

# Midland Road Nursery School and Children's Centre

Bateman Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD8 7DJ

**Inspection date** 19–20 February 2014

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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.

- Most families from the reach area are registered with the centre and have good access to the services it offers.
- The centre works exceptionally well with partner organisations. As a result, it provides a very wide range of services for families and, also, good support to those families identified as having the most needs.
- The quality of courses and activities that the centre provides is good. These help families to improve their health, their education and their life chances.
- Parents make an excellent contribution to the work of the centre. They are strong advocates for its role in the community and, through their participation in the parents' forum and advisory board, are actively involved in decision-making.
- Leadership, governance and management arrangements are effective and ensure that the centre is continually improving the quality and impact of its work. At all levels, leaders, managers and staff are strongly committed to improving outcomes for families.

### It is not outstanding because:

- Leaders do not use data well enough to monitor the participation rates of key target groups. This limits the centre's ability to assess the extent to which it is making a difference to the lives of families from these groups.
- The quality of information recorded in case files requires improvement in order to ensure that records accurately reflect the support provided to parents and children, and actions taken, particularly during home visits.

**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 three additional inspectors.

The inspectors held meetings with leaders and managers of Midland Road Nursery School and Children’s Centre, centre staff and volunteers, parents, school governors and advisory board members, local authority managers and staff from partner organisations such as health, education and local community organisations.

The inspectors observed an activity at an off-site venue.

They observed the centre’s work, and looked at a range of relevant documentation such as the centre’s self-evaluation documentation, evaluations from parents and development plans.

**Inspection team**

Priscilla McGuire, Lead inspector	Additional inspector
Cathryn Parry	Additional inspector
Tara Street	Additional inspector

## Full report

### Information about the centre

Midland Road Nursery School and Children's Centre in Bradford offers integrated provision for families. The nursery school (URN107189) is subject to separate inspection arrangements. A report for the school is available at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk). Services offered at the centre and at venues within the community include adult learning, early years education, health services, family support and welfare advice and support.

Most families in the area are of South Asian origin, although an increasing number of children and families from Eastern Europe also live in the area. The governing body of the nursery school manages the centre on behalf of the local authority. The 'families and community committee' acts as the advisory board for the centre. The majority of children (86%) live within areas identified as highly deprived. According to the most recently available data, approximately 26.3% of families are unemployed; local information suggests this figure is increasing. Take-up of free school meals is around 22% compared to the district average of 23%. Most children enter early years provision with skills, knowledge and abilities below those expected for their age.

Target groups identified by the centre are European migrants, teenage parents, lone parents, disabled children, looked-after children and asylum seekers.

There are approximately 1,032 children aged from birth to four years living in the area.

### What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Further develop existing systems for monitoring participation rates in order to ensure that leaders are able to analyse data and monitor the participation of target groups.
- Improve the quality of recording of information in case files to ensure that all aspects of support provided to parents and children, particularly during home visits, is accurately and chronologically recorded.

## Inspection judgements

### Access to services by young children and families

Good

- As a result of its successful work with partner organisations and through effective strategies to publicise its centre, the centre has been able to register most of the families who live within its reach area.
- The quality of information-sharing with professionals from health and education, for example, and also with the local authority, is good. This enables the centre to get to know the families in its community well and to identify its key priority groups.
- Through their effective work within the community and directly with families, centre staff accurately identify and prioritise families with the most needs. As a result, there is a good match between families' needs and the services that the centre offers.
- Systems to monitor overall registration and participation rates are good. However, the centre does not use data well enough to monitor the extent to which families that it has identified as specific target groups such as asylum seekers and teenage parents, regularly participate in centre activities. This limits the centre's ability to reflect the impact of all its work with families from these groups accurately.
- The centre actively promotes free early years education for two-year-olds and the very large majority of children who are entitled to, take up places. Some early years provision is offered directly at the centre through its nursery school, which has been judged to be outstanding.

**The quality of practice and services**

Good

- The centre offers a wide range of courses and activities to help families improve their health, their education and their overall life chances. There is a good balance between universal services for all families and more specialised services for 'targeted' families.
- Courses and activities to help parents improve their education, parenting skills, health and their self-development are good. Many parents enjoy and benefit from courses such as 'English for Speakers of Other Languages' (ESOL) and 'Cook and Eat' sessions. They also benefit from activities that promote their children's oral health.
- There are good opportunities for parents to volunteer and support the work of the centre. The centre provides a structured programme for volunteers and, as a result of volunteering, a significant number of parents improve their personal skills, increase their employment prospects and access good quality training. However, the centre does not yet offer an accredited programme for volunteers.
- The centre's commitment to equality of opportunity is exemplified by the quality and impact of the excellent range of activities that it offers for fathers. Courses such as 'Nurturing' help many fathers to improve both their relationships with their children and their parenting skills.
- The percentage of local children who achieve a good level of development by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage is below the national rate. However, the centre provides good quality provision for children and also equips parents with the skills, confidence and resources to support their children's learning at home.
- Centre staff accurately assess the needs of families and provide good support. Parents comment very positively about the impact of the support and guidance they receive. However, the quality of case files requires improvement because records about the support that the centre provides and the actions that staff take are not always sufficiently detailed. Activities are not always recorded in chronological order, which makes it difficult to identify the impact of support provided. In addition, staff do not always record whether or not they have contacted or seen children during home visits. However, in the instances seen, this did not pose a risk to children.

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

Good

- Centre staff are passionate about their work and are strongly committed to doing their very best for families and for their local community. They work well together and very productively as a team.
- The quality of governance, leadership and management is good. At all levels, leaders and managers are highly effective in their roles and provide both support and challenge to the centre. They are well aware of the centre's strengths and areas for further development and take good account of performance data when monitoring the impact of the centre's work.
- The local authority provides good support to the centre and effectively monitors its performance through an annual review process and regular monitoring visits. Performance targets are also set to challenge the centre to do better. All these processes work in conjunction with the centre's own effective self-evaluation and 'monitoring and evaluation' schedule to improve the impact of its work.
- Safeguarding is a clear priority at the centre and policies and procedures, including those for safer recruitment, are comprehensive and implemented well. Staff complete relevant training in safeguarding and have a good understanding of what action to take if they are concerned about the safety of children or parents. They also use the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), as appropriate.
- Centre staff have built excellent relationships with professionals, from health and education for example, and also with local community organisations. As a result, the centre is able to offer a wide range of services, activities and support to meet the need of families. 'They are really good at galvanising the local community', and, 'Managers have a positive energy and a collective and inclusive approach', are just some of the comments from partners which reflect the centre's highly productive partnership work.
- Through their work on the parents' forum and the advisory board, parents make an excellent contribution to the work of the centre. Managers constantly seek and value their views and they help to influence the delivery and design of services.

- Resources to meet the needs of families and the wider community are good. Managers use resources well to respond to local priorities, to minimise barriers that lead to inequalities and also to respond to the specific needs of families. They also ensure the centre is a warm, welcoming and attractive environment for families and visitors.

**What inspection judgements mean**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Judgement</b>	<b>Description</b>
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 details**

<b>Unique reference number</b>	22004
<b>Local authority</b>	Bradford
<b>Inspection number</b>	430179
<b>Managed by</b>	The governing body of Midland Road nursery school manage the centre on behalf of the local authority

<b>Approximate number of children under five in the reach area</b>	1,032
<b>Centre manager</b>	Sharon Hogan
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not previously inspected
<b>Telephone number</b>	01274 546492
<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:sharon.hogan@midlandroad.co.uk">sharon.hogan@midlandroad.co.uk</a>

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