

# The Brambles Childrens Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY347776
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 August 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Jennifer Turner
<b>Setting Address</b>	Perry Common Junior & Infant School, Hastings Road, BIRMINGHAM, B23 5AJ
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<b>Registered person</b>	Brambles Children's Centre
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Brambles Children's Centre opened in 2006. It operates from a separate building on the grounds of Perry Common Junior and Infant School in Birmingham. A maximum of 22 children aged birth to eight years may attend at anyone time. The setting is open from 09:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday, offering out of school care in the holidays from 09:00 to 15:00 and crèche facilities all year round. All children have access to a safe and secure outdoor play area. There are currently 35 children on roll. The Brambles Children's Centre serves families and children in the local community and surrounding areas. The provision employs 17 staff. All of whom, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning to protect their own health as they carry out daily routines such as hand washing and have easy access to the toilets where they go independently. They know that washing their hands will prevent germs from spreading. Children's health is given some regard through the routine hygiene procedures in place such as when dealing with accidents and

medication which means children are sensitively comforted and appropriately treated. However, there is insufficient information recorded regarding the specific area of injury when they have an accident and parents are not always asked to acknowledge when medication has been administered to their children, which means they are not fully informed. Staff are fully aware of first aid procedures as all hold a current first aid certificate and know how to protect children's health from infectious diseases.

Children are learning to understand the importance of healthy eating through regular discussion with staff and by engaging in activities about what constitutes a healthy lunch box, which encourage them to know which foods are good for them. They have a good choice of healthy snacks including a variety of different fresh and dried fruits. Regular drinks including water are available so that children quench their thirst as they need to. Children's individual dietary needs and preferences are respected as staff carefully record these so they are all fully aware.

Children's health is well promoted as they are cared for in a clean and very well-maintained environment, where they have regular access to a well-maintained and interesting outdoor play area. Children enjoy a range of games and have access to a variety of equipment and activities which effectively contribute to their overall well-being. This encourages them to develop their physical skills and share in active play as they join in games for the Olympics or ride bikes or scooters. They feel their heart beat after rigorous exercise and talk about how fast it is beating.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised, safe and secure environment, for example, doors and gates leading into the provision are locked and access is only gained after staff have checked the identity of the visitor. Visitors are required to sign the visitor's book and are accompanied at all times. Children are able to move around the setting safely and freely as identified risks and hazards have been minimised, through the completion of risk assessments and the effective deployment of staff. They check both the indoor and outdoor play area and report any concerns.

Children have good access to equipment and resources which are appropriately tailored to meet their individual needs, this are checked daily and maintained in good condition. Children are kept safe because staff take positive steps to promote safety within the setting and whilst on outings. Children benefit from the very experienced and caring staff, who are generally well informed of the groups health and safety procedures, however, children are not fully aware of the emergency escape plan because they are not engaged in regular fire drills.

Children are very well protected from possible abuse or neglect, because the experienced staff are very aware of their roles and responsibilities whilst protecting children in their care. They work closely with other agencies to support children and their families. Staff are confident in following the local safeguarding children procedures and have a designated child protection co-ordinator who would follow through any issues of concern.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the out of school club and are making good progress in their learning, leisure and personal development. They arrive eager and ready to participate in a good range of exciting activities in accordance with their needs and interests. Older children take an active part in the various outdoor activities as they plan the Olympics games such as

the wheelbarrow race, hopping and walking backwards. Younger children select quieter activities such as playing in the sand, building with construction blocks or playing instruments as they sing nursery rhymes. They are well supported by staff who are skilled at encouraging children to develop their creative skills as they make models and figures from different materials.

Children are very involved in what happens in the club as staff consult them about what activities to put out each session. Staff follow children's interest and when they arrive excited about the Olympic games together they plan events and are excited at the presentation ceremony. Children value this approach which has created a close and caring relationship between them and the staff as well as a strong sense of trust. Children are confident in knowing that the staff value and respect their ideas.

Children share their achievements with the staff and each other, taking pride in their efforts such as showing off their art work. They talk proudly of the club and how they look forward to going each day. Children benefit from visitors to the group such as the animal lady, local musician and the fire department. This adds to the children's enjoyment at the play scheme.

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

The provision is good.

Children are fully consulted about the range of activities and resources available within the group and are given every opportunity to communicate their needs and wishes. Children are fully included in all activities and their differences are acknowledged and fully supported by staff who know most of them well. They have access to appropriate toys, equipment and resources which reflect positive imagery of diversity.

Children's behaviour is good. Their understanding of what is expected of them is fostered continually by staff who are sensitive when reinforcing the groups expectations and boundaries for good behaviour. Clear explanations are communicated to the children which are appropriate to the child's level of understanding. Consequently, children are beginning to learn how to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own behaviour. Children's understanding of right and wrong is further developed as they respond to gentle reminders from staff, to care for their environment, resources and each other.

Partnership with parents and carers is good. Staff carry out home visits at the start of placements to gather sufficient information about the children to ensure their individual care needs are fully discussed before they start at the setting, enabling staff to be fully aware of children's needs. This contributes significantly to the children's well-being within the group. Children's daily experiences and achievements are shared with parents each day ensuring they are kept fully informed. Parents have access to the groups policies, procedures and daily planning. Parents speak very highly of the staff team and value immensely the care and work they do with their children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by staff that are appropriately qualified and understand the needs of children. Children feel at ease in the environment they increase their confidence through self-selecting activities in a well-organised space. Adults spend much of their time working with the children they take an interest in what the children do and say and build on their interest well. There are good systems in place when recruiting and vetting staff to ensure the suitability

of staff whose development and commitment to training and the sharing of ideas in regular meetings show their regard for the well-being of all children.

Space and resources are well organised to meet the needs of the children present so that whether they are young children attending they all engage in a range of interesting and age-appropriate opportunities and enjoy playing together. All the required documentation for the efficient management of the provision is in place and is well organised and regularly reviewed. 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):

- ensure parents sign the medication records to acknowledge the entries and ensure details of accidents include the area of injury
- ensure the emergency escape plan is practised regularly and that children are familiar with the procedures.

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)