



Northam Sure Start

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY270972
Inspection date	15 June 2005
Inspector	Deborah, Jean Watton
Setting Address	Northam Community Centre, Kent Street, Southampton, Hampshire, SO14 5SP
Telephone number	02380 224207
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Registered person	Sure Start Central
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Northam Sure Start crèche registered in 2003 and operates at various times to support parents attending courses or support groups. It operates from two rooms in Northam community centre and is part of the Sure Start Programme in the Southampton area.

The crèche is open to all children from 0- 5 years of age and generally operates for one to two hours between 09:00 and 16:00 hours.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from being cared for by a highly professional staff team who work closely with other Sure Start colleagues to provide a co-ordinated approach to each child's physical, health and nutritional needs. Children settle well and thrive as their families receive support within the setting. Children develop a very good understanding of personal hygiene practices as they are gently encouraged to wash and dry their hands at appropriate times. They observe staff who role model very good practice in their daily routines, ensuring that rooms and equipment used by children are always clean and hygienic. Staff take particular care to protect children from infection when toileting and changing nappies. Parents are provided with information about what happens if their child is unwell.

Children are offered many opportunities for physical play, developing skills like climbing, balancing and jumping. They enjoy playing with an extensive range of resources such as ride on toys and soft climbing blocks. They crawl through tunnels and dance to music as part of their regular exercise.

Children are offered a wide range of healthy and nutritious snacks during each session. They discuss healthy eating and select from an extensive variety of fresh fruit and vegetables with a drink of water. Staff take account of each child's dietary and religious needs and babies are fed according to parents wishes. All staff are trained in food hygiene which ensures that children's snacks are prepared appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in an environment where staff are vigilant about safety and security. Regular risk assessments and thorough checks carried out before each session ensure that children use safe equipment and are not exposed to unnecessary risks. All staff are trained in first-aid ensuring that children are well protected and cared for.

Children use an extensive range of high quality, well maintained equipment presented in a very attractive setting. They see their art work displayed on the walls which are creatively decorated with a vast range of attractive posters and photographs. They are able to select resources from low level storage shelves in the well designed play areas which include an art and craft area, home corner and physical play area. Babies play in a very comfortable partitioned area where they can see older children and enjoy interacting with them, reinforcing their sense of belonging.

Children are well protected by highly trained staff who have a clear understanding of child protection procedures and give top priority to children's welfare. They have close contact with other Sure Start staff which enables them to provide a uniform

approach to each child's care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy the many opportunities to make choices about their play. They move about freely, expertly supported by dedicated staff at their chosen activities. Skilful interaction by enthusiastic staff encourages children to develop their play ideas and try new things. Less confident children and children with special needs are supported by a caring, experienced staff team who work closely with parents and other agencies. Many children who attend the crèche have English as an additional language and staff are often able to speak to them in their home languages, enabling them to settle more easily. Children also enjoy looking at books in different languages and playing with an outstanding range of multi-cultural toys. They are encouraged in their use of English alongside their home language.

Children have access to an extensive range of resources which help them improve their skills in many areas, for example, development of imaginative play and art and craft activities. Babies are skilfully encouraged in their development by staff who take account of their usual routines for sleep and play, and provide them with an attractive range of age appropriate resources.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children experience many opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them through the excellent range of books, toys and wall displays available. Children recognise their own cultures in the extensive selection of toys which reflect diversity. Their self-esteem is enhanced by staff who often have first hand knowledge of their culture and are able to speak to them in their home language. Staff read to children from books written in a variety of languages and offer them play items which are familiar to them. Children develop a positive view of gender and people with special needs as they play with an exceptional variety of books and toys which reflect today's society.

Children benefit from the close liaison between crèche staff and other Sure Start colleagues who work together to support their development. They settle quickly and enjoy their time in the crèche as staff discuss their individual needs with parents. Effective use of praise and encouragement helps children develop their ideas and interact with other children and staff.

Children receive continuity of care as a result of the excellent relationships established between parents and staff. Parents receive very detailed information about their child's experiences at the setting through daily feedback sheets and they are invited to make comments. Staff use this information to further enhance the high standard of care provided for all children.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are very well cared for by a highly qualified and skilled staff team. Excellent recruitment and very thorough vetting procedures ensure children's continual well being and safety. Staff are strongly encouraged to update their skills through regular training and are all involved in developing the setting's policies and operational plan. As a result, the premises are well organised and staff are very enthusiastic in their delivery of a quality play experience.

All documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well being is in place and of very high quality. The setting generally operates with a high staff: child ratio and is able to provide individual adult attention as appropriate. Parents are provided with many opportunities to express their views and contribute to the care provided for their child. This close co-operation ensures that the needs of all children attending the crèche are fully met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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:

