



Hamoaze House

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY306757
Inspection date	09 March 2006
Inspector	Linda Priest

Setting Address	Hamoaze House Trevi Family Centre, Hamoaze House, Mount Wise, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 4JQ
Telephone number	01752 566100
E-mail	
Registered person	Hamoaze House
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?

Hamoaze House Trevi Family Centre was registered in July 2005 and is situated in the Mount Wise area of Plymouth. The family centre operates a crèche for the children of service users in a self-contained area of the building. The crèche has use of a kitchen/staff office, two play rooms and a bathroom with toilets for children. There is a secure outside play area for children to use.

The crèche is open from 09:30 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 16:00, Monday to Friday throughout the year, closing on Bank Holidays. There is currently a maximum of 10 children aged from birth to 8t years old attending for a variety of different sessions.

There are 2 staff members with a level 3 and a level 4 qualification in early years childcare employed to look after the children.

The group receives support from Plymouth Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's dietary needs and medical conditions are clearly identified and conscientiously met through the completion of records and on-going discussion with parents. Written permissions are in place to ensure a children's medical needs are met in an emergency. However, these are handwritten addendums to the registration form and in one case were incomplete, leaving a child vulnerable in an emergency. Any minor accident is knowledgeably dealt with as staff have completed first aid courses. Accidents are suitably recorded and the information is shared with parents to ensure they are fully aware of any further care required for their child. Good hygiene is routinely encouraged to safeguard children's health and protect them from infections. For example, the children know to wash their hands before food and after using the toilet; tables are cleaned appropriately before snack; all areas are clean and well maintained with helpful rotas for regular cleaning routines displayed and up to date.

Children enjoy balanced and nutritious snacks, benefiting from the setting's strong belief in healthy eating. For example, fresh and dried fruits, cheese and bread sticks are regularly offered for snacks and sweets and salty snacks are limited. Drinks are available at snack time to quench thirst and prevent dehydration, they are left out for children to finish throughout the remainder of the session. Children are able to make choices from a selection of foods suggested by staff for the snack. Their developing independence is encouraged as they pour their own drinks, taking care as they manipulate the jug.

Babies individual food, drink and sleep routines are conscientiously met after discussion and agreement with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a cheerful, welcoming, clean and safe environment. Good use is made of areas available to meet their differing needs, such as a separate room for babies to play or sleep and a secure outdoor play area. Children's work, colourful wall displays and toys invite children into the setting and encourage their exploration of the resources available to them. The broad range of good quality toys, books and resources already in the setting is supplemented by the use of the local book and toy libraries. This extends children's opportunities for challenge and enjoyment through play.

Children are kept safe through good systems in place. For example, secure exit doors, monitoring of visitors and use of close circuit television, safety gates, fire safety equipment and drills, socket covers and some radiator covers. However, some radiators are not sufficiently covered at all times, leaving the very hot radiator exposed and a danger to children. Babies are checked for safety every 15 minutes when asleep with a monitor in place for extra care. Excellent risk assessments are carried out routinely and well displayed to remind staff of action to take to minimise risks to children in all areas of the setting.

Staff have a sound understanding of child protection procedures, which means they act in the children's best interests and protect them from harm in the event of any concerns. The procedure for this is appropriately shared with parents to keep them fully informed and aware of the setting's commitment to protecting children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's activities are well supported by a good selection of toys, books and materials that stimulate, engage and hold their interest. They can freely choose toys and resources for themselves as they are very familiar with the organisation within the rooms. They have opportunities to visit the local library with staff to choose extra books and get to know the benefits and enjoyment obtained from access to a wider range of books.

Children's activities are planned around a flexible daily routine. This allows for a very child centred approach, with children able to choose for themselves from the inviting displays of suggested activities and easy access to toys. They are able to decide how long they want to spend at each activity and what they want to do next. Excellent interaction with staff and children playing happily together maintains the children's interest and enjoyment of activities and stimulates their learning and understanding as they play. For example, when children decided to play with the pirate ship on the sea, staff reminded them of past visits to the aquarium. This extends their use of language as they discuss the different animals and asking them about the colours of the 'jewels' in the pirates treasure box. The skilful way in which staff ask questions and provide challenges for children is helping them to develop appropriately and enhances their ability to learn from many of the activities they enjoy. For example, staff know how much children can dress themselves and encourage and allow them space to do this independently when playing with the dressing up clothes. However, there are some missed opportunities when children's learning could be further enhanced. For example when children are playing on the computer they are not encouraged to find letters they are starting to recognise in their name.

Children are very comfortable and settled with each other and the staff which maximises their ability to gain from learning opportunities as they play. They are able to be spontaneous and enthusiastic, for example as they burst into songs that are quickly taken up by staff who join in and supply musical instruments to accompany the songs. They all have fun as they laugh and dance as they do the actions to the songs and rhymes. Later, good use is made of a close and comfortable time

together, relaxing and sharing a favourite book, with children cuddling in on staff's knees as they get tired and ready to go home.

Young children and babies are cared for by staff who are aware of and use the Birth to three matters framework to enhance their growth and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The setting is proactive in providing children with a wide range of resources to give them an awareness of other cultures and to promote a positive view of the wider world. This is further enhanced for children as they celebrate differences through festivals such as the Chinese New Year. There are currently no children with special needs at the crèche. However, staff are aware of the importance of working with parents to identify and meet any child's specific need in order to fully include them within the setting.

Children's behaviour is extremely well managed through positive reinforcement and praise. A very good staff ratio means each child receives a great deal of time and attention to keep them busy, motivated and therefore well behaved. This is further reinforced through the excellent relationships within the crèche, where each child is very well known to staff who understand how to manage behaviour in a gentle and caring manner. Staff provide excellent role models and children are friendly, polite and respectful as a result. For example, as everyone helps to tidy up staff say "Look how good A is at tidying up, thank you for doing that". Children are happy to help look after 'their crèche' as they feel a real sense of belonging. They routinely tidy things away before moving on to the next activity and work well as a team doing things together, helping and sharing well.

Each child's individual needs are clearly identified and met through a good partnership with parents which ensures they are cared for in a positive way by the staff. Clear information is exchanged both formally and informally to help in this process. For example, discussion as children arrive and depart and an informative parents' notice board with leaflets and policies displayed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The crèche meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. A robust and rigorous employment procedure ensures care is provided by staff who are appropriately checked, experienced and suitable to work with children. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of caring for children. This is supplied through their level 3 or 4 qualification, from previous experience and from more recent training in aspects of child care such as the Birth to three matters framework. Small group sizes and staff deployment significantly contribute to children's good health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. Staff have time to organise and plan for children's care and to work closely with them when they

are present. Documents which support the well being of children are well maintained, reviewed regularly and shared with parents. More recent requirements, such as a complaints log are being addressed and will shortly be completed.

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):

- make sure all radiators are made safe.

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