



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 251689

DfES Number: 510834

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	25/01/2005
Inspector Name	Glenda Kathleen Field

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Sutton Heath Childcare Centre
Setting Address	Community Centre Easton Road, Sutton Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 3TD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Sutton Heath Childcare Centre 1061780/0
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Sutton Heath Childcare Centre
Address	Sutton Heath Community Centre Easton Road, Sutton Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 3TD

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

Information about the setting

Sutton Heath Childcare Centre is located on MOD property at Sutton Heath near Ipswich, Suffolk. It opened in 1993 and operates from rooms within the community centre. They are a committee managed setting. A maximum of 76 children may attend the setting at any one time. The Childcare Centre is open each weekday from 09:00 to 15:25 during term time only. All children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 43 children aged from birth to under 5 years on roll. Of these 19 children receive funding for nursery education. The nursery currently supports a number of children with special educational needs.

The centre employs 12 staff. Most of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications or are working towards a qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Sutton Heath Childcare Centre provides good quality care for children.

The staff team work very effectively together. The rooms are highly organised with full use made of the space and resources available. There is access to outdoor play areas. Each room is well equipped and there are good opportunities for display. Most of the staff hold childcare qualifications or are working towards them. There is an appraisal system in place identifying further training needs and a training plan has been produced. Policies and procedures are provided in a well organised operational plan. Records are stored securely and confidentiality is observed.

Clear levels of safety and security are identified in the policies and procedures. Staff are very aware of these. This ensures that children can play safely. However, written parental consent needs to be sought for the seeking of any emergency treatment or advice necessary. Healthy snacks are provided during the sessions and dietary requirements are recorded and acknowledged. There are effective procedures in place to support children with special needs.

A broad range of activities are provided to encourage children's development in all areas. There are very good levels of interaction taking place between adults and children. Children are given praise and encouragement and their behaviour is valued and managed well. Children come together as a group at set times during the session for example, at snack times, registration, story time and PE. At other times, children are able to explore and make their own decisions about their play.

The parents are provided with good quality information about the setting and have daily contact with the staff. Children's progress and development is recorded and shared with parents. Good links are established with children's key workers. Parents are very satisfied with the care and education their children receive and speak highly of the setting.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the setting agreed to ensure the outside play area was safe and secure; keep a record of visitors to the premises; develop a clear policy about exclusion of children who are ill or infectious and to include a procedure for contacting parents if a child becomes ill whilst in daycare; establish a written no smoking policy; further develop the behaviour management statement to include bullying and methods used to manage children's behaviour; include contact details of Ofsted as the regulator in the complaints procedure.

The setting have made the outside area safe and secure; implemented a visitors book and developed and updated policies where required. This helps to ensure the safety of the children.

What is being done well?

- Staff's experience and commitment to ongoing training ensures they are up to date on new developments in early years. Children benefit from being cared for by an experienced and qualified staff team.
- There is good regard for safety issues within the building and outside the children are safe and secure, enabling them to develop in confidence as they play and learn.
- The setting provides a well-organised environment which enables children to be independent and to make decisions about their choice of activities and resources. Children are therefore involved and interested in their play.
- Resources are good, and help to create a stimulating environment, where children can play safely.
- The partnership between the staff and parents and carers is strong and enables both parties to contribute towards the children's care and education.

What needs to be improved?

- written parental consent for seeking emergency medical treatment.

Outcome of the inspection
Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION
<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection	
Std	Recommendation
7	Ensure that written parental consent is obtained for the seeking of any emergency medical treatment or advice that may be necessary.

INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at Sutton Heath Childcare Centre is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the Early Learning Goals.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have sound knowledge of the Foundation Stage and are well qualified and experienced. They competently provide a stimulating environment in which children are able to learn and have fun. They successfully balance free choice with purposeful, sustained activities. Children are presented with good resources and a wealth of stimulating activities.

A good format for planning, evaluation and assessment is in place. As a consequence activities are meaningful to children as individuals, enabling them to develop good self-esteem and confidence. Children with special needs are being well supported.

The leadership and management of the nursery is very good. Both the manager and staff demonstrate their commitment to improving the care and education of children. Regular staff meetings, training, induction, appraisals and policy reviews take place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the nursery provision.

