

NCH Sure Start Burnley Wood Children's Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY345032
Inspection date	08 January 2008
Inspector	Wendy Fitton
Setting Address	33 Brunswick Street, BURNLEY, Lancashire, BB11 3NY
Telephone number	01282 452714
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Registered person	National Childrens Home North West Office
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	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.

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?

NCH Sure Start Burnley Wood Children's Centre is situated on Brunswick Street in central Burnley in Lancashire. The centre provides full day care, sessional care and crèche facilities for a maximum of 45 children from birth to five years. There are currently 34 children on roll. Children with English as an additional language and children with learning difficulties and disabilities are welcomed to the centre.

The centre is managed by NCH in partnership with Lancashire County Council. The main purpose of the centre is to provide early education and childcare, family support and health services within a local community.

The childcare facility is open daily Monday to Friday from 08.30 to 17.30 for 48 weeks of the year. A range of sessions is available to accommodate the individual needs of families. Children may attend full- or part-time sessions and there is a crèche facility for children whose parents are participating in groups or training.

The premises are two storey and purpose built. Facilities for the children include a main playroom, bathroom and changing facilities, a sensory room, a soft playroom, a toy library and book library and access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently five key staff and a manager working directly with children, and a centre educationalist is employed to support and advise staff on curriculum planning. All staff have appropriate qualifications in early years. Support staff are employed for cleaning and maintenance purposes.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted as staff take positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and follow appropriate measures when children become unwell. Staff wear gloves and aprons when carrying out any changing or toileting procedures and when preparing or serving food. The premises are very clean and hygienic and staff use colour coded cloths and aprons when cleaning tables, work surfaces and bathroom areas. Toys and equipment are wiped and sterilised each week as part of the routine, and daily if required. Children's first aid and medical needs are met and maintained through staff being qualified in first aid and ensuring parents' consent is obtained for administering any medicines. A sickness policy is followed and children are excluded when carrying any infectious diseases.

Children are provided with snacks and drinks that are nutritious, well balanced and meet with individual dietary and cultural needs. For example, toast, fruit, sandwiches and potato cakes feature on the menu with milk or water to drink. Staff follow the 'Smiling for Life' campaign which promotes healthy eating in line with local programmes. Children bring their own packed lunches at present and enjoy a positive social occasion as they sit together in a group. A food and drink policy is in place and includes aspects of weaning and bottle feeding.

Children develop their physical skills and learn about the importance of healthy lifestyles. There is a programme of daily activities to support children's physical development. For example, they access outdoor play on a daily basis and climb the equipment, ride on bicycles, use the slide and enjoy the fresh air. Children can sleep and relax according to their needs and access cosy crash areas, sleep in the cot area or use the sensory room. Children benefit from dancing and moving to music and recharge their bodies during quiet activities, when listening to stories. They develop their hand-eye coordination as they construct with bricks and manipulate small world equipment, make jigsaws, roll and squash play dough, and use one handed tools when cutting and drawing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children access a safe, secure and welcoming environment. There is suitable space in an appropriate location providing access to a range of necessary facilities and activities to support children's all round development. For example, there is a large playroom with access to two kitchen preparation areas, bathroom and changing facilities, a sleep area and doors leading outside into a secure play area. Children and families feel a sense of belonging as they see lots of bright colourful displays, pictures, posters and their own art and craft work. The setting is very well maintained and secure, allowing the children to move freely without restriction and play in comfort and safety.

Children's needs are well met through the provision of good quality furniture, equipment and toys to suit all ages and stages of development. There is everyday routine furniture that includes

child-sized tables and chairs, cots, sleep mats, changing facilities and low accessible storage units. Toys and games are new and cover all areas of learning including art and craft materials, baby toys, musical instruments, books, jigsaws, construction toys, role-play toys and small world. There are daily routines in place for the checking and repair or replacement of any damaged equipment.

Children's safety is paramount because staff work to safety policies and procedures to ensure children are not exposed to any risks or hazards. The manager is responsible for any risk assessments and these are clearly documented and reviewed regularly. Staff have the necessary safety features in place with booking in and out records, security code pads on all exits, safety gates, socket covers and fire equipment. The centre carries appropriate insurance and there are procedures followed for fire alarm testing, outings and outdoor area checks.

