

Body & Soul

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY350364
Inspection date	10 June 2008
Inspector	Chris Banks
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Registered person	Body & Soul
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Body and Soul crèche was registered in 2007 and is located in the EC1 area of Islington. The provision is a registered charity and provides a range of therapeutic support services to children and families affected by HIV and AIDS. It is organised and managed by a board of trustees.

Ages of children using the crèche range from birth to under ten years. The setting operates every Tuesday between the hours of 16:30 and 20:30. The provision may care for a maximum of 45 children at any one time, and there are currently 100 children on roll. Places for the crèche are booked in advance.

A core team of three staff work with the children and are supported by a group of volunteers, some of whom hold childcare or other professionally related qualifications. Appropriate qualifications are held by all staff.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in bright, very clean and well maintained surroundings. They benefit from the good hygiene practice of staff and are learning about the importance of hand washing and other aspects of personal care. Arrangements for changing babies are discreet and well managed.

Children are protected from the risk of infection because written guidelines on health and hygiene are stringently followed by staff who are familiar with signs and symptoms of contagious childhood illnesses. If there are concerns about a child, parents are called immediately and children are able to rest comfortably until parents arrive. Two members of staff hold up-to-date First Aid certificates and all staff are trained in administering emergency treatment. This means they are well prepared in the event of an accident or emergency.

Children enjoy very nutritious meals and snacks because healthy eating is positively promoted. Menus are culturally sensitive and only fresh ingredients are used. Children experience a wide variety of foods, including salads, meat, fish, pulses, pasta and vegetarian alternatives. They actively take part in setting tables for their evening meal and enjoy the warm sociable atmosphere created by staff. Children under two enjoy one-to-one support whilst they are fed, whilst older children are free to help themselves from individual serving bowls. Throughout the evening, children are able to help themselves to rice cakes and a wide variety of fresh fruits and drinks.

There is no outdoor play area but older children enjoy a suitable range of indoor physical activities. Separate space is specifically set aside for lively, non-competitive group games and energetic dance sessions.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in secure surroundings with effective systems in place to ensure any potential risks are minimised. Good routine safety procedures, such as regular fire drills, help protect children and well documented risk assessments are regularly used to highlight and address any concerns. Staff take good precautions to prevent children coming into contact with adults using other parts of the building and supervise children well. Older children are learning to behave responsibly because they are reminded by staff to take care when playing together and to avoid overly boisterous play when younger children are nearby. Children also learn about personal safety as part of planned activities.

Children are protected because effective precautions are taken to ensure only those adults named and agreed in advance with staff are able to collect children. There is also a clear procedure to follow in the unlikely event a child is not collected at the end of the session.

The overall safety of children is promoted because staff are knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities in child protection. They are familiar with the process for monitoring, recording and reporting concerns and have clear written procedures to follow. Senior staff are well informed about the role of Ofsted and the steps to take if an allegation is made against a member of staff. However, these are not included in written procedures.

Children enjoy using an extensive range of very good quality resources, all of which are made easily accessible. The range is suitable for all abilities and is regularly checked for safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by staff and volunteers who are warm and very attentive. Despite the restricted opening hours and the sporadic attendance of some children, staff know individual children well. As part of an effective key worker system, they are also provided with some strong therapeutic support.

Staff facilitate a range of stimulating, age appropriate activities and also build imaginative project work into the programme. Some aspects are planned in advance but it is also flexible to meet the changing needs and preferences of children. The programme contains a good balance of adult-led, child-initiated and free play opportunities. Elements of play therapy are also successfully incorporated. Arts and crafts are a key feature for older children and vibrant displays of children's work include collaborative multimedia collages, painted tiles and wall hangings. They also enjoy experimenting with new technology as they use a huge electronic 'smart board' to create drawings and play educational games.

The small number of babies benefit from having a separate, well equipped area where they have access to a good range of sensory toys and equipment. They cannot, however, always fully explore the area as older children occasionally interrupt their play as they pass through or come to visit their younger siblings. Pre-school aged children enjoy lively interactive circle times and enjoy exploring the textures of sand, paint and play dough. Children of all ages benefit from the calm atmosphere of the well equipped sensory room where small groups are regularly accompanied.

Each session is carefully evaluated by staff who also complete a detailed individual assessment form for each child. This outlines what children enjoyed and learned from certain activities, how they interacted with peers and any issues of concern.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

There is a strong commitment to providing an inclusive service. Children of all ages and abilities are well integrated in the mixed age range setting and the individual circumstances of each child kept confidential. Staff are good role models, who positively encourage children to value difference and show respect and consideration for each other. This is achieved in a range of practical ways. Activities include many non-competitive elements and the cultural backgrounds of different children are explored through music, craft activities and stories. A good range of anti-discriminatory resources also helps much younger children begin to acknowledge difference.

Children are encouraged to express themselves freely during circle time, secure in the knowledge they will be listened to. The calm, measured intervention of staff when behaviour occasionally becomes challenging is valued by older children, some of whom experience quite extreme emotions. Children's small achievements are highly valued and visually celebrated in the form of a large collage in the shape of a tree whose leaves indicate the contributions each child has made. These range from simply demonstrating good listening skills to being actively involved in supporting other children.

As the provision only operates one evening a week, contact with parents using the crèche facility is limited. They are, however, kept suitably informed about how their child has spent their time and staff will often telephone parents at home to follow up any concerns they may have. If parents are unhappy about the service, there is a formal complaints procedure, which includes Ofsted contact details, but these are not included in the written information supplied to parents about the Body and Soul crèche.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a well qualified and experienced staff team, all of whom have been checked for their suitability to work with children. The volunteer recruitment programme is well developed and also involves checks with the Criminal Records Bureau and referees. There is a shared commitment to the professional development of staff and volunteers, some of whom already have specialist skills.

Staff and volunteers work well together and this contributes to making the crèche a happy and relaxed place for children. Clear and comprehensive written policies and procedures relating to children's health, safety and welfare are effectively put into practice.

There is sufficient combined space for the number of children the crèche is registered to care for. Space is well organised in advance of children's arrival. It is organised in an accessible, child-friendly way, although greater consideration should be given to the needs of non-mobile babies. Rest and sleep arrangements for babies are cosy, clean and comfortable. The overall setting is extremely bright and welcoming to children.

Documentation is well organised, securely stored and confidentiality is maintained. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable: this is the first inspection since registration.

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 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

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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 written procedures for safeguarding children include the role of Ofsted and the process to follow if any allegations are made against staff
- review how space is organised for children under two years to ensure they can fully explore their surroundings
- ensure the crèche complaints procedure is shared with parents

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