

Rotherhithe Primary School Early Years and Parents Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	107441
Inspection date	05 February 2008
Inspector	Alison Romanczuk
Setting Address	Rotherhithe Primary School, Rotherhithe New Road, London, SE16 2PL
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Registered person	The Governing Body of Rotherhithe Primary School
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	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.

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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Rotherhithe Under 5s Centre opened in 1997. The centre was primarily set up for children of staff teaching at the school but is now open to local teachers and the community. It is accommodated in a self contained unit linked to Rotherhithe Primary School and there is access to an enclosed outdoor play area. Overseen by the governing body of Rotherhithe School, the centre is registered to care for 26 children of whom 11 may be aged under two years old. There are currently 21 children on roll. The setting is open from Monday to Friday 08.00 to 17.00 term time only. There are four staff working with the children, and a manager. All staff have early years experience and qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's good health is given top priority at the centre which is very clean and well managed. Comprehensive policies and procedures in place clearly underpin the centre's aims and are understood and implemented well by all staff. For example, staff adhere to impeccable nappy changing procedures which include effective methods of reducing cross infection and a daily

record of changing times. Children learn good habits such as washing their hands before meals and cooking activities and help themselves independently to soap and paper towels at this time. Children are well cared for when they are unwell and all staff hold appropriate first aid qualifications. Medication procedures in place and information collated about the children including emergency consent should they need medical attention, further ensures children's wellbeing at the centre.

Children have daily access to fresh air and demonstrate an increasing eagerness to develop their physical abilities as they run, jump, play football and manoeuvre cars and trikes around the garden area, for example. Children are well nourished at the centre with an excellent menu available in conjunction with the adjoining school. Children eat meals such as chicken and noodles, salad and broccoli for example, and have consistent access to water throughout the day. The needs of younger children are very well met in consultation with their parents, so that, for example, children have access to their bottles at varying times throughout the day. Allergies and dietary requirements are recorded and consistently shared with staff to ensure children's individual needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children's safety is well met at the centre because all staff clearly understand and implement health and safety guidelines and are well trained in these areas. The centre security is excellent with monitors and intercoms allowing staff to clearly check visitors to the centre on this busy road. Risk assessments in place are used to monitor potential hazards and staff regularly check the areas which children use. The purpose built and well managed, but highly stimulating, environment allows the children to explore what is on offer and to access resources in a safe manner. Toys and equipment available meet safety standards and are regularly checked to ensure their suitability for children's use. Moreover, children demonstrate an increasing awareness of their own safety as they learn the rules of cooking activities when in the kitchen for example, and often remind each other of what to do in these situations. Children are protected from fire hazards because the centre holds regular recorded fire drills and fire prevention equipment in place is regularly serviced. They are safeguarded from harm because staff know the children well and monitor their wellbeing. Staff are well trained in child protection and safeguarding procedures and concerns are recorded and shared appropriately with the school and outside agencies if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive at the centre because of the highly motivated and enthusiastic staff team who are attentive to the children's individual needs throughout the day. The stimulating environment provided enables children to explore a range of materials and activities and is clearly flexible to their needs and interests. Babies giggle as they splash their hands in the water tray and accidentally step on a squeaky floor mat for example, and particularly enjoy the sensory environment provided where they can touch feely objects, watch light tubes and mouth interesting objects in their treasure baskets. They demonstrate increasing mobility and confidence in crawling and navigating their way around the room and garden area and respond well to lots of close contact and cuddles from staff. Older children demonstrate a growing independence in their environment as they rush to put on their coats for outdoor play and take themselves to the toilet. Staff sit at the children's level and discussions encourage children to

have an ownership of their playroom. They enjoy and benefit from well thought out activities including times to be involved in pretend play, to problem solve when building wooden structures and to take turns when mixing their pancake mix. The centre's walls are adorned with the children's free and creative artwork giving them pride in their achievements, and the children show enthusiasm and an involvement in activities at all times.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed into the centre which promotes equality and inclusion consistently well. Children settle well because of the dedication of staff who are attentive to their individual needs and personalities. Their understanding of and respect of the wider world is given strength through the resources and activities available so that, for example, children use small world figures that may have disabilities, they enjoy multi cultural books and role play toys which reflect a range of backgrounds. During the inspection the children engaged in an activity to make a Chinese dragon and rat masks to help them understand the significance of Chinese New Year and also made pancakes to celebrate pancake day. Those children who may have English as an additional language and those who may be identified with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are fully integrated into the centre's activities and further supported by key workers in this area. Children's behaviour is excellent at the centre mostly because the children are fully engaged in what they are doing but also because of the attentive and calm nature of staff who clearly understand how children learn and develop. The centre works well with parents in providing continuity of care through good relationships established early on and a regular information exchange which makes parents feel part of the centre's activities. Staff encourage parents to feedback on the quality of care and communication and often seek their support in joining activities at the centre.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Excellent attention to detail within policies and procedures and a highly motivated management and staff team clearly underpin the centre's outstanding quality of care. The strong ethos of equality and respect follows through from managers to staff and children attending the centre and this enables a positive environment where each person feels pride in their work and achievements. Staff are well qualified and experienced in childcare and provide a stimulating and busy environment which supports children's care, welfare and learning each day. Training is regularly accessed through the local authority so that, for example, staff are up to date with the Birth to three matters framework and are qualified in first aid and child protection. Children are well supervised and ratios well maintained, with staff clearly vetted to ensure they are suitable to work at the centre. Documentation which underpins the regulations for the National Standards is particularly well organised at the centre including up to date registers and children's details maintained in a confidential manner. Overall, the centre meets the needs of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the centre was asked to ensure the environment was maintained in a clean and well organised state to safeguard children's health and wellbeing and that hazardous equipment was identified and made safe. They were asked to ensure suitable procedures were in place to manage and monitor the operational plan. The centre has relocated to an adjoining

building which is purpose built and well furnished and as a result well organised and clean. Risk assessments now help staff to identify potential hazards and ensure children's safety is given top priority. The operational plan covers all areas of the National Standards and has aided the centre in achieving an outstanding judgement at this time.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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