

Matov Children's Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY282229

Inspection date 13 November 2007

Inspector Lynne Pope

Setting Address Gateshead J School, Alexandra Road, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE8 1RB

Telephone number 0191 478 3723

E-mail

Registered person Matov Children's Centre

Type of inspection Childcare

Type of care Full day care, Out of School 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Gateshead J Nursery Out of School Care is one of two run by a trust. It opened in 2004 and operates from the premises of Gateshead J School in Gateshead. A maximum of 139 children may attend the provision at any one time. The provision is open each week day from 09.00 until 16.45 for 42 weeks of the year.

There are currently 76 children aged from two to five years on roll. Children come from the local area. The provision supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities and supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The provision employs 13 staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications and two are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and satisfactory environment. They have a well developed awareness of hygiene routines. Staff supplement this with gentle reminders about flushing toilets and washing hands. Good hygiene habits are promoted as children are reminded to use tissues for their noses and dispose of them appropriately. They are kept safe from the spread of infection by an effective sickness policy being in place. Appropriate consents and records are in place for the administration of medication and recording accidents. Accident records are monitored frequently by the manager to identify any possible hazards for children.

Children learn about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle. They access the outdoor area daily where they can run round wide open spaces as they learn control of their body movements. A good supply of bicycles ensures that all children that want a go can do so. The sand pit and slide are particularly popular. However, comfortable seating is not provided for children to have a rest when needed in their playrooms. Staff promote children's good health by encouraging parents and carers to provide healthy snacks. Discussions are held at snack time about what healthy foods children have brought, therefore, developing their awareness.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children have access to premises that are in a satisfactory state of repair and decoration. Space in the designated playrooms within the building is organised so that children can make their own choices about what activities they would like to do. The broad range of resources is set out at child height which helps to develop their independence. Staff ensure that resources are safe for children by checking on a regular basis. Children are protected on outings. Staff seek consent from parents and ensure that they are supervised at all times.

Children are cared for in a secure environment indoors. All visitors are monitored and sign the visitor's record. Most procedures protect children, however, the kitchen door is not always secured to restrict children's access and a concertina door between two play areas is coming off the top rungs. Staff, child ratios and ages of children are not adhered to for the youngest group which compromises children's safety. These are conditions of registration. Staff have a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children experience a varied range of activities which contributes to their development. They settle well on arrival and self-select tasks which they carry out with enthusiasm. For example, they play with the sand pouring it from one container to another. Jigsaws are enjoyed and imagination is used well for making models or role playing in the home corner. All children love sharing books and sing favourite songs and rhymes with gusto as they do the actions to the words. The youngest children are cared for in a small separate group where they are learning to use various tools to roll and cut the play dough. However, they are cared for by staff who are not qualified in childcare, which results in them not being able to meet the children's needs appropriately.

Children attend for a short period at the end of the day for out of school care. The environment is welcoming for them with a snack set out where they can help themselves. Activities are selected with enthusiasm as they colour pictures, construct with building blocks or listen to a story on the compact disc player.

Positive relationships have been developed between staff and children. Staff sit with the children in small groups and chat to them about what they are doing and most staff use developmentally appropriate language to help the children develop. Plans identify what activities staff wish to carry out with children and the expected outcome, however, these are aimed at the children that attend for nursery education sessions, not the day care children. The manager has identified an area for improvement for observing and recording what children can do so that observations can be used to plan the next step in children's play and learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a positive attitude to others and gain a good understanding about the wider world through the positive images available in the provision, resources and outings into the environment. Different festivals are looked at during the year, such as Chinese New Year and appropriate resources are provided for children to use in their play. However, resources that reflect positive images are not available for the youngest group. There is a strong emphasis placed on the use of praise and encouragement for all children. This helps to build children's self-esteem and manages children's behaviour. Stickers are presented when children do particularly well. This results in children becoming very confident as they form good relationships with staff and each other.

Positive relationships have been developed with parents and carers. Home and nursery contact is maintained through parents and carers writing notes for staff about what children have done or not done well at home. This enables staff to work in partnership to resolve any issues. On Fridays children take a folder of their work home with a summary of what has been happening that week, what activities they have done and any songs they have been singing. This helps to involve parents in children's learning.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Organisation of the premises is satisfactory for some children allowing them to select their own resources and take part safely. They select their own resources with confidence. They regularly access the outdoors where they learn to manage the movement of their bodies in various ways.

There are recruitment procedures in place for the appointment of new staff. However, half of childcare staff do not hold at least a level two qualification appropriate for the care or development of children. This is a requirement of registration. Procedures are not sufficiently rigorous to ensure that staff have a secure knowledge of policies and procedures.

Unqualified staff care for the youngest group of children. This results in staff caring for this group not having appropriate experience and skills to do the job. Most documents are maintained in line with requirements. A record of attendance is in place but does not include children's times of arrival and departure. Staff and child ratios have not been met and the ages of children that attend has not been adhered to. These are conditions of registration. Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection two recommendations were raised. The provider has ensured that a record is maintained of staff who directly work with the children and the behaviour management policy has been updated to include a procedure for dealing with bullying.

Complaints since the last inspection

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.

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 QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that the ages of children that attend are within the conditions of registration and that they are supervised by staff with knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations
- develop an action plan that sets out how staff training and qualification requirements will be met.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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