

# Sure Starters Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY275898
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Susan Rogers
<b>Setting Address</b>	Blakenall Lane, Blakenall Heath, Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 1HT
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<b>Registered person</b>	Sure Start Blakenall
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day 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?

Sure Starters Nursery was opened in 2004. It operates from purpose built premises in the Blakenhall Heath area of Walsall. The nursery serves the local community and surrounding areas.

A maximum of 44 children may attend the day nursery at any one time and a maximum of 18 children may attend the crèche at any one time. There are currently 42 children from 8 months to 3 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The group opens five days a week 51 weeks of the year. Day nursery sessions are from 08:00 until 18:00 and at the crèche sessions are from 09:30 until 11:30.

The setting employs 10 members of staff. All of these hold appropriate early years qualification. The setting is supported by the local authority.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

The mostly effective routines mostly protect children against illness and infection. For example, chairs and tables are cleaned following children meals, staff do not wear out-door shoes in the baby room and children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating their meals. However, children's bedding is stored together which may compromise their welfare. Children have excellent opportunities to enjoy a very varied menu which widens their palate and encourages them to sample a variety of food. They eat their meals in a positive social setting as staff eat with the children and the tables are decorated attractively. The varied menus offer children nutritionally well-balanced meals which promotes their welfare. Children's welfare is well protected as the temperature of food brought into the setting is carefully monitored. They always have sufficient to drink as supplies of water are visible throughout the setting.

The effective documentation protects children's welfare, for example, the sick child policy that encourages parents to care for their child in the home setting if their child is ill and parents prior written permission is obtained before medication is administered. Children's well-being is protected as all members of staff have a paediatric first aid qualification.

Children have a wide variety of opportunities to develop their physical skills. They extend their skills whilst they explore an interesting and well-resourced outdoor play area. They are well-protected in the sun as they play in well-shaded areas and have sun protection cream applied before they play outdoors. They are well-protected in the colder weather as the setting provides puddle suits which keeps them warm and maintains their well being.

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

The provision is good.

Children are actively learning how to keep themselves safe, for example, they regularly participate in fire evacuation practises of the premises and older children are encouraged to be aware of road safety when outdoors. They are learning to be responsible for their own safety through explanations that encourage them to understand aspects of safety. The risk assessments are mostly effective in maintaining children's well-being. For example, some of the outdoor area is excluded from children's use as this is under review and staff are exceptionally vigilant in monitoring children's safety. However, the cover that protects the outdoor sandpit is not effective which may compromise children's welfare.

The premises are exceptionally welcoming with interesting architectural features and with aspects of children's work attractively displayed. For example, there is an attractive sensory room and vertical water features installed which promote a relaxing atmosphere and encourage children's well-being. All areas of children's development are fostered as they freely access an extensive range of stimulating toys, equipment and furniture which are kept in an a very clean and safe condition. These are stored accessibly with labels and pictures on boxes to enable children to easily identify the contents and, therefore, promotes their independence. Staff have an excellent understanding of how to utilise the equipment to promote children's play opportunities.

Children are well protected if there are concerns in respect of their care as all staff have attended child protection training, there is a comprehensive policy and parents are made aware of staff

responsibilities. Children are able to move freely and independently around the premises, which is clean, well maintained and very well organised to meet their needs. For example, some children use the quiet room for reading activities while others are sleeping which ensures that children enjoy activities that meet their individual needs.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are frequently provided with exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore and investigate their environment and to positively relate to others. For example, children relate well to each other during creative play opportunities and are beginning to appreciate their enjoyment is considerably enhanced when they include others. They take immense pride in their activities by proudly showing their achievements to others.

Through the excellent support provided by staff, children's individual learning needs are well promoted. For example, staff frequently get on the floor whilst children are involved in creative play opportunities and offer children wholehearted support whilst they play. Their independence is well promoted as children's preferences are respected. Their communication skills are thoroughly promoted as new vocabulary is frequently introduced together with explanations in respect of their meaning and context. For example, children are well supported whilst they play in the creative area, staff ask questions which stimulates their recall, and objects are named which helps their understanding.