The nursery has a very good partnership with parents and carers. They have devised an effective routine for sharing information and parents and carers are encouraged to complete questionnaires, in order to have an input in their children's care and education.

What is being done well?

- The children are well taught and as a consequence they are learning and developing skills in all areas of the curriculum.
- The manager of the nursery is effective in establishing staff teams and ensuring effective planning, evaluation and assessment. This has a positive impact on the quality of care and education that is offered.
- Resources are of good quality and well used to support children's learning.
- Staff interaction with children is good, which enables children to feel valued. They are set realistic goals, with high expectations, and are able to enjoy their successes.
- A good range of activities are provided to foster children's creative development. Children use their imagination well during role play and art and craft activities.

What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● there are no significant weaknesses to report.

What has improved since the last inspection?
<p>The nursery has made very good progress since the last inspection. The nursery has implemented the three key issues raised, which were:</p> <p>Increase the staff's knowledge of the stepping stones of learning for the four-year-olds to provide a challenge and extension in learning for those children.</p> <p>Staff attended training for Foundation Planning, Introduction to the Foundation Stage and Developing the Foundation Stage Curriculum. A revised record keeping format was introduced incorporating the Early Learning Goals and the stepping stones within them.</p> <p>This ensures that the quality and continuity of the programme is maintained.</p> <p>Improve the four-year-olds understanding of the sound of letters and how those sounds build into words. Encourage them to use this knowledge to begin writing simple words.</p> <p>Letter of the week has been introduced, repetition is used in stories and rhymes. New books introduced e.g. Dr.Seuss. The sounding of first letter of common objects and names. A revised literacy area has been introduced with common everyday words as labelling. As a result provision in this area is now good.</p> <p>Increase the four-year-olds understanding of number problems during play. Involve them in simple addition and subtraction during daily routines and whilst using a variety of objects.</p> <p>Counting and adding at everyday activities e.g. registration, snack time is now included along with addition and subtraction within rhymes, songs and stories. A pegged number line is now in place. Staff have attended training in "Early Years Mathematics". As a result provision in this area is now good.</p>

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are secure and have good self-esteem. They develop good relationships with the staff and each other. They are confident and demonstrate a strong sense of belonging. Children are independent, take initiatives and manage tasks appropriately such as pouring their own drinks. They are very comfortable with the routines of the setting and operate effectively within the environment. Children's behaviour is very good and they are well aware of the behavioural expectations of the setting.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's spoken language is developing well. They express their feelings and imagined experiences through role-play situations and when adults talk to them. They use language for thinking. Children access books and enjoy sharing them with each other and when listening to staff reading to them. They recognise their names and have regular opportunities to link sounds and letters. Children use pens and pencils in their role play and on more formal occasions when forming letters.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children can count up to ten and beyond. They complete counting activities and recognise numerals during their everyday activities. Children engage in some simple calculation tasks and can compare two groups of objects. They use and identify shapes during their play to build with, match and sort. Children are learning to use language to describe and compare size and quantity through messy play and construction activities. Water and sand play introduces concept of weight and measure.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have many opportunities to explore and investigate objects and materials using their senses. They are gaining a good awareness of time and place through topics and in discussions with staff. They go on nature walks and visit the local environment. Visits to the setting are made by people from the community e.g. police. There is an outside play area where they can explore. Opportunities are made for children to know about other cultures and beliefs through topics and access to books.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are learning to handle some tools, materials and objects with increasing co-ordination e.g. when building, using scissors and writing equipment. Regular opportunities are provided for outdoor activities when children play with a range of large equipment e.g. climbing frames, bikes, bats and balls and indoors in the soft play area. Weekly P.E. activities enable children to gain an awareness of space. Health and body awareness is addressed in topics.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children use a variety of materials such as twigs, paper collage and paint to communicate their ideas and explore textures, colour, shape and form. Displays of children's work helps to create a welcoming environment and also to provide a good point of reference for discussions. The children enjoy singing and have regular access to a range of musical instruments. Their sensory development is encouraged through handling various materials, such as sand, clay, dough and ice.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to the following:
- reflect on recent training that staff have attended to see if improvements can be made to existing good practice.

The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.