

Rainbow Children's Centre, Bedworth Heath

179-181 Smorrall Lane, Bedworth, CV12 OJP

Inspection date		16–17 July 2013	
Overall effectiveness	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not previously inspected	
Access to services by young children and families		Good	2
The quality of practice and services		Good	2
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management		Good	2

Summary of key findings for children and families

This is a good centre.

- The centre provides good quality services for the families and children in the area, particularly those in most need. Information gathered from a wide range of sources is used effectively to measure the impact of the centre's work and to continuously refine and improve what it offers.
- The leader is passionate about improving provision and outcomes for families and young children. Self-evaluation is accurate and involves the views of all relevant parties.
- Centre staff work effectively to encourage families to use the services provided. Actions, such as providing a crèche for children, enable parents to attend courses they might otherwise not.
- All centre staff work wholeheartedly to make sure that the centre is effective in reducing inequalities, especially for families in most need. This is reflected in the gap in attainment between the children who score least in assessments at school and the rest, which is reducing steadily.
- Governance is good. The local authority and Spurgeons monitor the work of the centre well and set realistic improvement targets. The advisory board has a good understanding of the strengths of the centre and what it needs to focus on next. These features underpin the centre's good capacity to build for even better effectiveness.
- Staff development is managed effectively. Performance targets for staff are linked closely to on-going training. This is matched to the needs of the centre and its families, as well as to the professional development of those involved. As a result, staff have the relevant and up-to-date knowledge they require to do their jobs well and a strong sense that they are valued.
- The records kept of individual children's development are of high quality and a particular strength of the centre. They are used when planning activities so that each child's needs are met and they are shared with parents who are very appreciative of the information they contain.

It is not outstanding because:

- Only a minority of eligible two year olds receive their entitlement to 15 hours of free education per week.
- The proportion of parents involved in the centre's strategic decision-making and development is relatively small.
- Childhood obesity levels are higher than the county average.

Information about this inspection

The inspection of this children's centre was carried out under Part 3A of the Childcare Act 2006 as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

This inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

The inspectors held meetings with the centre leader and deputy leader, representatives of the local authority and from Spurgeons (the charity with delegated responsibility for the governance of the centre), members of the advisory board and parents' forum, parents attending courses, volunteers, key staff and partners, including representatives from education, health services, the local church, youth workers and private providers.

The inspectors visited activities at the centre, Smorrall Lane site and at Keresely Newland Primary School.

Two observations were undertaken jointly with senior staff and the two senior leaders attended all inspection team meetings.

They observed the centre's work, and looked at a range of relevant documentation including the centre's self evaluation and development planning, parental satisfaction surveys, safeguarding policies and procedures and a sample of case studies and files.

Inspection team

Sheelagh Barnes, Lead inspector

Additional inspector

Deborah Sanders

Additional inspector

Full report

Information about the centre

This is a phase one centre, designated in 2006. It provides services on three sites and uses three additional outreach sites. The main building is based within the local community centre. The two other sites are at Keresley Newland Primary School and Newdigate Primary School. These schools are inspected separately. The local authority has delegated responsibility for the management of the centre to Spurgeons, a charity which runs a number of other centres nationally. The head of the centre also manages another centre nearby. There is an advisory board and also a parents' forum as part of the management structure of the centre.

The centre's reach area includes 475 children under five years of age most of whom are White British. The largest ethnic minority groups are from Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe and there are small numbers of Asian families. The area is very mixed socially and economically, and data shows that around a fifth of the children in the area live in households where no-one has a job. There is a significant minority of lone parents and a high number of low income families living in the area. Key priority groups identified by the centre include expectant teenagers and teenage parents, lone parents, children and families living in workless households and children with disabilities.

The centre provides the full core offer of early education, childcare and health services, family support and adult learning courses. Most children enter early education with skills that are lower than those expected for their age, especially in communication and language development. As a result, the centre has made early language development one of its key target areas for work with parents.

The child care provision made by the children's centre was inspected in March 2012. The report can be found at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk>.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- The centre with the local authority and all relevant responsible parties should seek ways to ensure that enough places are found for eligible two year olds to receive their entitlement of 15 hours of good quality free education per week.
- Widen the opportunities for parents' involvement in making decisions about key priorities and the strategic development of the centre.
- Ensure that the actions taken to raise health awareness and promote healthy eating and healthy lifestyles result in a reduction in childhood obesity that is in line with the county average or below.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families

Good

- The centre has established contact with the majority of families with young children in the area and these have registered with the centre. Approximately half of local families regularly access the centre's services.
- Centre leaders have identified the priority families most in need of support, including pregnant teenagers, young and lone parents, children with disabilities and those living in workless families and provide the courses and specialist services required to improve their lives. They monitor how families use these services and how they value them.
- Satisfaction surveys are completed regularly and parents' preferences, including timing of events are taken into account. This information is used to adapt what is provided. As a result, families and children continue to benefit from services until their needs are met and are full of praise for the centre's work.
- Centre staff make it easy for parents to use services, for example, by providing a crèche for their

children. Parents say because of this they are able to benefit from courses that might otherwise be difficult for them to attend.

- Fathers' groups are run on Saturdays to enable those who work to take part and these are very popular. One father said how much he enjoyed the activities and that it also enabled his wife to have some much needed rest.
- The centre is effective in promoting equality of opportunity, fostering good relations and tackling discrimination. Several parents spoken to by inspectors were very emotional about the high quality support given to them by staff to help them get through difficult times.
- Families with young children are helped to take up their free entitlement to early education. The majority of three and four year old children attain a place. This is having a positive impact on early speech and language development by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Due to a combination of factors, only a small minority of eligible two year old children are able to access their entitlement to 15 hours of free education per week.

The quality of practice and services

Good

- The quality, range and relevance of services are good and these have a positive impact on the well-being of families with young children. Strong links with health services, schools and adult training and employment services enable the centre to achieve virtually all its well-conceived aims for targeted families.
- The seamless provision for antenatal care, parenting courses, post natal support, breast feeding, weaning and health checks all on one site enables teenage and young parents to build confidence to ask questions and tackle any issues that arise. Good work supports new mothers in making healthy choices. For example, figures for sustained breast feeding are improving dramatically with 50% of the mothers in one group breastfeeding their babies for at least four months.
- Immunisation rates are very high with almost all young children fully immunised. However, despite considerable work to encourage healthy eating and lifestyles, childhood obesity levels are higher than in other parts of the county.
- The centre keeps very good records of the progress of all children who attend, linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. These records are used in planning activities that meet the needs of each child well. They also record the good progress children make.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage profile shows that the gap between the lowest achieving 20% of children and the rest has narrowed significantly over recent years. Figures for children attaining a good level of development have improved measurably and are now broadly similar to the county average.
- The specific, monthly 'Stomp' activity for disabled children and those with special educational needs is much enjoyed. The thorough records kept by staff show the very good progress these children make.
- The centre has been successful in providing opportunities for adults to increase their skills and employability, including those from workless homes. Accredited courses are run by the centre. In addition, parents are directed to Adult and Community Learning run literacy and numeracy courses. The retention rates of these courses is good, with virtually all participants completing the courses and attaining level one and then level two qualifications.
- Good opportunities are provided for volunteers to help in the centre, whilst at the same time building their own skills and competencies. Virtually all of the volunteers who are eligible have gone on to further education, training or employment as a result of their voluntary work.
- The centre works hard to reduce inequalities. For example, careers advice is given to parents at a number of workshops. Partnership work with Jobcentre Plus, the Warwickshire Welfare rights Advisory Service and charities including Christians Against Poverty lead to families benefitting from advice when writing their curriculum vitae and when applying for grants for such things as clothing for interviews. The centre has also successfully referred a number of families, including lone parents, to seek help in claiming the benefits to which they are entitled.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management**Good**

- Systems for governance of the centre are effective. Centre leaders, representatives of Spurgeons and the local authority work together efficiently to monitor the work of the centre, in particular in relation to its work with families in most need.
- Good service level agreements are in place which ensure that information sharing for the benefit of young children and families is effective. This, in turn, leads to good access to services, particularly for priority families, including children whose welfare needs to be monitored closely.
- Data is kept carefully, timely assessments made and performance measures agreed. The challenges set by the local authority are rigorous for the most part and the centre staff are passionate in their commitment to achieve or to surpass these.
- A great deal of support is provided for families with babies and young children, including informal opportunities to discuss problems, which parents spoke to inspectors about very positively. As a result, the work of the centre improves the lives of families in the area and goes a long way to reducing inequality.
- The strength of good multi-agency working in the centre is particularly beneficial when practitioners are working with children who are identified as at risk, on the child protection register, who have been assessed under the Common Assessment Framework, or children who are looked after and those identified as in need of particular support.
- Safeguarding and vetting systems are robust. Secure procedures are in place to ensure training and documentation is up to date. There are clear policies, including for child protection and risk analysis. Records are maintained to a good standard and the process is tightly organised and managed.
- The centre regularly seeks the views of families, including by commissioning surveys, to assess how well parents feel that their needs are met. Parental views are positive and have resulted in a number of changes. These include the setting up of a coffee morning for parents to discuss issues, creating a notice board and changing timing of courses.
- A small number of parents, a representative cross section of the range of families who use the centre, are involved in the parents' forum and two parents are on the advisory board. However minutes of meetings are not automatically shared with all users. As a result, although families are involved in the design and development of services, they are less regularly involved with the strategic development of the centre.
- Centre leaders ensure that the resources at their disposal are used effectively to meet the needs of children and families in the area. Following cuts to their budget, all expenditure and use of staff time and resources is carefully considered to ensure choices made have the maximum benefit for the most needy. Centre staff are also diligent in seeking help from local industry and grants. Because of this, they have been able to supplement what their budget can provide.

What inspection judgements mean

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	Practice consistently reflects the highest aspirations for children and their families and as a result inequalities are reducing rapidly and gaps are closing.
Grade 2	Good	Practice enables most children and their families to access good quality services that improve children's wellbeing and achieve the stated outcomes for families.
Grade 3	Requires improvement	Performance is not as good as it might reasonably be expected to be in one or more key areas.
Grade 4	Inadequate	The needs of children and families in its area are not being met and/or the leaders and managers are not providing sufficient challenge to bring about improvement to the quality of services.

Children's Centre

Unique reference number	22462
Local authority	Warwickshire
Inspection number	423066
Managed by	Spurgeons on behalf of the local authority

Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	475
Centre leader	Ann Kopczewski
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected
Telephone number	024 76644276
Email address	akopczewski@spurgeons.org

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