

Smartkids Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY350447
Inspection date 04 April 2008
Inspector Jennie Lenton

Setting Address 208 Weston Road, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST3 6EE

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Registered person Lesley May Beardmore

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

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Smartkids Day Nursery was registered in 2007 and operates from a single storey building in Weston Coyney, Stoke on Trent. The setting cares for children from birth to three years of age. It is registered to care for a maximum of 16 children and currently has 17 children on roll. Children attend on a full or part-time basis. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are warmly welcomed.

The nursery is open from 07:45 to 17:30, Monday to Friday, including school holidays. The manager is qualified to NVQ Level 3 in childcare practice and there are four other full-time members of staff and one part-time member of staff who work with the children. The setting also employs a cook.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are effectively protected from bacteria and the spread of infection as the setting follows robust hygiene procedures. For example, staff make sure that they wear disposable

gloves and aprons when changing nappies as well as disinfecting changing areas before and after use. This helps to protect children from cross-contamination. Children are also encouraged to follow good personal hygiene routines to maintain their own well-being. They wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating. Staff talk to them about why these routines are important. As a result, children are developing an understanding of why good hygiene is necessary. They know that washing their hands prevents them getting ill and say 'bye bye germs' as they wash their hands properly with soap and warm water.

In the event of an accident children are efficiently cared for by staff who are qualified to administer first aid. All staff are aware of the importance of recording accidents and details are promptly shared with parents so that children receive consistent care. Medication records are also maintained. Staff accurately record dosages and consistently ensure that parents sign to acknowledge what has been administered. This helps to protect children from over or under medicating. However, written consent to administer medication is not consistently obtained from parents as the forms do not request it. This compromises children's well-being.

Children enjoy a range of balanced and nutritious meals. The setting recognises the need to provide healthy options and is committed to providing fresh fruit and vegetables every day. Children have a variety of hot and cold meals throughout the day. They choose from toast or cereal for breakfast, enjoy a hot meal such as fish pie and vegetables for lunch and then have a selection of sandwiches or homemade soup for tea. Milk, water and diluted juice are also provided to keep children effectively hydrated. Babies are fed in accordance with their individual needs and are held for milk feeds. This promotes their well-being. The setting also provides good opportunities for exercise. Children play outside on a daily basis. They have fun whizzing about on tricycles and push along toys. They also go on outings in the local area, walking to local shops and the library. In bad weather they are able to engage in active play indoors. They dance imaginatively to music, improving their co-ordination. The variety of activity helps children to successfully develop their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children feel relaxed and secure in the welcoming setting. They are effectively protected from uninvited visitors and from leaving unaccompanied as all exterior doors are securely locked. Any visitors to the setting are asked to sign in and identification is checked. Risk assessments are completed regularly and daily safety checks are also made. All areas are well-maintained. A high level of supervision also further safeguards children. Staff work alongside them at all times ensuring that they sit sensibly on chairs or play carefully. This lessens the likelihood of harm through accidental injury.

Children use a wide range of safe, good quality resources. They are able to independently choose most activities as the majority of resources are stored within easy reach. Activities are thoughtfully laid out to reduce potential hazards. For example, sand or water play takes place in a designated area to prevent spillages from spreading into the main play area. Consequently, children play safely as they follow clear rules, responding promptly to staff instruction.

The good knowledge of child protection procedures demonstrated by staff helps to ensure children are protected from harm and neglect. All staff understand the correct procedures to follow for recording concerns. They have a clear understanding of signs and symptoms that may alert to child abuse. Up to date details of the Local Safeguarding Children Board have been obtained. This ensures that any concerns can be promptly reported to the relevant authorities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content. They interact positively with the staff and each other, enjoying warm relationships. They often seek out cuddles or ask staff members to engage in play with them. For example, asking for stories to be read or sitting alongside a member of staff to complete a picture. Staff are positive and responsive, quickly meeting children's needs. As a result there is a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere throughout the setting.

There is a wide range of activities and experiences on offer. Children enjoy taking crusts of bread outside to feed the birds, engaging in junk modelling and dressing up. They are encouraged to express themselves freely as they draw or construct with craft materials. This encourages their creativity and imagination. Similarly, as they engage in imaginative play, using fairy costumes to dress up as butterflies, staff support their ideas and allow them to fully immerse themselves in make-believe. This promotes their self-esteem as their views and ideas are respected and valued.

Children benefit as staff understand their developmental needs and abilities. All members of staff observe and record children's progress. They plan activities in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework which promotes their physical, social and creative skills. Children's next steps are routinely identified and activities put in place to help them make steady progress. Consequently, children are rapidly developing new skills. For example, learning how to identify different shapes, colours and letters through play opportunities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are treated with equal concern as the setting works with parents to ensure children's needs are met. Individual records are sufficiently detailed to maintain the welfare of all children. For example, detailing the support individual children require with toileting needs. The setting welcomes children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. A designated member of staff is available to co-ordinate the needs of any child with identified special needs. Staff seek to work effectively with parents and outside agencies. As a result, all children are appropriately supported to reach their potential.

There is a fair range of resources which positively reflect individuality. Children are encouraged to talk about their own home life and bring in pictures of their pets to share at the setting. This helps children value their own background. There is also an adequate amount of resources and activities which reflect different cultures, disabilities and ethnicities. The setting provides some opportunities for children to develop their understanding of the wider world, such as celebrating the Chinese New Year.

Children behave well. Staff are successful in managing behaviour in a way that promotes children's self-esteem. Positive behaviour is reinforced through the use of praise and encouragement as well as rewards such as stickers. Any unwanted actions are calmly dealt with in an age-appropriate manner. Staff encourage children to recognise the importance of rules by involving them in discussion about playing together safely and kindly. As a result, children are respectful and show consideration for other's feelings.

Children receive consistency of care as staff are friendly and approachable, communicating regularly with parents. Parents have the opportunity to view all the policies and procedures at

the start of a placement and chat on a daily basis at arrival and collection times. This ensures that any changes or concerns relating to the children can be quickly responded to. For example, providing detailed information if a child is to be collected by anyone other than the usual carer. This protects children from inappropriate individuals. Parents are also provided with daily diaries where staff record details of their child's day. As a result, parents are well informed of their children's care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Most staff are suitably qualified and experienced. There is a positive approach to training and staff who attend training courses are appropriately supported by the manager as they gain new knowledge and skills. Children benefit as new ideas and techniques are incorporated to enhance their experience. Recruitment procedures are sound, ensuring that all staff are appropriately vetted. New staff receive a basic induction which ensures that they are quickly familiar with the key policies and procedures. This promotes the welfare of children. Appraisal forms are in place to periodically assess staff performance and to identify any training needs. However, there are no formal procedures in place to check ongoing suitability. This compromises children's safety as staff are not routinely asked about any changes in their circumstances.

Most required documentation is of a suitable standard and is readily available for inspection. It is stored appropriately with due regard for confidentiality. This helps to safeguard children. Policies and procedures are generally well written and kept up to date. Registers are appropriately kept, showing that adult to child ratios are consistently met. Staff are enthusiastic and keen to develop the setting further. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

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 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):

- revise the medication sheets to ensure that written parental consent to administer medicine is requested
- devise and implement a system to formally assess the ongoing suitability of staff.

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