



The Playroom

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 508947

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Inspector Fran Fielder

Setting Address Grand Hotel, King Edwards Parade, Eastbourne, East Sussex,
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Type of inspection Childcare

Type of 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.

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?

The Playroom has been registered for several years. It operates from 1 room in the Grand Hotel in Eastbourne. They have the use of toilets and a small storage area. There is no outdoor area available. The crèche is currently used solely for the residents in the hotel.

The crèche is available during the main school holiday periods. It opens from 10.00 until 12.30 and 13.00 to 17.00. Children are able to attend for 2 hour sessions. The setting is registered to provide care for 10 children aged from 2 to under 8 years. Older children also attend. All of the staff who work with the children have an early

years qualifications between NVQ level 2 and 4.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean and comfortable environment. They learn the importance of good personal hygiene through good daily routines. They wash their hands after using the toilet and after messy play. Staff are good role models and explain to children that hand washing can prevent the spread of germs. Health and safety procedures ensure children who are infectious do not attend. This prevents the spread of contagious ailments.

As children attend the crèche for short periods, meals and snacks are not available. Children can access drinking water at all times. This ensures they remain healthy and learn to think about their own needs.

There is space for indoor physical activities such as obstacle courses, mini sports days and skittle games. Children develop new skills and are enthusiastic about trying new games. Children also enjoy a range of outdoor activities. Parents are always responsible for their children during these activities but staff plan and organise these to ensure children have plenty of exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a secure environment where they can move around safely. Bright displays and examples of children's work make the premises very welcoming to children and adults. The room is well laid out allowing children to move safely from one activity to another. There is space for children to relax quietly and areas for more active play. There is a good range of safe and suitable toys and resources that children find stimulating. Good procedures both inside and outside the crèche room ensure children are safe at all times.

There are good systems in place for the safe departure of children. Most staff hold a current first aid certificate which means they can act appropriately in the event of an accident. Staff have a very good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. They know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child in their care. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settle well. Staff quickly and skilfully build relationships with children. This boosts children's confidence and makes them feel secure and valued.

Children eagerly choose from a good range of activities that support children's development.

Staff get to know the children very quickly and excellent interaction encourages children to express themselves. It also allows staff to focus on children's interests. This motivates children to explore and try new things. Children choose stories and staff read expressively which encourages a love of books. Children are attentive and enjoy discussing pictures and characters. During role-play, staff acknowledge children's ideas, which encourage them to extend their play and learning. Children enjoy their time in the crèche and are keen to return.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Staff treat children as individuals and acknowledge differences and preferences. All children have access to the full range of activities. Many resources reflect all aspects of society. This encourages children to develop a positive attitude towards diversity. Staff make provision for children with special needs and adapt activities as needed.

Staff use positive strategies to encourage good behaviour. They respond well to ideas and suggestions and learn to respect their environment. They willingly help to clear away toys and enjoy responsibilities.

Parents receive good information about the provision. They also receive comprehensive feedback about their child's time at the crèche. This ensures continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a well-organised environment where they receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. Staff deployment is effective and ensures children are well supervised at all times. There are good procedures for appointing new staff. This ensures all adults working with children have the appropriate skills. There are suitable contingency plans in place to cover for staff absences. This ensures children always have sufficient adult support. Staff attend training which ensures they have sufficient knowledge of current childcare practises to support the children in their care.

Staff work well as a team and are aware of their role and responsibility within the group. All required documentation is in place but not completely up-to-date. Policies and procedures reflect practice. This guarantees the safe and effective management of the setting in order to promote children's welfare. The crèche meets the range of needs of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to review the procedures for appointing and vetting staff. The group was also asked to consider ways to provide nappy changing facilities and to obtain prior written permission from parents to seek emergency treatment.

There are good recruitment procedures in place, which include health checks, suitability checks and a probationary period. This ensures that all adults employed to work with children are suitable. Nappy changing facilities can be made available if needed and the arrangements are appropriate to ensure privacy. Parents give prior written consent for staff to seek emergency treatment. This ensures that even if parents are not available, children receive necessary treatment from medical experts.

Complaints since the last inspection

A complaint was received regarding standard 6: Safety. We made an unannounced visit and no further action was taken under this standard. However during the visit another issue was identified regarding standard 14: Documentation and a recommendation was made regarding the recruitment and vetting of staff. The provider took appropriate steps to update the procedures. We were satisfied with the response and the provider remains qualified for 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):

- review policies and procedures on a regular basis to ensure they are always up to date with current requirements

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:

