



Sure Start Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY301852
Inspection date	10 February 2006
Inspector	Anne Archer
Setting Address	Surestart, Penrith Drive, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN8 3XL
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Registered person	NCH Sure Start Wellingborough
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Sure Start Centre on Penrith Drive Wellingborough is operated by NCH. It opened in 2005 in purpose built premises. The centre is situated in the Queensway area of the town. It has full day care registration but currently operating as a creche as and when required by parents attending the centre for courses and meetings.

The creche has use of a large play room with kitchen, toilets and nappy changing area leading off it and there is an enclosed outdoor play area. A maximum of 26 children aged between birth and under five years may attend at any one time. The centre is open throughout the year except for the week between Christmas and New

Year.

The creche is able to support children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language. The creche manager, deputy and all staff hold appropriate level three qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children participate in a wide range of outdoor activities to ensure they have fresh air and physical activity to aid their good health. Staff take sensible precautions to protect children from the harmful aspects of the sun and ensure children are suitably clothed in poor weather. Children know that they put on their coats and hats to keep themselves warm before going outside in cold weather. Children are cared for in a clean, warm, well ventilated, purpose built setting where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children become familiar with personal hygiene routines and older children understand why they wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating.

Children learn about the benefits of a healthy diet as staff provide a varied snack menu which takes into account parental wishes and children's choices and is appealing and meets their dietary needs. Staff sit with children to make snack time a social occasion and to encourage the children to try new foods and eat well. Children learn to pour themselves a beaker of water and are reminded by staff to have regular drinks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment where risk of accidental injury is minimised by staff vigilance and good practices such as risk assessments and fire safety measures to reduce potential accidents. Children learn about the importance of safety as they respond to clear guidelines during indoor and outdoor activities. Security of the creche is generally good with key pad entry and procedures for ensuring children leave with the correct adult. However, the security of an outside gate has been overlooked as a potential risk to children.

Children are able to choose from a wide range of good quality toys and resources. Furniture and equipment is appropriate and regularly cleaned and maintained to ensure children's safety when using it. Children's wellbeing is safeguarded by staff's knowledge of local child protection procedures and their understanding of their responsibilities for the welfare of the children in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the creche because they and their parents are warmly welcomed by staff. The environment is decorated with displays to attract children's interest. Children gain confidence through the routines and the relationships they develop with staff and other children. Children develop their independence as they express their ideas during play using a range of resources which capture their interest. For instance, children enjoy taking their baby dolls for a walk in the buggy to post letters at the post office. Staff plan a variety of activities for children taking into account the 'Birth to three matters' framework and the Foundation Stage Curriculum guidance which ensure children have opportunities to develop in all areas of learning. Children learn from experimenting and from watching staff and older children participate in activities. Children of all ages particularly enjoy painting and craft activities such as hand printing and making Valentine cards. Staff provide appropriate support to all children to ensure they are able to participate in any activity of the choice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children develop a sense of belonging as they form relationships with staff and peers. Children settle quickly because staff take account of their different personalities and needs when welcoming them. Children begin to appreciate the diverse society in which we live through participating in activities about their own and other cultures and beliefs such as St. Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year. They play with an excellent range of resources that reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability. Staff are trained to identify and support children with special educational needs and systems are in place to liaise with other agencies and specialists in order to fully meet individual children's specific needs.

Children behave well and are polite as they respond to the praise and clear and consistent guidelines set by staff. Older children are familiar with and show some understanding of rules while all children enjoy the security of familiar routines. Children's care, welfare and development are promoted through excellent working relationships with parents. Parents views about their child's needs and interests are sought each time the child attends and these are used to settle the child. Staff also have a discussion with parents about how their child has been and what they have been doing when they arrive to collect their child. Parents receive a leaflet which explains how the creche operates and there is an information board near the entrance which aims to keep them up to date with such things as the day's activities and the snack menu.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by staff who have a clear sense of purpose and a commitment to continual improvement. Staff are well qualified and continue to attend training to maintain and enhance their knowledge and understanding of child development. The

centre has thorough recruitment and vetting procedures which contribute to children's safety and the high adult to child ratio positively supports children's care, learning and play. Space, time and staff are well deployed ensuring children of all ages take an active part in the setting. The policies and procedures devised and implemented by creche staff, in conjunction with those of the parent organisation, work well in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and their ability to make a positive contribution. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration. 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 the garden is secure in relation to the gate.

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