

# St Martins Garden Childrens Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY339058
<b>Inspection date</b>	28/11/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	John Carnaghan
<b>Setting address</b>	150 Frome Road, Odd Down, Bath, BA2 5RE
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<b>Type of setting</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises

## Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

## **Description of the setting**

St Martin's Garden Children's Centre opened in 2006 and shares a site with St Martin's Garden Primary School. There are good links with the school to help transition to primary education. It is run by Bath and North East Somerset Council and is a purpose built centre. It is registered for full day care for children up to eight years old and offers breakfast and after school clubs and holiday care. The centre is registered for an attendance of a maximum of 57 children aged from 0–8 years, has 100 on roll and is currently full, with a long waiting list. The centre is open from 08.00 until 18.00 for 50 weeks a year. The centre employs 15 staff, of these at least 10 hold appropriate childcare qualifications, including two with Early Years Professional Status at level 6. This provider is on the Early Years Register, compulsory part of the Childcare Register.

## **Overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

The children's centre is very well run to ensure that children grow and thrive in a happy, caring environment. Its effectiveness is good and there are clear signs of their good capacity for continuous improvement. Staff successfully promote all aspects of children's welfare and learning. There are good partnerships with parents, who are very well informed about the centre's work and how their children are getting on. Children's needs are well known to all staff and each individual receives personalised support and encouragement, ensuring that children make good progress.

## **What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?**

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop a systematic method of evaluating and recording classroom practice to further develop the professional skills of staff
- produce a summative self-evaluation document and revise it at regular, brief intervals

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

The co-ordinator provides very high quality leadership and management. She sets a clear direction for the centre with a strong focus on the achievement, personal development and well-being of every child. Close teamwork amongst all staff ensures a cohesive approach to children's development and welfare. This process is assisted by very thorough record keeping. The efficiency of the management ensures that the centre runs very smoothly. Sophisticated record keeping systems enable attendance to be adapted to suit each parent's needs and requirements.

The centre has reflected on its performance and has decisively addressed the three

issues that were raised in the previous inspection. In particular, outside areas have been enhanced, so that both teaching areas enjoy the use of an 'outdoor classroom' on a daily basis. The temperatures in the centre's rooms are now at suitable levels. Parents are now well aware of the complaints procedure. The centre co-ordinator is committed to improvement and works closely with all staff to promote good practice.

The provision is regularly monitored and identifies strengths and areas for development, using a variety of evaluative methods. However, some monitoring is very informal and is not recorded in a way that is easily accessible. It does not as yet have a formal self-evaluation document that is used to support the regular review of its work. The work of each child is very carefully recorded and analysed and interventions are undertaken should there be any issues of concern. Planning is aimed at individual children. The centre acknowledges that boys and girls have different learning needs and styles and plans initiatives which take account of these variations. For example, boys have been involved in a writing project with their fathers or other male in the household.

Parents are closely involved with their children's development at all stages. Parents are actively encouraged to speak out, and a number sit on the centre's steering committee. Questionnaires sent home reveal a high degree of trust and satisfaction. Frequent parents' meetings provide regular information for parents. The centre shares its working guidelines with parents to pass on information and to receive feedback.

Those in charge take great care to safeguard all children – checks on adults on the premises are very carefully carried out as are other precautions, such as risk assessments.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

The caring, friendly atmosphere of the centre nurtures children's welfare, learning and development very well. Adults show affection and concern for the children and their calm, considerate manner provides them with good role models.

Enjoyable activities are planned for each child, bearing in mind their likes and needs. Careful assessment, recording and analysis gives all adults a precise picture of how well children are getting on. These great strengths ensure that any barriers to development are quickly addressed, so that children make good progress and are well prepared for future learning. Adults plan activities with keen regard for the six areas of learning and are very careful to ensure that all children develop a broad range of knowledge and skills helped by the variety of interesting learning experiences available.

Adults promote children's growing independence with skill, coaxing the best out of their charges. There are very good opportunities for children to collaborate with one another and they are encouraged to work and learn outside as well as inside the centre. The quality of provision ensures that all children are included in activities and participate at the level which is most appropriate to them. Rooms are

calm and well organised. Very good relationships between children and with adults produce a positive ethos and pupils live in an atmosphere where praise is usual and criticism rare and muted.

The promotion of children's welfare is outstanding. All staff have key worker roles. Each worker gets to know their charges quickly, maintains records of their progress and act as the first port of call for links with parents. Children's safety is paramount and children are encouraged to be considerate and care for one another. Good food and nutritious snacks help children grow up healthily. Lunch and snack time are well utilised to enable groups of children to sit together and develop their social skills. All policies and systems to ensure children's welfare are in place and well known to adults.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	1

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	2
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

## **Annex B: the Childcare Register**

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:

Met

## **Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted**

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

### **Detail of the complaint/s**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.