



Rotherhithe Under 5s Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 107441 |
| Inspection date | 24 January 2006 |
| Inspector | Alison Joan Wadley |
| Setting Address | Rotherhithe New Road, London, SE16 2PL |
| Telephone number | 020 7237 1586 mob 07971 087936 |
| E-mail | rpsoffice@rotherhithe.southwark.sch.uk |
| Registered person | Rotherhithe Primary School |
| 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:

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| The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding. |
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Rotherhithe Under 5s Centre opened in 1997. The centre was primarily set up for children of staff teaching at the school but is now open to local teachers and the community. It is self-funding and provides places for a total of 10 children. It is accommodated in a large classroom area, consisting of two playrooms, within Rotherhithe Primary School. There is access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

This setting is open from Monday to Friday 08.00 to 17.00 term time only. There are currently 10 children on roll. The setting provides support for children with English as an additional language and Special Educational Needs.

There are three staff working with the children. All staff have early years experience and qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's good health is promoted generally well. Staff show a good general awareness of procedures such as cleaning and laundry rotas to ensure children's good health. Children regularly wash their hands and follow good hygiene habits such as brushing their teeth, for example, after lunch. The environment, however, is somewhat overcrowded. Some parts of the accommodation and equipment are dirty and this compromises children's health whilst at the crèche.

Despite this, clear nappy changing procedures and healthy eating in particular ensure the children are kept healthy and well nourished overall. Staff, in consultation with children's parents, ensure meals meet children's dietary requirements and cultural backgrounds. Medication procedures are fully understood and shared with parents in cases of children's ill health.

Children benefit from and are involved in a generally good range of activities which develop their physical skills. They enjoy regular fresh air during outdoor play and know when they are too hot or cold. Children benefit from the available space and show increasing awareness of their bodies in completing skills such as steering buggies and co-ordinating see-saws, for example.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing and learning in an environment which is secure. Children are able to move about freely in both rooms and demonstrate confidence in accessing resources and activities. For example, some children during the inspection brought toys to the book corner to explore and others used floor toys with staff. The children benefit from a good selection of resources and age appropriate equipment in both areas but overcrowding makes some areas hazardous.

Positive steps are taken overall to promote safety at the crèche and procedures for fire drills are regularly practiced. Risk assessments are in place to ensure accidents are kept to a minimum but some equipment at the premises, such as the low height shelf in the toilet, continues to pose a risk. However, staff are trained in first aid and accidents which do happen are suitably recorded and shared with parents. Children are kept safe when outside the building and good ratios ensure children are well supported throughout the day.

Good procedural guidelines, and training for staff which is overseen by the school, ensures children are protected at home and at the crèche. The registered person uses the Local Authority Guidelines to support this aim and records of concerns are

maintained in a confidential manner.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children demonstrate increasing confidence and independence in their environment and enjoy being at the crèche. They are able to build good relationships with staff, who are committed to providing an interesting and lively environment. Younger children and those who are new to the nursery, in particular, benefit from lots of close contact and cuddles with staff.

Children are able to explore the environment at their own pace and observations by staff, which are at a developmental stage, go some way to supporting children's individual needs. Knowledge about individual children is not always used to inform plans, however. Despite this, children benefit from daily activities which include group, story and creative times and they particularly enjoyed joining in with action rhymes and songs during the inspection. Children at the crèche benefit from access to a good range of resources and familiarity with the environment. They are on the whole very sociable and show increasing confidence in choosing resources, but at times there are missed opportunities to include learning within children's everyday routine.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are encouraged to take part in activities and are praised for their achievements. Their learning and development is supported well overall in an environment which is inclusive and welcoming. For example, the set up allows the children to choose from a selection of toys which meet their individual needs and interests. Children enjoy meals at the nursery which reflect a range of tastes and cultural considerations. Activities and resources, such as the celebration of festivals, books and role play equipment, promote children's positive view of the wider world and their understanding of other's languages and ways of living.

Children show care and consideration for each other and play well together. Staff are committed to providing a positive environment and are clear in their expectations for children's behaviour. They give valuable support to those children who may be identified as having special educational needs or for whom English is an additional language and are well supported by the school in this aim.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The registered person uses effective recruitment and vetting procedures and the ratio of qualified staff meets requirements. Training for staff is generally well accessed in conjunction with the school. The lack of a manager within the crèche, however,

together with ongoing plans to move premises have meant that some procedures within the crèche have slipped and some policies displayed are out of date. Despite this, staff demonstrate a generally good knowledge and understanding of Birth to Three Matters and they work generally well as a team, showing commitment to ongoing improvements.

Overall, documents kept are well organised and fully understood by staff. For example, staff show a good understanding of procedures for gaining consent from parents when administering medication and informing parents of recorded accidents. Staff follow good fire safety procedures and most staff hold up to date first aid certificates. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The crèche provides a generally good range of activities and resources which help to promote equality of opportunity and disability awareness. Staff lend good support to those children attending who may be identified as having special educational needs and work well with the school to further this aim. Staff have ensured that parents are aware of the school's complaints procedure. The children have good opportunities to express themselves creatively whilst at the crèche but overcrowding of resources and storage of equipment continues to impact on the space available to the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 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):

- ensure the environment is maintained in a clean and well organised state to

safeguard children's health and wellbeing

- ensure hazardous equipment at the creche is identified and made safe
- ensure there are suitable procedures in place to manage and monitor the operational plan at the creche

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