



Whittlesey Community Support Fenplay Service

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY297656
Inspection date	11 January 2006
Inspector	Parveen Ashraf
Setting Address	Whittlesey Youth & Community Centre, 15 Scaldgate, Whittlesey, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE7 1SD
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Registered person	Cambridge County Council ,Social Services Dept.
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Whittlesey Community Support Fenplay Service was registered in October 2005. The group is to be funded and managed by the Social Services Department, Cambridgeshire County Council. It intends to operate from the Whittlesey Youth and Community Centre in Whittlesey, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. It intends to serve the local area and care for children with special needs.

The group is registered for 12 children aged 5 to under 8 years old and offers places to children under the age of 19 years, where safe and appropriate to do so. Space available is adequate and includes a large hall, a smaller seating area, kitchen and

appropriate toilets. The group operates every other Saturday, all year round. Sessions are from 10:00 to 13:00.

Staff employed have some appropriate qualifications and experience with additional in-house training. Staff ratios are higher than those required in the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding and appropriate to the children's individual needs. There are currently 4 part-time members of staff and several relief with appropriate experience. The manager has many years experience of working with children and has a level 3 qualification in childcare.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health within the setting is well supported by staff. They learn about good hygiene practices, as they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times. Bodily fluids are dealt with appropriately, minimising the risk of cross-infection. Staff are sensitive to children's individual medical needs and respect their privacy which in turn helps to raise their level of confidence. Children are well cared for until they are collected by their parents.

The group do not provide meals or snacks as this is all provided by the parents. Lunch times are a social time when children take part in interesting discussions with staff and each other, helping them to develop their social skills. Good table manners are actively encouraged by staff, who teach children how to be patient and respect each others needs. Staff organise some team games for children. They are encouraged to participate in physical activities, such as, dancing to music which helps their co-ordination, helping them to remain healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a safe and secure environment. Continual risk assessments for the premises and equipment are carried out by staff to ensure that the premises are always made safe for children. The fire safety procedure is clear and precise, outlining staff's roles and responsibilities in an emergency. Children regularly practise the fire safety procedure. Staff encourage and support them during the fire drill ensuring that they know what to do and are safe in an emergency situation.

Children have easy access to toys which are safe and appropriate for their ages and stage of development. Staff know the children well and provide resources that children find interesting, helping to keep them stimulated. For example, providing glitter, glue and materials for a child to make a jewellery box. However, opportunities for children to help themselves are limited and independence is not encouraged.

Effective procedures are in place to help to protect children. Staff have a good understanding of their responsibility in regards to children's safety and welfare.

Regular staff meetings ensure that staff are kept informed about relevant child protection issues which helps them to keep children safe and free from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children participate in a variety of different creative and imaginative activities, such as making models of ducks for Easter. Staff take into account children's comments when planning future activities ensuring that children remain interested and stimulated. Activities are adapted depending on children's individual needs and preferences, helping children to feel confident in what they are doing. Staff complete sessional reports for children. These are shared with parents to help children to develop. Staff know the children well and help them build upon what they already know, empowering children to make their own decisions and develop their own ideas. Children are very well supported in their play which helps to build their confidence and self-esteem

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are valued, included and supported by staff who are sensitive to their individual needs. Staff ensure that they have the necessary information to be able to meet their individual needs. They use their knowledge and experience to encourage all children to participate in the activities and play opportunities offered. Children are very well behaved and well mannered. Staff set good examples and are polite to children. They explain things in a clear and calm manner, helping them to understand the difference between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. Staff frequently praise the children, helping to develop their confidence and self-esteem.

Relationships with parents are friendly. Staff recognise the role of parents and incorporate this in their work of supporting the children. Parents are welcomed and assured that their contributions are valued. They are kept well informed about the provision and what their children have been doing through regular verbal feedback. Any issues with parents are dealt with confidentially. However, there is limited written information provided for parents about regular events as there is no formal parents' notice board. Parents are pleased with quality of care their children receive and the way in which staff nurture and encourage the children's interests and hobbies.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The premises are warm and welcoming to children. The effective use of time and space ensures that children receive maximum benefit from the activities on offer. There are suitable contingency arrangements in place for staff absences. This ensures that children are cared for by someone who is familiar to them, helping them to feel safe and secure in their environment. The coordinator for the scheme

pre-plans staff rotas three months in advance to ensure that ratios are met. Staff are deployed effectively and work well together to meet the needs of the children. For example, at times children receive one-to-one as well as two-to-one support when necessary.

Most of the regulatory documentation is in place and used effectively which has a positive impact on the care of the children. However, several of the policies and procedures do not reflect the practice of the setting.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints 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.

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the registration.

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 satisfactory. 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 to ensure they reflect the practises of the group and meet National Guidance
- improve procedures to keep all staff details up-to-date
- increase opportunities to encourage children to self-select resources safely and to develop their sense of independence

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