Children's welfare is protected because staff have a clear understanding of their role and duty to protect children from harm. Staff work closely with child protection services and document any concerns or issues. The manager takes full responsibility for any referrals and staff are sensitive to signs and symptoms of abuse. There is a comprehensive child protection policy and parents are made aware of this during induction. A copy is displayed on the noticeboard with the important contact numbers. Staff have completed recent training in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's care, learning and play is best supported as staff are very clear about the purpose of the provision, and provide a wide range of activities and experiences to promote children's all round development and learning. They develop their physical, social, emotional and intellectual capabilities. For example, they play outside on the large equipment, use the sensory and soft play areas, play with role-play equipment in the home corner, listen to stories, move to music and explore and experiment with craft and messy materials, natural materials and paint. Children play freely and make their own decisions and choices of what they want to do as they access the continuous provision throughout the sessions.

Interaction is very positive and nurturing as staff support and encourage the children to develop their knowledge and skills. Children play with purpose and they are confident and comfortable with the routines and rhythms of the day. They develop confidence and have good self-esteem because staff respond to individual needs and interests and ensure that children lead the activities. Staff plan weekly activities that respond to the observations and progress of children from the previous week. The main playroom is effectively and creatively organised to cover all aspects of the curriculum. Staff monitor individual children's progress, linked to the 'Birth to three matters' framework, and share records with parents. There is limited evidence within children's profiles and around the environment to inform parents of the types of experiences and activities children participate in, or to extend children's learning and thinking.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are really well cared for by staff who work with parents to meet individual needs and ensure that all children are fully included in the life of the setting. All families are welcomed by staff who are positive, nurturing and involve parents in all decisions and information on

their children. Each child has an individual record form completed by parents at the start of the care. Children learn about their community and the world around them through festivals and celebrations, food tasting, books, dolls and representation from the local communities. Children are valued and included because staff are proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when a child with learning difficulties or disabilities is identified or admitted to the provision, in partnership with parents and all agencies.

Children benefit most where adults adopt a positive and consistent approach to behaviour management. Children are encouraged and praised at all times and know what is expected of them during their play and activities. They are asked to share and take turns and respect each other, and are given gentle reminders during their play of the rules and boundaries. Staff give clear explanations to children and ask them to sit beside them away from an activity. Children are given responsibilities as a reward for their positive behaviour and help to serve the snack. There is a written policy in place that staff work to and a running record is documented of any significant issues, and this is shared with parents.

Children benefit and feel secure when they observe very positive and effective partnerships with their key worker and their parents. Parents are fully involved with all care programmes and staff visit parents at home before children commence their placement. Parents are encouraged to participate at sessions and become parent volunteers if they wish. A wealth of written and verbal information is given to parents through newsletters, noticeboards, posters, promotion leaflets, policies and procedures. Staff spend time at the end of sessions discussing routines, incidents, development and activities with parents. Parents state they are happy with the service provided and that their children are developing well, that they are happy with the organisation, comfortable with all staff and relate to their key person.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are really safe and their welfare is enhanced because staff are qualified, experienced and suitable to be with children. Staff are up to date with current childcare practices and update their knowledge and skills through training and workshops. There are detailed induction procedures in place and staff monitoring is followed through team meetings, staff meetings and one-to-one support. Children are protected and safeguarded through rigorous employment procedures, and each member of staff has a personnel file detailing all qualifications, previous employment history and vetting procedures.

Children really benefit and are well supported in an environment and practices that meet their individual needs. They can play, rest and eat in comfort and safety through effective and creative use of space and resources. For example, the large play room is divided into specific play areas for specific activities, messy and creative play, mark making, role-play, construction area and book area. The environment is bright, colourful and child centred and a separate sleep room and baby area is available. Children feel secure as they are cared for by a key person who tends to all their care and development needs. Staff ratios are well met as numbers of children attending are low at present and therefore one-to-one care is provided.

Children's welfare, care and learning is best supported through records, policies and procedures that are required for the safe and efficient management of the provision. All regulatory records are up to date and available for inspection including attendances, individual details, accidents, medication and emergency details. There are extensive organisational policies and procedures that all staff work to and these are evident in daily practice. A review of the organisational

procedures is carried out to keep up to date with current legislation and practices. Parents are informed and kept up to date with the policies and all documentation is accessible to them.

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

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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):

- provide evidence to enhance the environment, and show and display the activities that children experience to support their learning and development.

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