



Bede Sure Start

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY284432
Inspection date	21 September 2006
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Registered person	South Tyneside Council; Children & Young People
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Bede Sure Start Nursery is run by a committee. It opened in 2004 and operates from five playrooms in self-contained facilities within the Sure Start Centre. It is situated in the residential area of Jarrow. A maximum of 30 children may attend the Nursery and a maximum of 35 children may attend the Crèche at any one time. The nursery is open each week day from 08.00 until 18.00 for 51 weeks of the year. The crèche is open as and when needed during adult training sessions.

There are currently 42 children aged from birth to eight years on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area. The nursery and crèche supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The nursery employs nine staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and four are working towards a higher qualification. Crèche staff are employed from outside agencies.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children in the crèche and nursery have access to a clean, comfortable environment. They benefit from staff taking steps to prevent the spread of infection. For example, they keep table tops clean with anti bacterial spray, handle food safely and wear disposable gloves and aprons when changing nappies. Most children wash their hands before snacks and meal times, however, children under the age of two years in the nursery do not wash their hands before meals. All children are kept safe from the spread of infection by an effective sickness policy being in place. Appropriate consents and records are in place for the administration of medication and recording accidents.

Staff have a clear understanding of children's dietary needs. Their well-being is enhanced as they access a healthy diet. Meals are freshly prepared on site. Children in the crèche and nursery enjoy the positive experience of sitting together for snacks and meals. They chat to each other about what they have been doing. However, independence is not encouraged for older children in the nursery, for example, by talking about what foods they would like or pouring their own drinks. An area is set aside in the nursery garden for children to learn about growing their own vegetables. They are able to observe them growing and then are able to eat the final product, developing their awareness of healthy foods. Children in the crèche and nursery enthusiastically take an active part in physical exercise, learning about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle. They learn to manage their bodies as they climb or ride on equipment. Children are able to rest or be active as they need.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to a well organised, spacious environment. The rooms for the crèche and nursery are made welcoming with displays of children's art work and photographs of activities, giving them ownership of the environment and developing their self-esteem. The indoor and outdoor space is organised effectively enabling children to explore and take risks while being supervised. Well organised outdoor areas enable children to develop their physical skills and use their imagination well. Children use an extensive range of safe, well maintained toys and equipment suitable to the age and stage of their development. Resources are stored at child height in each of the rooms developing children's independence as they make their own selections.

Children are cared for in a very secure environment and are well protected by the procedures in place. All visitors to the building are monitored. Comprehensive risk assessments are in place with visual assessments being carried out twice daily, to protect the children. Pushchairs are stored in an area that is inaccessible to children in the nursery. However, pushchairs in the crèche are stored in the playroom with the result that they are a hazard to young children. Fire drills are carried out with the children so that they are aware of the routine. Babies and young children sleep safely and are comfortable. They are frequently monitored. Accidents are monitored in the setting. Areas for improvement are identified and carried out.

Children are well protected by staff that are confident and secure in their knowledge of child protection policies and procedures. They give priority to children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children experience a varied range of planned activities and spontaneous events, which contribute to their development inside and outside the provision. Staff provide a calm, consistent environment where all children are happy and settled. Effective strategies help new children settle well. Children are motivated and interested in a broad range of free choice activities. In the crèche they are happily occupied with a variety of activities. In particular they enjoy free access to the garden area. They express their pleasure in what they are doing, for example, laughing as they play in the ball pool, looking at themselves in the mirror. Children under the age of two years in the nursery are cared for in a calm, quiet atmosphere. They are involved in their play, looking at books, playing musical instruments or using resources in the home corner. They communicate with staff either through speech for older children, or facial expression, laughing or gurgling for younger children. Children aged over two years express themselves well as they choose what activities they would like to do. They show great curiosity in the new goldfish and are keen to show them to visitors. They gain good levels of self-esteem and confidence through the consistent support and meaningful praise they receive from staff. Staff have built positive relationships with the children in the crèche and nursery.

Comprehensive planning systems are in place. Crèche staff plan flexible activities for children and are led by the age group that attend on the day. Staff in the nursery plan long term and weekly. They carry out observations backed up by photographic evidence of children's activities. This information is kept in individual development files. They evaluate the activities and use this information to plan the next steps in children's development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a positive attitude towards others through planned activities and topics. There is a range of resources that reflect positive images for children in the nursery over the age of two years. However, they are not available in the crèche and for children under two years in the nursery, to help them value diversity. Nursery children's awareness of a wider world is raised as visitors visit the setting and outings are made in the local environment and further afield. Staff demonstrate a sound awareness of special needs issues. Good procedures are in place to identify children and to work alongside parents and other agencies. Individual educational plans are developed and where needed, staff attend additional training to help the child in the setting. All staff are calm and consistent in their approach to behaviour management. They use timely interventions where they use distraction or clear instruction which protects the child. Positive behaviour is encouraged through praise. Children are well behaved.

A close partnership with parents and carers is beneficial to the continuity of care that the children receive. They are kept regularly updated on their child's progress in the nursery and crèche through detailed daily updates. Parents and carers in the nursery have access to their

child's development folder and six monthly review meetings. The complaint procedure is shared with parents. However, it has not been updated to reflect changes in legislation in October 2005 and Ofsted's contact details have not been updated. Parents and carers are enthusiastic about the standard of care that their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Effective recruitment procedures in the nursery ensure that children are cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. The induction programmes, training and good teamwork ensures that they understand the policies and procedures and the philosophy of the provision. Crèche staff are from an outside agency. The provision ensures that they are suitable to care for children by maintaining a record of their clearances and qualifications. The required policies and procedures are in place which supports the care of the children. However, the complaints procedure needs updating to ensure that parents and carers are aware of the procedure. All records are accurate and up to date.

Crèche and nursery rooms are bright, colourful, welcoming and organised to help children become independent. A good balance is maintained between physical exercise and rest periods. Staff are enthusiastic and committed ensuring that children's time is fulfilling and productive. Activities are carefully planned ensuring that they are constantly challenged. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection recommendations were made that staff develop their knowledge and understanding of equal opportunity and special needs; that Ofsted be informed of any relevant information; the second crèche room be appropriately secured and comfortable seating be provided for adults in the two to five years playroom.

Staff have been able to access in house training from the local special needs coordinator. Additional courses have been identified during regular supervision sessions, to develop their understanding of equal opportunities and special needs. Management are fully aware of the need to inform Ofsted of any relevant information. A door has been installed in the second crèche room to protect children from unwanted visitors or from leaving the room unsupervised. Appropriate, comfortable seating has been provided for staff in all playrooms.

Complaints since the last inspection

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. Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- ensure that pushchairs belonging to children in the crèche room are stored safely
- ensure that there is a broad range of resources that reflect positive images of culture, religion, disability and gender roles in the crèche and for children under the age of two years
- update the complaints procedure to be in line with changes to legislation in October 2005 and update Ofsted's contact details
- ensure that children in the nursery under the age of two years, wash their hands before meals
- develop older children's independence at meal times so that they have a choice about what they are having.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk