

# Childspace Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	144094
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Pamela Bailey
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<b>Registered person</b>	The Committee of Childspace Parents Co-Operative
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](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 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?

Childspace Crèche is run by a voluntary parent co-operative committee. It opened in 1990 and operates from a hall in a community centre situated in a residential estate within the London Borough of Lambeth. A maximum of 10 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 09:00 to 14:30 for 47 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 15 children aged from one year to three years on roll. Children come from the local community, as their parents form the management committee and are parent workers in the crèche on a rota basis. The setting currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The crèche employs a manager who has an appropriate early years qualification.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children enjoy nutritious snacks and meals prepared or cooked on the premises by their parents which meet special dietary requirements. However, food handling procedures do not comply with local food safety guidance. For example, food is not probed to ensure that they are reheated or cooked to the required temperature, nor is the fridge regularly monitored or regulated to the correct temperature to ensure that safe food storage is provided. Furthermore, adults responsible for food preparation and handling do not have appropriate training that includes storing, preparing, cooking and serving food safely.

Staff ensure that a record of accidents is maintained, entries are countersigned by parents and the first aid box is frequently checked and replaced as necessary. They gather all relevant information regarding children's health needs and obtain prior written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. However, there are insufficient adults that hold a current first aid certificate to ensure that at least one person with current first aid training is present on the premises at any one time.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through effective daily routines. There are effective procedures to prevent the spread of infection such as adults monitor hand washing after toileting and before meals and children who are infectious do not attend thus preventing the spread of contagious ailments.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They show good coordination when jumping on the trampoline, running down the grass slopes, scrambling through the tunnel and using equipment such as slides and swings.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children's welfare is not fully safeguarded. Although staff and parent workers have a clear understanding of child protection issues and the procedures to be followed if they have a concern about a child in their care, they have given no thought of what to do if a child is lost or uncollected. This compromises children's safety.

Children move around freely and select from a satisfactory range of age appropriate toys and resources. However, there is insufficient equipment available for young children who need to sleep during the session. For example, there is one travel cot. Children are placed to sleep in their buggy although prior written parental permission has not been obtained.

Children benefit from some satisfactory safety measures. For example, socket and radiator covers, safety gate at entrance of kitchen to prevent unsupervised access and a secure outdoor play area. However, children are not learning to keep themselves safe because staff have failed to ensure that all fire safety recommendations are met. For example, there have been no fire drills carried out in the last year and as a consequence children do not have an opportunity to regularly practise emergency evacuation in order to become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency. Furthermore, some of the parent workers are not familiar with the emergency evacuation procedures.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children play in a calm relaxed environment and are happy for most part of the session. They move around freely choosing from familiar activities which are set out by the staff and parent workers. However, children do not benefit from a well planned programme of worthwhile activities that ensure ongoing progress in their learning and development. Staff do not monitor children's achievements and as a result do not have a secure basis in order to plan activities for children's next steps in learning and provide for their individual needs. Children have opportunities to explore different textures such as sand and water, take part in role play and creative activities. However, adults do not make sufficient use of children's free play or structured activities to extend their learning. For example, adults generally talk and listen to children but opportunities to further extend children's knowledge and understanding are limited. Children are not encouraged to think and express their thoughts and feelings during role play activities or when playing with natural materials. Children listen to stories but have few opportunities to become involved such as discussing what they have heard or relate to their own experiences. Children have some opportunity to develop their finer motor skills such as when using glue sticks during a sticking activity, however, have fewer opportunities to further develop these skills because they are presented with pre-cut materials. Children enjoy taking part in action songs that help to develop their coordination.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children's emotional well-being is not supported effectively. Although children are settled for most of the session and are able to express their feelings and needs verbally and non verbally. Adults are not responsive to their needs, such as when young children become fretful and upset. As a result, young children are not developing warm, trusting relationships to help them feel secure and settled so that they can maximise their enjoyment.

Children who speak more than one language are well supported by the adults who ensure that they are included. For example, repeating of words or phrases in English and the child's spoken language and singing songs that encourage children to develop their language and communication skills. Although there are no children currently attending with learning difficulties and/or disability, there are appropriate systems in place to support children's individual needs. Children are well behaved. They learn to share and take turns during group activities and adults use praise to promote good behaviour.

Parents work in the crèche on a rota basis. However, they do not receive sufficient information about how children learn to help them support their children's learning and development in the crèche, nor are parents provided with sufficient details of all policies and procedures, such as the complaints procedures.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The management committee is not fully aware of their roles and responsibilities as a registered provider and this hampers their ability to fully support the crèche. Although recruitment procedures are effective in ensuring that adults working with children are suitable to do so, contingency arrangements do not ensure that there is an appropriately qualified person present

at all times. The induction programme is not sufficiently rigorous to ensure that adults working with children are secure in their roles and responsibility and the procedures to promote children's safety and welfare. Importantly they have overlooked the requirement to develop agreed procedures in the event of a child becoming lost or not being collected and have not considered this oversight on children's safety and well-being. This is a breach of regulations. Furthermore, the committee and staff have not worked together to develop a coherent and well understood policy to promote children's play and enhance their development and learning.

Documentation is not well organised and some items are not readily accessible or accurately maintained. For example, record keeping is not systematic. Registration systems for the children and staff do not accurately show their daily hours of attendance and days that have been omitted. This is a breach of regulations. The lack of clear direction and systematic monitoring of the crèche means that staff and adults working with children are unaware of how well they promote the positive outcomes for children and which areas require improvement.

Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the provider agreed to improve food safety procedures and fire safety, implement a system to observe and plan for children's play and learning, improve record keeping and devise policies for uncollected children and special needs.

The crèche has made little improvements. A special needs policy is in place and staff are aware of the procedures. A statement of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is in place and all fire exits are labelled. This ensures that the crèche is complying with some aspects of fire safety requirements. However, ineffective food safety procedures means that those preparing and handling foods are not sufficiently aware of food safety requirements. Although records show when visitors are present, the crèche has not developed an effective registration system for children and staff that accurately reflects their daily hours of attendance and has also failed to devise a policy in the event of a child not being collected. As a result children's welfare is not promoted and safeguarded. The crèche has not implemented a system to observe and plan for children's play and learning. The lack of observations means that staff do not have any useful information about children's achievements in order to plan activities and effectively move them on in their next steps in learning.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

'Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted that required the provider to take action to meet the National Standards. The complaint related to National Standard 9: Equal opportunities, National Standard 10: Special Needs, National Standard 11: Behaviour, National Standard 12: Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers and National Standard 14: Documentation. Concerns were raised regarding equal opportunities policies and procedures; special needs policy and code of practice; consistency of behaviour management; recording of information to be shared with parents and the need to maintain privacy and confidentiality and notification of changes within the setting. Ofsted visited the setting and from the subsequent investigation, two actions were set under National Standard 1: Suitable Person and National Standard 2: Organisation. The provider responded to Ofsted to show that measures had been taken to meet the actions set. Ofsted was satisfied that by taking these steps the provider remained qualified for registration at the time the investigation was closed.

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 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:

- develop an action plan that sets out how temporary staff and committee members training and qualification requirements will be met to ensure effective contingency arrangements are in place in the absence of the manager
- improve the induction programme so that staff and committee members working with children have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities
- devise a written statement that sets out the procedures to be followed in the event of a child being lost or a parent failing to collect a child and make sure that adults working with the children are aware of it
- develop and implement a consistent policy for children's learning and monitor its impact
- improve the registration system to show an accurate recording of the staff and children's daily hours of attendance
- provide a suitable range of appropriate equipment for children to rest or sleep
- make sure that regular fire drills are carried out and committee members are aware of the emergency evacuation procedures
- make sure enough staff or committee members are trained in first aid to ensure that at least one person with a current first aid certificate is on the premises or on outings at any one time
- ensure that anyone responsible for food preparation or food handling is aware of, and complies with, Food Safety requirements
- make sure that parents are provided with sufficient details of the procedures to be followed if they have a complaint
- ensure that all documentation relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times

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