

South Dene Childrens Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY337278

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Inspector Ann Lee

Setting Address St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School, Bewley Drive,
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Registered person Lee William Johnson and Carrie Louise Johnson

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?

Kids in Bloom at South Dene Children's Centre is one of five registered settings run by Kids in Bloom. It opened in 2007 and operates from a purpose built building and the nursery classroom in the school. It is attached to St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary school in Kirkby, Merseyside. A maximum of 42 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08.00 to 18.00 all year round. Outdoor play facilities are adjacent to the age related group rooms. There are currently 27 children on roll. The nursery employs six members of staff. Of these four hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit because they are cared for in a bright, warm and well maintained environment where staff take good steps to keep them free from infection and cross contamination. They follow thorough hygienic procedures when changing nappies and use anti-bacterial spray to wipe work surfaces and tables. Cot sheets are changed and washed after each use and there is

a staff rota in place to ensure that the premises are cleaned each day and that toys and equipment are regularly washed. Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene because they are encouraged to wash their hands appropriately. Staff are trained in first aid and there is a fully stocked first aid box in each play room. This helps staff to safeguard children in the event of accidental injury or illness. They are further protected because all of the necessary documentation, such as sickness policies, parental permissions and accident and medication records are in place.

Children are offered healthy and nutritious snacks and meals throughout the day. Lunch is ordered from the school meals service during term time and from another ' Kids in Bloom' nursery during school holidays. The menu is displayed for parents and children can be provided with an alternative meal to suit their individual dietary requirements. Children help themselves to drinks of water throughout the day to ensure that they do not become dehydrated.

There are many opportunities for children to develop their physical skills. They play outside each day and staff encourage them to skip, play ball games, balance and run races. Children also enjoy riding wheeled toys, crawling through tunnels, digging in the sand and dancing to music. They practise their small motor skills when painting and taking part in other arts and crafts activities and when manipulating dough, shape sorters, puzzles and small world toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure in the setting because there are good procedures in place to ensure that visitors are closely monitored and children do not leave the premises with unauthorised people. The premises are attractively decorated and welcoming to parents and children. Colourful posters, murals and children's art work decorate the walls and information about the setting is displayed on notice boards.

Staff supervise children closely at all times and they carry out regular risk assessments to ensure that all areas are safe for children. All of the necessary safety equipment, such as electric socket covers, door finger guards and safety gates are in place to minimise the risk of accidental injury to children. However, the cupboard which contains the cleaning equipment is not locked and this may be hazardous to children. Babies and toddlers are monitored when they are sleeping and staff complete sleep charts to record their regular checks. Children learn how to keep themselves safe in an emergency because they practise the fire drill and take part in activities which teach them about road safety.

There is a satisfactory range of toys and equipment which is new and suitable for the range of children cared for. The pre-school room is very well equipped and it is set out to provide continuous provision of many activities. For example, there are areas for role play, sand and water play, mark making, construction, arts and crafts and sand and water play. This room is shared with the school which provides funded education sessions for children who attend the nursery. The baby and toddler rooms are part of the new building. Some of the toys and equipment are accessible to children. However, other items, such as the books and dressing up clothes are in boxes and this restricts the choices that children can make. There is no comfortable seating in the baby room where staff can bottle feed and cuddle the babies.

Staff have been trained in child protection and they understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children. The emergency telephone numbers for social services are displayed to ensure that staff can seek help and advice if an issue arises.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Staff are friendly and caring and they make children welcome in the setting, so that they settle in quickly and are happy and relaxed. They use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan a good range of interesting and stimulating activities for children. Staff support the children well and the key worker system enables close affectionate relationships to develop between them. Babies receive lots of cuddles and good interaction from staff who sit on the floor to talk to them, sing songs and encourage their play and learning. Staff use treasure baskets to introduce children to natural materials and the babies explore shape sorters, coloured balls and activity centres.

Staff use information from parents, observations and assessments to devise activities which meet children's individual needs and help them to make progress in all areas of development. The toddlers and pre-school children enjoy a wide range of activities including stories, puzzles, cooking, growing things, arts and crafts and sand and water play. Their imagination is fostered well because staff regularly change the role play area and provide a good range of resources to support their play.

There is a lively and friendly atmosphere in the nursery and children are well behaved and cooperative. They play well together and make choices about what they do in the setting so that they become more independent. Children show confidence and they concentrate well when listening to the story and when following instructions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are made welcome in the nursery and parents provide information, so that they can be cared for according to their individual needs. Staff work with parents and other professionals, when necessary, to support children with additional needs or disabilities. Children learn about diversity through planned activities and resources. For example, there is a range of dolls, books, small world toys, musical instruments and dressing up clothes which promote positive images of different cultures and disability. Children have equal access to all of the resources.

Children develop a good sense of belonging because staff display their work and use praise and encouragement to reward good behaviour and achievement. Staff act as good role models and they use books and puppets to help children to understand about feelings. This encourages children to develop good social skills and show care and concern for one another. There is a designated member of staff for behaviour management and a written behaviour management policy. However, the policy does not refer to bullying or how staff manage this behaviour in the nursery.

Parents are made welcome and they are invited for an induction session to ensure that they understand the policies and procedures. They receive a pack of information about the setting and complete all of the relevant documentation. Staff talk to parents each day to keep them informed about what their children have been doing and how they are progressing. Staff also complete a daily diary sheet for parents which provides them with information about what their children have eaten, nappy changes, sleeps and activities. Parents express their satisfaction with the service provided and with the good standard of care provided for their children. Staff

seek parents comments in order to evaluate and improve their service. This good partnership with parents helps to promote continuity of care for children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are settled and well cared for by qualified staff who use their skills to provide stimulating and interesting activities. There are effective procedures in place for the recruitment, vetting and induction of staff to ensure that they are suitable to work with children. Children are protected in the setting because they never come into unsupervised contact with people who have not been vetted. The correct adult to child ratios are maintained to ensure that children are always well supervised and supported. There are also contingency plans in place for staff absences to ensure that there are always sufficient staff on duty. Staff training needs are identified through regular team meetings and appraisal and they are encouraged to access any relevant training in order to improve their child care knowledge and skills.

There is a key worker system in place which helps to promote consistency of care and encourages good communication between staff, children and parents. Space and resources are suitably organised to allow children some freedom of movement and access to a good range of toys and equipment. Good consideration has been given to providing high quality toys and equipment which promote a stimulating, welcoming and safe environment for children where they can learn and have fun.

Comprehensive documentation is in place for the effective management of the setting and to promote the welfare of children. The records, policies and procedures are stored confidentially and are regularly reviewed and updated in line with current legislation. Ofsted are informed of any significant changes to the service. 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 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 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 that all hazardous substances such as cleaning materials are inaccessible to children
- provide comfortable seating for staff where they can bottle feed and comfort babies and ensure that toys and equipment are stored within easy reach of children, so that they can make choices about what they do in the setting
- ensure that the behaviour management procedure contains a reference to bullying and how it is dealt with in the nursery.

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