

CEDA - Clare Milne Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY359856
Inspection date	07 August 2008
Inspector	Sara Bailey
Setting Address	The Clare Milne Centre, Emporer Way, Exeter Business Park, Exeter, EX1 3QS
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Registered person	Community Equality Disability Action (CEDA)
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School 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?

CEDA (Community Equality Disability Action) Out of School club registered in 2007. CEDA is a registered charity that provides services for children and adults with disabilities. The out of school club operates from an adapted building situated within a business park on the outskirts of Exeter in Devon. The group are based on the first floor, with a main playroom, a sensory room, IT suite, art room and quiet area. There are toilet facilities within the building, some of which are equipped for children with disabilities, a kitchen and large office. There is a small car park that can be enclosed and used as an outdoor play area during after school hours and a sensory garden. The group is registered to provide care for up to 12 children aged from five to under eight years. Children up to the age of 18 can also attend the club. There are currently 169 children on roll, 12 of whom are under eight years of age. Children who speak English as an additional language are supported at the club. The after school club operates from 15.30 to 19.00 on weekdays, during school term times. The holiday club operates from 09.30 to 16.00 on weekdays during school holidays. A Saturday club operates from 10.00 to 16.00 all year round. The club is open to all children and is able to provide specific support for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Two co-directors employ a manager who is teacher trained and holds a level 3 qualification in Early Years. She is supported by a deputy working towards a level 4 in Playwork, four level 3 staff and two working towards level 2 in play work.

The other 13 staff have relevant experience and are working towards teacher training qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted through their positive hygiene and personal care routines, carried out by staff. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet, using anti-bacterial soap and individual paper towels to prevent cross infection, or wet wipes. Staff wear disposable gloves when providing intimate care, which further protects both staff and children. Many staff hold valid paediatric first aid certificates and are confident in dealing with a range of specific medical needs of children. Staff have good procedures in place for obtaining parental consent and administering medication. They clearly record and safely store medication. Accidents are accurately recorded and shared with parents, sometimes in difficult situations, where due to transport issues and lack of daily contact with some parents, personal interaction is minimal.

Children's individual dietary needs are met by parents providing all food and staff overseeing the safe consumption. Many children are on complex diets and staff ensure everyone dealing with the child is knowledgeable to monitor and support children at mealtimes. However, children's lunch boxes are stored within a hot room, without cool packs or refrigeration during the summer months, which potentially puts children at risk. Drinking water is readily available to all children, which is once again monitored carefully to ensure children's health and safety. For example, not sharing cups or causing a hazard to others.

Children greatly benefit from physical activities to aid their development. The inside space allows for children to be active as they play and they enjoy regular outings. As well as a small sensory garden they use the local park facilities within walking distance and have many planned trips to exciting, local attractions. In addition, the setting has organised a specialist sailing boat for children and adults with disabilities to experience a sailing activity.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are generally very safe within the setting and on outings as staff carry out very detailed risk assessments and supervise the children extremely well. For example, many children have one-to-one support and staff are vigilant about observing the children in all they do. However, cupboard locks fitted to the low units in the playroom are not appropriately adjusted to prevent children opening the cupboards and are a potential hazard. The staff induction procedure promotes children's safety and everyone is very vigilant about security. For example, children are signed in and out of the premises, visitors are approached for identity and asked to sign a visitors book and a key code operates the playroom door to prevent children leaving unsupervised. However, fire drills are not practised on a regular basis. As the main playroom is on the first floor and many children have physical disabilities this is a potential hazard. Staff are very aware not to use the lifts in the event of a fire.

Children greatly benefit from the wide range of activities on offer. They have easy access to all resources due to the effective layout of the room, use of large tables and furniture amongst large open spaces. Specialist equipment ensures all children have equal access to all they do.

Children's welfare is effectively safeguarded as the staff are very aware of the signs of abuse and the correct procedures to follow in the event of being concerned about a child. All staff have child protection training on their induction and have comprehensive policies to read, these include procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive from the exceptional care, learning and play provided at this setting. Activities and outings are planned in accordance with individual children's needs. Specific requirements, likes and dislikes are taken into account in the grouping of children, the opportunities on offer and the resources available to them. This ensures inclusive practice for everyone to enjoy and achieve within the daily routine. Staff enthusiastically interact and support children in their play, giving each and every child a very positive experience. Children have freedom of choice from a stimulating range of activities on offer. For example, air hockey, exciting dressing up costumes for older children, creative activities in line with a theme being explored and computers, as well as interesting outings to local attractions where staff are positive and encouraging of their visits. Children are encouraged to be independent and are developing high self-esteem. Children are building positive relationships with staff and their peers, with much support from dedicated staff. There is a huge emphasis on having fun and staff are skilled at empowering children to explore, lead the play and develop their own personalities. This is a vibrant setting where children are very happy.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children gain a well-developed respect for others and their beliefs, cultures and traditions through the natural, multi-cultural mix of staff and children attending. Positive images of diversity are reflected in every day life and inclusion is highly effective. Children under eight years socialise with older children, which is beneficial to both peer groups and valued by parents. As many children have learning difficulties and/or disabilities it means that the activities are age/stage appropriate for children to explore. One-to-one support is provided for many children, ensuring everyone has equal opportunities in all they do. Boys and girls also have equal access to all resources and enjoy exploring toys that are traditionally stereotypical. Some staff use sign language in a variety of ways to aid communication with children. Senior staff are always on hand to assist less experienced staff with specific incidents or events, such as, challenging behaviour or medical needs. All staff have quick and easy access to 'grab sheets' which are a summary of individual children's needs, to ensure they understand specific care requirements. This ensures continuity of care and consistency.

Children greatly benefit from a high ratio of staff to children to ensure that behaviour is managed effectively. As some children display challenging behaviour as part of their disability, staff act quickly and efficiently to deal with incidents and safeguard other children. Staff are calm, confident in their approach and very skilled in diverting situations. Incidents are clearly recorded and shared with parents. Staff praise and encourage children at every opportunity, which builds their confidence. Children are involved in packing away and helping with routine tasks, which makes them feel grown up and respected.

Children arrive each morning with their parents or via transport, excited and enthusiastic at the prospect of a day at the setting. They leave their parents happily, benefiting from the positive partnership staff have with parents. Parents are relaxed, happy and very positive about the setting and the support it offers, which reflects on the children. Parents are kept well informed of their individual child's care and routine through a variety of ways, such as telephone calls, letters, noticeboards and newsletters. Written parental consents are obtained, policies are shared and all regulatory information is available to parents, such as a complaints procedure and log.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the staff's effective organisation of time, space and resources. The premises have been adapted well to meet the needs of the children, alongside adults who also use the building. Although most safety aspects have been addressed well, fire drills are not practised regularly enough considering changes in staff and the individual needs of children attending, and some low cupboards are accessible to children. The rooms are very welcoming and staff are very well deployed within them to fully support children, many with one-to-one workers. The management team are very 'hands on' with the children and support the staff as required. The balance of activities onsite and wonderful range of outings is good.

All regulatory documentation is maintained and accurate, many policies and the operational plan are in the process of being updated to reflect recent changes in management. Evidence of staff's suitability are held on file and the registration certificate is clearly displayed. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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 fire drills are carried out periodically, with specific attention to new staff and children attending
- improve the safe storage of children's packed lunches.

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