

Vauxhall Children's Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY360714
Inspection date	24 July 2008
Inspector	Gillian Sutherland
Setting Address	Tichfield Street, Liverpool, Merseyside, L5 8UT
Telephone number	0151 2982921
E-mail	
Registered person	Vauxhall Children's Centre
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Vauxhall Children's Centre registered in 2007. It operates from designated rooms and areas within the Vauxhall Children's Centre, in Liverpool. It is governed and managed by Trinity School. All children share access to a number of enclosed outdoor play areas. A maximum of 62 children may attend the setting at any one time. The Vauxhall Children's Centre offers creche facilities for parents attending courses, and the services offered by the centre range from health, child care and parenting support to adult and family education.

The nursery operates from 08.00 to 18.00 Monday to Friday for 50 weeks of the year. The nursery is able to support children with learning difficulties or disabilities and also provides care for children where English is an additional language.

The nursery employs nine staff all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the adjacent nursery school, Early Years Development and Childcare partnership and Liverpool Sure Start.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's physical skills are well promoted because they have access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area which is exceptionally well equipped with age appropriate outdoor play equipment. For example, children may access equipment including bikes, prams and many other wheeled toys. They also access sand pits, water play, mark making resources and climbing equipment. The children's fine manipulative skills are developing as they enjoy accessing small tools skilfully, and are provided with many opportunities to use with adult support, such tools as part of their creative activity programme.

Children gain some understanding of simple hygiene procedures, such as hand washing at appropriate times and a hand drier is available for the older children. Posters around the bathroom illustrate to children the reasons why they should wash their hands and when possible brush their teeth. Children are well protected as there are sickness, medication, accident and emergency policies in place. There is always at least one member of staff who holds a current paediatric first aid certificate on duty each time the setting operates.

Children are healthy and benefit from a social snack time, where they enjoy their meals which are provided by an outside caterer. The meals available are varied and enjoyed by the children. Staff serve the meals to the children from a trolley which is taken into each room, and to ensure children's safety they are seated around the table before the staff serve them their meals. Meals looked tasty and the children were enjoying their lunch and staff explained that if children have any dietary requirements then these are catered for by the caterer. Children are offered a drink at mealtimes and during the day. Children have water bottles to access a drink during their play, however these are not always identifiable to each child as their names sometimes disappear as the bottles are washed and sterilised each morning.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children access a warm and welcoming environment, which is well organised and set out to meet their individual needs. Children can freely self-select which toys they want to play with or which activities they want to participate in. The furniture and equipment in the nursery are very good quality and safe.

Daily risk assessments help to maintain a safe environment for the children and staff ensure that all areas, toys and equipment used by the children are usually safe and clean at all times. Children participate in fire drills thus ensuring they become aware of the evacuation procedures that may be implemented in the event of a fire or emergency. However, during the inspection some concerns were noted that compromises children's safety. The concerns noted are that some of the unused sockets under the computer were not protected, all of the bins in the bathroom areas did not have lids that closed and the last concern related to the plastic bags that parents had brought into nursery and these were hanging on the children's pegs.

Effective arrival and collection policies help to ensure that children are safe and well cared for at all times. Parents are greeted warmly by staff as they let them into the nursery and also as the children are collected at the end of each session.

Children are protected by staff having a sound knowledge of child protection issues. They have a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures, which provides them with the appropriate contact details of most of the agencies they may need to contact should they have concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the day nursery as staff help them to feel settled and secure. As the children arrive they are welcomed by their key worker or other staff in the room and then they can go and choose what they want to play with.

They quickly set off to explore and play with the excellent range of outdoor activities. Two children were observed as they had a container with clear water in and a large paint brush each and they had great fun 'painting some of the outdoor resources'. Whilst they participated in this activity they chatted away to each other before deciding to go and play in the sand. Here they thoroughly enjoyed using the sieves, rakes and spades to make patterns in the sand before they discovered their feet also made patterns as they jumped and toddled around. Other children wanted to play with the bikes and they skilfully manoeuvred their bikes around the well designed outdoor play area, which is complete with a roadway and zebra crossings.

Indoors children accessed a wealth of resources including some baby and toddler toys which involved them pushing in the buttons and listening for the sounds. In the sensory room the youngest children were having a wonderful time. They look in amazement as the different coloured lights and bubbles move up and down the tubes and the fairy lights flicker around the room. They also listen to the gentle music playing in the background and settle down to enjoy this very calming and colourful atmosphere.

Toddlers demonstrate their early creative skills as they paint at their low level tables or at the easels and staff talk to them and praise their efforts as they create their 'works of art'. Children in the different age groups, have many opportunities to develop their creative skills and their finished pictures are then attractively displayed around the nursery.

Early communication skills are well supported through good adult-child interaction. Children enjoy listening to stories and looking at books and they can access these at any time from the book area.

Staff have a good understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and are implementing this into their daily activity programme, thus ensuring that young children participate in a varied and interesting range of activities, all of which support their learning and development.

The day nursery provides care for very young children and also provides wrap around care for the children aged three-years-old and upwards, who then move into the nursery school, which is adjacent to the children's centre. Day nursery staff have developed an extremely good working partnership with the teaching staff in the nursery school, and the teacher, whose class the day nursery children move into. She regularly comes into the day nursery to make herself known to the children, thus making the transition from day nursery to nursery school much easier.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and staff value and respect their individuality. The children are given opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them, through planned activities and by acknowledging or celebrating various themes and festivals. There are many resources which reflect the differing needs of people, not only those within their own community but also those of people in the wider world.

Children behave well as staff give them lots of encouragement, and praise their efforts and achievements. Staff act as good role models, showing respect and consideration for the children and each other. They meet individual needs well with regard to behaviour management, offering a clear and consistent approach, which takes into account children's stage of development.

Staff work well with parents and this contributes to children's well-being. Parents' views about their child's needs and interests are actively sought before the child starts at the nursery, and clear communication is established from the outset with parents. Very clear written policies are available in the informative and well illustrated nursery prospectus, but the evidence is also obvious in the practices of the nursery and the activities that are available to the children. The policies clearly identify to parents, the different pieces of legislation they relate to.

Staff update them about the activities of the setting either verbally or through newsletters which they give to parents. Each child has their own development profile which staff prepare and which provides parents with information about their progress. This effective communication between parents and staff helps to promote children's welfare and learning.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff set up each day an environment where children can freely access toys and resources and participate in a range of activities. Staffing levels are organised to ensure that they are well within the required ratios at all times and that children have a good level of attention and support.

The ratio of staff holding appropriate childcare qualifications fully complies with the requirements of Ofsted, and all staff keep themselves updated with current childcare legislation and childcare practices through reading literature and attending appropriate training.

The childcare setting has written policies and procedures, which comply with current guidance and legislation. However, two accident records had not been countersigned by the parents and there is some documentation relating to the recent staff changes that have not yet been received by Ofsted.

All the records relating to the operation of this child care setting are held in the provider's main office. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the 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 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):

- devise a system which would enable children to have their own identifiable drinking container to freely access during the day
- ensure that all areas accessed by children are safe and free from hazards
- ensure that all parents countersign any entries made to accident documentation and that any outstanding information regarding the appointing of new or temporary staff cover are submitted to Ofsted.

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