

Banbury Community Bus

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY265259
Inspection date	04 March 2008
Inspector	Nikki Whinton
Setting Address	East Street Centre, East Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 3LJ
Telephone number	01295 273027
E-mail	banburydistrict-busproject@bancec.org.uk
Registered person	Banbury Community Education
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care, Out of School 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Banbury Community Playbus is a converted double-decker bus, which travels to different locations within the local community that do not have carer and toddler provision, as well as supporting pre-schools and providing crèche facilities for parents undertaking training. The main office for the service is at the East Street Centre. A maximum of 12 children aged under eight years may attend the facility at any one time. The Playbus supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The provision employs seven members of staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years or play work qualifications and two are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the staff's knowledge of first aid and their awareness of the correct administrative procedures to follow if accidents occur. There are a range of measures to support the children's health. For example, children use separate paper towels when hand drying to

reduce the risk of cross contamination, each child's doctor's details are immediately available to support their well-being and a suitable first aid kit is maintained on the bus. However, written parental permission has not been obtained for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. As a result, children's health may be put at risk.

Children's allergies or dietary needs are discussed with parents or main carers as part of the registration process and recorded for staff reference. Children are able to ask for drinks freely during their time in the provision. However, children are rarely offered snacks other than biscuits. As a result, they have very limited opportunities to increase their appreciation of healthy food options whilst visiting the play bus.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The play bus is warm, clean and suitably maintained. Colourful posters and displayed examples of the children's artwork create a very welcoming environment for children, parents and carers. Staff place a very high priority on safety, making sure all visitors to the bus are made aware of potential hazards and the emergency escape procedures. There are a range of measures to promote children's safety and help avoid accidents. Risk assessments are completed prior to children entering the bus at the beginning of a session, barriers are placed at the top and bottom of the stairs, as well as by the kitchen area, to prevent children accessing them unsupervised, socket covers are fitted to exposed electric points and fire drills are practised and recorded. However, whilst the registration forms provide information on how to contact each child's main carer, an alternative emergency contact number is not always recorded, in case the main carer is non-contactable.

Children play with a good range of clean, suitably maintained, age appropriate resources that are regularly rotated depending on the group's current theme to help ensure children continue to find the toys stimulating. Children benefit from the staff's good understanding of safety issues concerning the purchase and ongoing maintenance of resources.

Children's well-being is promoted by staff that have a secure understanding of child protection issues, confidentiality of information and the correct procedures to follow if concerned about the welfare of a child. There is a detailed policy in place that is kept within the play bus. However, parents are not routinely made aware of the provider's child protection responsibilities, prior to their child commencing in the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enter the play bus willingly and immediately start to explore the range of available age appropriate activities such as drawing, experimenting with sand or planting cress seeds. Staff plan a varied programme of practical activities for the children that are linked to the Birth to three matters framework. Activities are extended or adapted as appropriate to ensure all children have the chance to participate and to succeed.

Children have a very positive relationship with the warm, friendly staff, who get down to children's level to play and interact with them. Children's creative artwork is valued. For example, a member of staff immediately displays a child's finished picture on the play bus wall, when requested by a child. Children are gaining social skills as they learn to share resources, such as

when experimenting with sand play equipment and to take turns, for example, when taking a 'baby' for a ride in a buggy.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They benefit from the staff knowing them well and from them having an understanding of their likes and dislikes. Older children, at their own instigation, have the chance to complete their own contract with the provision, in addition to that completed by their parents or carers. They write in their own confidential 'bus diaries' as and when they wish, as a way of recording their thoughts and feelings. Staff link with support and education services as required to help ensure children's needs are met when attending the provision.

Children take part in a wide range of stimulating activities to develop their appreciation of the wider world. For example, they learn words in Urdu from an Asian community support worker, make dragons and paint Chinese symbols as part of Chinese New Year celebrations, they decorate their hands with henna patterns as a mark of welcome after the holidays and make candles from mouldable wax during a topic on Diwali. Children access a variety of resources, including books, dolls and small world figures to help them gain an awareness of diversity.

Children behave well, as appropriate for their age and stage of development. Older children are involved in devising the 'bus rules' and remind each other if they consider they have broken their contract with the provision. Children's behaviour is supported by staff that understand positive strategies for promoting children's appropriate behaviour.

Parents and carers are made to feel very welcome within the provision. They are advised of how to access the group's policies and procedures during the registration process. There are regular informal opportunities for discussion between staff and parents about children's achievements or any care issues.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care and development is supported by a suitably qualified and experienced staffing team. The group has a positive attitude towards developing the quality of the provision. All staff complete written evaluations of the effectiveness of the provision, which are reviewed, collated and used to support improvement.

Most required documentation is immediately available on the play bus to support children's care. However, the register of children's daily attendance does not show children's actual arrival or departure times. As a result there is no true permanent record available of when children are actually cared for by the provision. In addition, the group have not devised a procedure to follow, should a child not be collected.

Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

As a result of the last inspection, the provider was given recommendations to help develop the quality of the provision. These referred to extending safety on the bus by providing a barrier

at the foot of the stairs and recording Ofsted's name and telephone number on the complaints procedure.

A barrier has now been placed at the bottom of the stairs and Ofsted's name and telephone number have been added to the complaints procedure. These improvements have had a positive impact on the quality of care offered to the children.

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 maintain 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 satisfactory. 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 written parental permission is obtained for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice and that children have opportunities to increase their appreciation of healthy food options whilst in the provision
- ensure alternative emergency contact information is maintained and that parents are made aware of the provider's child protection responsibilities, prior to a child commencing in the setting
- ensure the daily register of children's attendance records children's actual arrival and departure times and that a written procedure is in place that would be followed in the event of a child not being collected.

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