



## **Squirrels Childcare Ltd**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY307999
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 October 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Carol Ann Dixon
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<b>Registered person</b>	Squirrels Childcare Ltd
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Squirrels Crèche is a mobile crèche run by Squirrels Childcare Ltd. The provision was registered in April 2005 and operates from various venues in Oldham. The provision will operate when its service is booked by other agencies.

A maximum of 20 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The manager has an appropriate child care qualification, as do half of the staff. The crèche supports children with special educational needs and children who have English as an additional language.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children have a close relationship with the staff who are caring and responsive towards them. Children feel confident to explore their surroundings and use their bodies to develop physical skills. They enjoy practicing new physical skills, for example, beginning to use scissors with the support of the staff.

Children's physical needs and wellbeing are met and promoted by the staff who recognise when they are tired, hungry and thirsty and provide opportunities for resting, eating and drinking in accordance with their individual needs.

Children begin to understand the importance of personal hygiene and staying healthy through daily routines. They consistently wash their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet or after creative play. Children are protected from infection because staff are well informed of healthcare matters and explain the need to wash hands to the children. All documentation is in place and is generally up to date. Most of the staff hold first aid certificates.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. Healthy eating is promoted through the availability of fresh fruit and healthy snacks. Children are able to access drinks freely as they need them as they are placed within their reach. Staff support younger children's growing independence by providing opportunities for them to feed themselves.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, secure and safe environment. The premises are clean and well maintained. Evidence of children's play and activities help make the environment bright and attractive. Children are able to move around the environment with ease as there is adequate space for them to play as they independently access resources from tables and floor mats.

Staff help children understand how to keep themselves safe by having boundaries in place and talking to them about the consequences of their actions. Children develop a good awareness of safety as they are reminded not to climb on equipment. Fire evacuation procedures have not been practiced to help children learn about fire safety and how to respond in an emergency.

Children are protected at all times. The staff are aware of their duty to protect children and would follow child protection procedures if needed. Staff have maintained an updated knowledge of child protection matters through regular training, this effectively underpins their working practices with children.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are eager to learn and they take part in a good range of activities throughout the session. Younger children are beginning to build good relationships with each other and the staff. Children are becoming more confident communicators as they initiate conversations and express their feelings. They have opportunities to join in and use the separate areas for play and quieter activities. They learn to share and take turns as they use developmentally appropriate resources such as puzzles, games and small world toys. Children are able to make connections in their learning as they freely explore paint and different textures. They experience a range of sensory and creative activities which encourages them to represent their experiences in a variety of ways.

Children enjoy their time at the crèche and respond well to the staff who give them praise and encouragement, which results in children developing good self-esteem, confidence and increases their sense of belonging. The staff are fully aware of children's abilities and provide toys and resources which offer challenge and enjoyment. As a result the children are happy and developing in all areas of their development. They are purposefully engaged in all activities provided for them.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are highly valued as individuals. They develop a positive attitude to others and gain a good understanding of the wider world and the community through access to a good range of play resources that show positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability.

Children have good self-esteem due to the staff team's realistic expectations of the children and the positive reinforcement they receive. The individual needs of all the children who attend are met well. The setting has effective arrangements to care for children who have special educational needs and systems in place to safeguard children who have specific medical conditions. Children behave well and are learning to understand the difference between right and wrong as the staff are positive role models. Staff provide clear guidance for children by the way of gentle reminders which help them begin to accept the needs of others.

Partnerships with parents and carers is good. Children and parents are warmly welcomed by the staff and are extremely relaxed in the setting. Children's individual needs are met in accordance with parents' wishes. This is supported by detailed documentation and verbal communication with parents on a daily basis. This keeps them fully informed of their children's activities and routines of the day.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are safe, well protected and cared for. The staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of child development. This is evidenced through the high standard and regard they have for the children's wellbeing. Good recruitment and vetting procedures are in place to ensure that children are safe and well cared for within the setting. A policy is also in place to employ staff in excess of the required staff-to-child ratios, this benefits children as they receive individual attention.

Children's care is enhanced by the clear information provided by parents to ensure that the setting meets the needs of individual children. Children's individual records are updated and shared with parents on a regular basis. Clear policies and procedures support staff in working successfully in partnership with parents.

Overall, the needs of all of the children who attend are met.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

This is the provision's first inspection since registration.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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 emergency evacuation procedures are practiced.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)