

Swarthmore Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	512613
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Inspector	Thecla Grant
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Registered person	Swarthmore Education Centre
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of 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?

Swarthmore Crèche is run by Swarthmore education centre. It registered with Ofsted in 2001 and operates from two rooms on the first floor of Swarthmore centre. It is situated in Leeds City Centre. A maximum of 10 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche provides sessional care from Monday to Friday between the hours of 10.00 to 12.00 and 13.00 to 15.00

There are currently 14 children between 20 months to five years on roll. The crèche employs three members of staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is satisfactorily promoted through a range of appropriate actions. For example, the setting has clear policies about children who are sick and records are kept of all accidents in the setting. Practitioners are trained in administering first aid and appropriate permissions and records are in place with regard to the administration of medication. However, medication

provided by parents is occasionally left in their children's bags during the session. As a result, medication is not consistently kept out of reach of children.

Children enjoy the healthy snacks and drinks prepared by their parents. Meal times are a relaxed social occasion when children sit together around the table to enjoy their food and each other's company. However, water is not consistently accessible for children to help themselves independently.

Positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection. For example, the tables are cleaned before children eat and the nappy changing mat is wiped with disinfectant spray after use. Practitioners further promote good hygiene practices by washing their hands after changing children's nappies and teaching children from an early age how to wash their hands correctly.

Children have very good opportunities to develop their large motor skills. Because the large play room holds outdoor play equipment, which children enjoy playing on. For example, they have fun climbing up the ladder and practising different ways to slide down the slide.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. Children's art work is attractively displayed on the walls and most resources are easily accessible for them to play with. These are stimulating, fun and provide enough challenge for the children who enjoy playing with what is available.

Suitable systems are in place to make sure children are secure on the premises. For example, the main door to the play room is locked and appropriately monitored by practitioners. Practitioners make sure children are safe on the premises by covering low electric sockets and making sure children cannot access the heaters. The crèche has a joint emergency evacuation practise with the education centre. As a result, not all children attending the crèche know what to do in case of emergencies.

Suitable systems are in place with regard to safe guarding children. For example, a detailed child protection policy has been devised and a flow chart; on what to do in case of referral is displayed. As a result, practitioners appropriately understand their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children who access the crèche confidently come into the session and choose what they want to play with. For example, they have fun pretending to make tea and playing in the sand. Older children competently construct a building and extend their play by making motor vehicles and play people to sit on them.

Younger children are effectively supported and their play is successfully extended according to their stage of development. As a result, young children happily play with a good range of resources. For example, they enjoy the art and craft activity at the beginning of the session and the mark making activity at the end of the session. Practitioners keep a general record of the children's progress, but these are not kept in separate files.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Only parents who attend the education centre may leave their children in the crèche. They receive a parent pamphlet with information about the provision and have access to the policies and procedures. Practitioners' further work in partnership with parents by encouraging them to share their views in the concerns and complement book provided. Parents have recorded how well their children enjoy the provision. Children's individual needs are well met because parents share information about their children that will help practitioners to care for them effectively.

Systems are in place to care for children with learning difficulties. For example, practitioners have attended training in inclusion and an inclusion policy has been devised. However, resources which positively promote disability are not in place. The children become aware of the wider society through the celebration of different festivals. Remnants of celebrations, such as Valentines Day and Easter can be seen. However, not all resources which positively reflect race are easily accessible to the children.

The behaviour management policy is in place and effectively implemented by practitioners. They make sure that children are not bored or frustrated but are busy and contented. As a result, children have an awareness of the boundaries set and the expectations within the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Appropriate systems are in place to make sure all practitioners are suitably vetted. Practitioners have a clear understanding of the adult-child ratio and consistently adhere to it. They make good use of the space provided to ensure children's care, learning and play is appropriately supported.

Practitioners have appropriate knowledge and understanding of child development. They have a commitment to continual improvement and with this regard have attended appropriate training courses.

All policies and procedures are in place. These work in practice to promote children's health, enjoyment and ability to make a positive contribution. However, confidentiality is not maintained with regard to the children's information because all children's written records are kept in the same file.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider needed to address a few actions and recommendations regarding health, hygiene and safe guarding children. The provider has systems in place to make practitioners aware of the nappy changing procedures, practitioners have a daily awareness of the hygiene routines and all practitioners have attended an appropriate first aid course. The child protection policy contains all necessary information including procedures to be followed in the event of allegations of abuse is made about staff. The government booklet and local

authority booklet regarding child protection guidance are in place. As a result, steps taken have improved outcomes for children and the organisation of the provision.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the April 2004 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 complaint 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):

- make sure medication is always inaccessible to children and fresh drinking water is available to children at all times
- make sure all children are aware of the emergency evacuation procedures
- continue to promote equal opportunities by making resources that positively reflect disability and race available to the children
- make sure confidentiality is maintained with regard to children's records.

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