



## **Eight Village Sure Start**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY304153
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 December 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Patricia Webb
<b>Setting Address</b>	Graiseley Lane, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV11 1PE
<b>Telephone number</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Eight Village Sure Start
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day care, Sessional care, 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?

Eight Village Sure Start Childcare Centre has been registered since 2005. It operates from purpose-built premises in the New Cross area of Wolverhampton. The centre offers a full day care nursery, a sessional playgroup and crèche services. Each facility has its own designated care base to work from. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area.

The centre supports children with special needs and children who have English as an additional language.

The centre is registered to care for a maximum of 82 children under 8 years at any one time. All the services operate all year round. The day nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 08:00 to 18:00. The playgroup opens Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 13:00 to 15:00. Crèche facilities operate as and when needed in conjunction with training courses offered at the centre.

There are 15 members of staff who work directly with the children. All of the staff hold relevant early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the early years service of the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health and well-being are effectively fostered as staff are diligent in reducing the risks of cross infection. The older children are aware of washing hands and getting rid of germs as they follow good personal hygiene routines. Staff follow universal procedures when attending to first aid of children ensuring they are safe from the spread of infection.

Children's dietary needs are closely followed as staff ensure any specific needs are recorded and adhered to. They thoroughly enjoy the healthy nutritious meals eating with relish. Babies' feeds are given in line with their individual routines. They are settled and secure as they receive close contact with staff making feeding time a very comfortable and pleasurable experience. Older children develop their independence as they are encouraged to serve themselves from the main serving dishes. This contributes to there being very little waste and some children eagerly asking for second helpings. They have fresh fruit daily and drinking water is always available. Some older children request drinks on their return after outdoor play as they understand that running around makes them thirsty.

All children benefit daily from outdoor play ensuring they have fresh air and natural light as well as plenty of rigorous exercise. They develop their large muscles using a wide range of wheeled toys that offer challenge for the older and more able children. For example some older children are working towards mastering their first two-wheeled bike with a few wobbles and appropriate support from staff. Younger children have a selection of developmentally appropriate equipment to promote early crawling and walking skills as they use low level furniture to pull to standing. Manipulative skills are well promoted as children use toys, tools and cutlery with increasing skill and dexterity. Staff provide exciting and different activities to promote this such as using dyed spaghetti and colourful plastic forks to enable children to twist and twirl the pasta to place it in a dish.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and eager to play as they enter the bright, well-maintained

building that is designed as their space. Examples of children's art work, photos and information displays provide a welcoming environment where children are seen as very important little people. Children benefit from the different areas and have sufficient space to play in each care base. Effective use of the outdoor play area offers children opportunities to carry their activities on outside as well as indoors. For example, they chalk and make marks, develop role play and have drawing and painting outside on a regular basis.

Children freely access a wide and varied range of very good quality resources and equipment that is clean, safe and developmentally appropriate for each age range and level of ability. Their health and safety are promoted well as a result of the stringent cleaning and checking routines for equipment.

Children's safety is a priority as staff are very competent at identifying and addressing any hazards to reduce the risk of injury. Older children are developing an awareness of their own safety as they remember to push their chairs under the table and know not to run inside. The attendance of children is recorded in a formal register in each care base by staff, and parents also enter their child's name and time of arrival and departure in a book at reception. However, registers are not always completed by staff as children arrive and some parents do not record the times that children leave the premises. This compromises children's safety, for example, in the case of an emergency evacuation.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as staff demonstrate a good understanding of the child protection procedures. They inform parents of this duty of care and are committed to acting in the best interests of the child should they have concerns. Although senior staff are confident in addressing any concerns not all of the staff are fully conversant in the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff. This hinders how swiftly any such concerns are handled.

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

The provision is good.

