

Smileys Creche

Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust, Staffordshire General Hospital,
Weston Road, STAFFORD, ST16 3SA



Inspection date	20 July 2015
Previous inspection date	22 August 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff are well qualified and teaching is good. Staff provide an interesting range of activities indoors and outdoors which capture the children's curiosity. Children show good levels of interest in their chosen play and enjoy their time at the setting.
- Staff involve parents and carers well. They are invited to share their experiences with children, which are often linked to the topic being covered. They contribute to the children's assessments and are kept up to date about their children's progress.
- Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding issues and this helps to promote children's welfare and keep them safe.
- Good progress has been made since the last inspection in broadening the range of experiences offered to children. The leaders have a more accurate overview of the quality of service provided and know what actions to take to further enhance practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The leaders do not always monitor the delivery of activities in the toddler room precisely enough to raise achievement to a higher level.
- Staff do not provide a wide enough range of mathematical experiences to extend further older children's interest and learning in mathematics.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- monitor more precisely the delivery of activities in the toddler room so they provide the best possible challenge
- provide a broader range of mathematical experiences in the pre-school room that reflect the children's interests and will increase their learning in this area.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playrooms and outdoors.
- The inspector held a meeting with the registered individual/manager and deputy manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working within the creche and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector also took account of the feedback from parents and carers.

Inspector

Parm Sansoyer

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff use observation and assessment well to help build on children's progress. All children make good progress, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. Staff provide a good range of quality experiences for children to freely play, explore and discover. In addition, they ensure that older children have regular opportunities to actively learn and develop skills in preparation for school. This results in a good range of interesting activities being offered to motivate children. Staff provide a varied range of opportunities for children to increase their mathematical learning. However, children in the pre-school room do not always show an interest in what is provided because some activities do not always reflect their interests. Consequently, older children's learning is not fully extended in this area. Children's communication and language is promoted well. Staff caring for babies make good use of gesture, facial expressions and tone of voice to communicate with the youngest children. Older children are encouraged to increase their vocabulary and link sounds to letters. Staff consistently introduce and repeat new words and talk to children about what they are doing. In addition, the use of bilingual staff, basic signing and key words in the children's first language increases children's skills in English.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Staff know their assigned key children well and are attentive to the needs of new children who are settling. Staff provide a flexible routine and children are happy and independent. For example, during holiday club sessions children confidently use the outdoor and indoor space and make the most of what is available. Children learn how to recognise danger and keep safe as part of the daily routine. For example, children easily recall how they will keep safe in the sun. Staff teach children about leading a healthy lifestyle through various topics. They benefit from a nutritious meal and enjoy physical activity. Staff develop warm and caring relationships with the children and use positive strategies to manage the children's behaviour. Children are well behaved and understand the importance of taking turns and listening to each other.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The management team has a good understanding of how to implement the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This results in children's achievements, welfare and well-being being promoted well. Staff benefit from regular staff supervision and receive targeted training. Leaders regularly monitor the educational programmes to ensure children are provided with rich experiences overall. However, they do not always monitor precisely the delivery of activities in the toddler room. For example, these children are not encouraged to use and fully explore and investigate all the activities made available. As a result, their learning is not always fully challenged. There are good links with the local schools and other professionals working with children, so that information is shared and children's needs are met.

Setting details

Unique reference number	218487
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	864197
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	72
Number of children on roll	382
Name of provider	Smileys Creche Ltd
Date of previous inspection	22 August 2011
Telephone number	01785 220720

Smileys Creche opened in 1990. It operates in a single-storey building in the grounds of Staffordshire General Hospital in the town of Stafford. It also provides a before and after school club and holiday playscheme for children aged from five to 11 years. The creche supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and those who speak English as an additional language. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It is open each weekday throughout the year, except for bank holidays and a few days at Christmas. Sessions are from 6.45am to 6pm. There are 29 staff employed. Of these, 24 hold an early years qualification at level 3, two hold a qualification at level 4 and three are unqualified.

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