Children become thoroughly engrossed in storytelling activities through the excellent storytelling techniques that staff demonstrate. Children contribute to stories by making gestures and suggestions and predicting words that are included in the story. Therefore, their interest in reading activities promotes their creativity, imagination and confidence. An exciting variety of different experiences promote children's self-esteem for example some of the older children enjoy activities in a splash pool which is attached to a related setting and outings to the local shops and outside venues encourages their understanding of the outside world.

A highly effective key worker system ensures that children are well supported in all stages of their development. Individual assessments of children that follow the 'Birth to three matters' framework provides an excellent basis for staff to provide well-informed support to promote children's progress. Daily diaries and regular contributions to children's assessments ensure that their progress is well monitored and meets their individual needs.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The setting has a real commitment to equality of opportunity. There is a strong recognition that children are individuals and benefit positively from having their differing needs met. For example, outings are carefully planned to accommodate younger children's needs for rest and sleep. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities have excellent care as several members of staff have attended relevant training. The extremely comprehensive policy and effective staff skills when liaising with parents and outside agencies promotes children's welfare. Their well-being is given high regard as staff ensure that children have specific equipment and support so that optimum care is provided for individual children.

Children thrive as a result of the first-class partnership with parents. Regular information is exchanged on a daily basis and parent's input into their child's education and care is given high

regard. For example, parents are encouraged to spend time in the setting sharing in their child's activities which encourages them to continue with their child's education in the home setting. An informative entrance area where parents are able to select from a variety of leaflets and information that helps support their parenting role, promotes children's welfare. Their well-being is protected as the setting meticulously records and shares with parents all complaints. A comprehensive settling-in procedure provides excellent support for children's continuity of care. For example, children are encouraged to spend a small amount of time in the setting prior to their placement commencing on a permanent basis. Regular newsletters and parent consultation sessions keep parents really well informed of their child's progress. The setting is part of a larger Sure Start organisation and parents are able to access a wide variety of training opportunities through the crèche provision which helps support their parenting role, therefore, promoting children's welfare.

A wide range of activities provided, encourage children's understanding of the wider world. They celebrate different religions and festivals. Their understanding is further promoted and as explanations are offered and staff have good awareness of the needs of others through extensive training opportunities. Children are able to access a wealth of exciting resources and activities to raise their awareness of diversity and to promote their understanding of others. For example, there are posters, dolls, books, dressing-up-resources, cookery utensils, and food tasting activities.

Children's behaviour is exemplary, they show care and concern for one another whilst they play. They are encouraged to take responsibility with the setting by helping to clear away activities and by being kind and considerate to each other. Staff are exceptional role models maintain a calm demeanour and provide positive examples for children. The wide range of exciting activities ensure that children are meaningfully engaged in positive play opportunities. Children's self-esteem is actively promoted by the fulsome praise they regularly receive from staff.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The children are able to explore and investigate as a result of the exceptionally well-organised use of space which has been effectively planned to enable them to participate in a variety of stimulating activities. Children's sense of belonging is very effectively fostered by many examples of their creative work displayed in the setting and also by individual items of equipment that include named coat pegs and tidy boxes for favourite toys and comfort items. There is an obvious feeling of a child centred approach upon entering the premises which promotes children's confidence and results in a setting that exudes warmth and fun.

Children's welfare is very well promoted as a result of the excellent organisational skills of both management and staff. Their well-being is very well promoted as a result of the extensive and continuing professional training undertaken by the staff. All staff training is carefully monitored and recorded which demonstrates a real commitment to the promotion of quality care for children.

Records, policies and procedures are well organised and regularly reviewed, ensuring children's health, safety and welfare. Their welfare is very well protected as there are thorough procedures that ensure that children are always cared for by vetted staff. A comprehensive recruitment and induction procedure ensures that staff are very familiar with policies and procedures which promotes continuity of care and protects children's welfare. The exceptionally generous staffing

ratio provides excellent opportunities for children's development. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the setting was asked to increase the range of positive images around the setting to reflect race, culture, gender and disability. Children's learning is now promoted as there is a wide range of images and activities that give positive reflection of the wider world.

### **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 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 hygiene procedures in respect of the storage of children's bedding
- review risk assessments in respect of the outdoor sandpit.

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