Children relish their time in the stimulating and varied environment where they are motivated and well supported. They explore and investigate their surroundings making very good use of the outdoor play space as well as indoors. They make choices about activities enhancing their learning and overall development as they engage in games and activities supported by keen, enthusiastic staff. There is a high emphasis on heuristic play as children use natural and found materials such as shredded paper and wood chippings. They discover texture and the different properties of these media with excitement and babies relish their treasure baskets as they examine brushes, fabric and wooden toys. Older children play co-operatively when using the parachute with lots of laughter and enjoyment displayed whilst babies benefit from the close contact with skilled and informed staff. The staff are keenly aware of children's development and make effective use of the Birth to three matters framework and the foundation stage guidance to inform planning of a range of activities that ensure children's overall development and progress are appropriately

fostered. Some very able older children are very effectively challenged and extended preventing boredom or loss of skills and aptitudes. This is as a result of well trained and committed staff knowing the children well. They know how children learn effectively and value child initiated activity as an essential component of each child's routine. For example, a 4-year-old child playing in the garden starts examining the grass and expresses a wish to pick some to make a picture. Staff ensure all the necessary materials are easily available for him to complete his 'sticky grass' collage and display it with pride.

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

The provision is good.

All the children are respected and valued as individuals. Key workers know each child very well and are fully aware of the stages of development they are at and how to plan for their next steps. The babies enjoy lots of cuddles and smiles from staff as they respond to facial expressions and smiles with delight. Staff's knowledge of child development assists in ensuring that individual needs are identified and met effectively. For example when a child is being prepared for the move to the next care group their key worker accompanies them on visits to the new group in order to assist in them settling in easily. Children's individual daily routines are discussed with parents and recorded clearly as staff know sleep routines, what comforters each child requires to feel settled and secure. Excellent attention is paid to children from families where English is an additional language. Staff ensure that they ask parents and carers for key words in the child's home language, singing familiar songs and rhymes and encouraging other children to learn these too. This contributes to children feeling at ease in the setting and also expands the awareness of other children about the world around them. Children learn to consider the needs of others including the care of animals as they assist in caring for their African giant snails as they speak knowledgeably about what they eat.

Staff are keenly aware of the differing needs of the children as they take account of less confident children offering very sensitive one to one support where necessary, for example, speaking quietly and calmly with a preschool child who shyly recalls his favourite television programme to the other children. Staff are fully aware of equality and inclusion issues in line with the setting's equal opportunities policy resulting in children's individual needs being effectively met.

Children behave very well and learn to take turns and share. They build positive friendships with their peers and the adults as they sing the 'friendship' song and welcome other adults into the activity. Younger children's behaviour is sensitively managed by staff who fully understand that they are handling children's developmental stages rather than conscious behaviour. This results in children feeling good about themselves and builds their confidence as staff offer well earned praise and encouragement in their daily activities .

Children benefit greatly from the very close and positive partnership that the setting fosters with parents and carers. Daily feedback is given regarding the child's routine as parents discuss this with the key worker who knows their child well. Parents are

furnished with clear information as to the services offered in the centre and are warmly welcomed into each of these services by friendly and skilled staff. Parents are currently involved in completing a questionnaire designed to assess opinions as to the level and quality of the services offered. The management is eager to ensure that parents have an active voice in a genuine partnership in order to feel part of their child's care, development and learning. The complaints procedure is in place although the devising of a complaints log is not yet completed hindering how parents would be aware of concerns expressed by others should there be any.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care, welfare and learning are effectively promoted as a result of the commitment from management and staff in the setting. Robust recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that children are cared for and safeguarded by suitable and qualified staff in each of the elements of the service provided.

Staffing levels are maintained at all times helping children feel secure. All staff are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities as they effectively implement the detailed and clear policies and procedures in the setting's operational plan. The children make good use of the space that is available to them. Staff ensure that babies and older children have opportunities to interact and socialise with each other particularly when siblings visit each other in order to assist in settling easily into the environment.

The legally required documentation is in place and available at all times. This helps to promote a stimulating and safe environment for the children.

Overall, the needs of the range of children attending are met.

## **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):

- develop awareness of the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff
- ensure the format used for recording children's daily attendance is completed accurately and clearly reflects times of arrival and departure
- devise and maintain a record of any complaints made.

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)