep the children free from harm and ensure that their welfare is fully promoted. For example, visitors are supervised at all times and staff have

a good understanding of child protection procedures. There is a child protection policy, which is in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children spend their time purposefully. They are interested in their play and enthusiastically interact with members of staff. Space and resources are organised so that they can readily access the low-level toys which attract their attention. The staff consistently provide positive interaction with the children; they are involved with them at all times, to support their play, skilfully extending their language and understanding. For example, after a member of staff reads the children a 'Postman Pat' story she skilfully asks questions, such as 'can you remember what Postman Pat was posting?' Therefore, opportunities are promoted for children to develop their thinking skills. The children enjoy taking part in the planned art and craft activities such as dry pasta play. They talk to each other about filling cups of pasta and decide which cup is the heaviest. For example, 'my cup is full up, is yours heavy?' says one child. Therefore, they are developing their small motor skills, coordination and communication skills. The children's work is proudly displayed on the walls for parents to see. In particular there is an area called 'look what I can do' where children's special achievements are displayed for parents to see, promoting their sense of belonging.

Children are fully encouraged to use their imaginations through the many resources available to them. For example, two children are in the home corner, making food. A member of staff sits with them 'are you cooking food together?' she asks, 'yes we are' says one child. One child turns to the other and says 'let's go to the park', 'the baby is crying' says the other child. The member of staff asks what is wrong with the baby 'she has a broken leg' says the child, 'oh dear, shall we get the doctors kit and try to make her better?' asks the member of staff. The children work together using the kit to make the baby better, they talk about the medicine not tasting nice but being good for the baby to help her get better. Children's self-esteem and confidence are very well promoted because staff consistently praise and encourage them for their efforts. Babies are well cared for, they benefit from the presence of long serving and experienced staff members, who take a genuine interest in the children's happiness and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are able to feel welcome and comfortable because staff value and respect their individuality. Children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, have their requirements identified and met as there is a clear policy relating to this. Staff ensure that this is implemented, working with individual children and parents to make sure that all are included in the activities and daily routines. The staff are skilled in ensuring that all of the children are able to participate at a level appropriate to them and are offered activities and play opportunities which promote children's development. Their work is valued and displayed in the setting, helping them develop a sense of belonging, which contributes to their feeling of security and develops their self-esteem.

Children behave well. They learn good social skills and make positive relationships with the staff and their peers. They are polite and considerate. For example, they say 'please' and thank you'. The staff are successful role models who have the ability to manage children's behaviour

effectively, ensuring that when they talk to children they are at their eye level. Children are rewarded with stickers as staff congratulate them for doing good tidying up. Children benefit from a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world, increasing their awareness of diversity. The crèche has a large colourful wall frieze which shows different races, cultures and disabilities; this is promoted to encourage children to learn about diversity at an appropriate level for their understanding.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the setting has established with the parents. The staff has established professional, working relationships with parents based on mutual respect and effective communication. This helps to maintain a consistent approach. Parents are relaxed in the setting, they have the opportunity to exchange information about their children on a daily basis with the experienced and friendly staff. In addition, lots of information is displayed on the notice board.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall, children's needs are met. Their safety is promoted by the efficient organisation of the crèche staff. Records, policies and procedures are kept on site and are linked to the National Standards; these are shared with staff at their induction and then regularly at staff meetings. Children's care is enhanced greatly by the good organisation of the staff team. Children benefit from an effective recruitment system, vetting and induction procedures to ensure that they are well protected and cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development.

Children enjoy a good range of exciting planned activities, free choice and excellent resources which enable them to choose their play independently. The staff monitor the activities and review their practices to ensure that children are stimulated and challenged. The manager and her dedicated staff work effectively as a team. They have developed a positive working relationship with each other, parents and children. They are committed to promoting an inclusive environment in which every child matters. Children's records are kept up to date and contain all the relevant information that is required, enabling staff to provide appropriate care and promote children's welfare. There is an area within the crèche where the staff certificates are displayed along with the public liability and the registration certificate.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection staff were asked to ensure that rooms are maintained at a reasonable temperature and quiet areas are provided to meet children's individual sleep patterns. Temperature gauges and a small portable radiator has been purchased in order to maintain a reasonable temperature and staff have arranged the room to offer a tent area with large soft cushions and teddy bears where children can relax, promoting their well-being.

Staff were asked to ensure that resources are suitably accessible to encourage children's choice and independence. Staff purchased new storage units for resources so that children can independently self-select resources, developing their independence.

Staff were also asked to obtain parental consent for emergency treatment or assistance, ensure that confidentiality is maintained at all times and obtain relevant child protection literature. Parents have given written permission for staff to seek assistance, there is a confidentiality

policy in place which staff and parents are made aware of and the correct documents are in place to support staff knowledge and understanding of child protection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted received concerns that there was only one member of staff present at the provision. A childcare inspector conducted an unannounced visit to the provision on 13 July 2006 to inspect in relation to National Standard 2: Organisation.

At the time of the visit there was no evidence found to suggest breach of any of the National Standards. Ofsted took no further action and the provider remains qualified for registration.

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

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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 fresh drinking water is available to children at all times.

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