



## Explore Learning

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY287633
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 August 2005
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<b>Registered person</b>	Explore Learning Ltd
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Out of School care

## 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](http://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?

Explore Learning Ltd has been registered since January 2005, and operates from a large, purpose-built room inside Sainsbury's in Hampton, Middlesex. The premises are within easy reach of local schools, buses and a main line station. Children have access to one main room and a toilet area.

There are currently 189 children from 6 years to 14 years on roll. Children can attend for two sessions a week, varying the days if they wish. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs. The group opens 7 days a week from 10:00 to 18:00 during school holidays and from 15:00 to 20:00 during term time, only

closing for 5 days a year, mainly over Christmas.

Three full time staff and thirteen part time staff work with the children. No staff currently hold any childcare qualifications but they are all working towards recognised childcare qualifications through the Open College Network. The setting receives support from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children come into a clean environment where they are encouraged to follow good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands after using the toilet. An effective daily routine of using paper towels helps prevent cross infection.

Staff hold first aid qualifications which means they can give appropriate care to children if there is an accident. Policies relating to children who are sick, ill or infectious are implemented effectively, which safeguards the health of staff and the other children attending.

Although children are not allowed to bring food into the setting, they are learning about healthy eating through themed projects such as looking at different foods. They have divided various foods into categories and had to think and talk about which foods they thought were good for them, and which foods should only be consumed in moderation. Children then designed a plate of food as part of an art project. This helps children recognise foods that are good for them.

A water dispenser within the setting enables children to access fresh drinking water at all times. Children confidently help themselves to this, which encourages them to think about their personal needs.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from participating in activities in a spacious, well organised environment which allows them to sit comfortably at computers and move around safely. Attention to the safety of the equipment used by children is given by staff, who ensure no hanging wires or electric sockets are able to cause harm to children.

Good deployment of staff ensures the safety of children at all times; the security of the centre is very good, ensuring children are unable to leave the premises without a suitable adult. Emergency evacuation procedures are displayed in the setting and copies are available to parents at the entrance. However, staff have not practiced a fire drill since opening and this compromises children's safety. Annual risk assessments of the premises are carried out by a health and safety officer for the company. However, the manager has agreed to undertake her own risk assessments on a more regular basis to identify and quickly address any potential hazards, which

will ensure the safety of children.

Staff have a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and know what action to take if they have concerns about a child in their care. This ensures staff quickly recognise when a child is in danger and can act in the child's best interest.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met as staff make initial assessments of each child's ability; this helps them plan a programme for each child to ensure their learning and developmental needs are met. Staff involve parents in the assessment of their child, which helps them build on what children already know.

Children's achievements are met with praise and encouragement and certificates are given to children who have met a target set by the centre. Children also receive rewards of collectable lizard cards which can be swapped or exchanged for gifts. This helps children stay focussed and builds up their confidence and self esteem.

Although the centre's main focus is on Maths and Literacy programmes, children can also take part in other projects that extend their learning; for example, Rain Forest projects, Mythology and Egyptian Culture projects and Harry Potter competitions. These are explored in the last 15 minutes of each session and this enables children to develop interests in areas that extend their cultural and creative ideas.

Children are happy and eager to participate in the learning programme, with staff sensitive to individual needs. Relationships between staff and children are good; staff use lots of praise and encouragement to develop children's sense of worth.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are involved in well-planned topics such as the world and other cultures, which helps them to develop a positive attitude to diversity.

Close liaison with parents ensures children's needs are well planned for and met. Programmes of learning are tailored for individual needs, to ensure children can experience a wide range of stimulating challenges appropriate to their level of ability.

Children are given constant praise and encouragement for their achievements, which helps them feel good about themselves. Staff act as good role models, helping children learn the importance of showing respect for all.

Parents contribute to the initial assessment of their child, which helps staff build on what children already know. They receive good information about the learning programme, and continual assessment and monitoring of their child's progress ensures children's individual needs are fully met.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children work in a room that is very well laid out and staff have a clear understanding of their role in supporting children in their learning.

Induction training, policies and procedures guide the centre in their daily practice and help to safeguard children's welfare. The exception to this is that child record forms do not contain details of emergency contact numbers or GP details, and the times of arrival for each child has not been recorded on the daily attendance register. This potentially puts children at risk.

The current staff working with the children do not hold any childcare qualifications but this is being addressed by the company running the setting, who are seeking to receive accreditation for their in-house training scheme.

Staff have developed professional and friendly relationships with parents who, in a survey conducted by the company, commented that they felt their children had progressed significantly since attending. Children can attend for two sessions in any one week with the centre staying open seven days a week.

Overall, the needs of all children who attend are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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 times of arrival, as well as departure, are indicated on the attendance register for children
- develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare and detail how managers will achieve level three status.
- ensure child record forms contain emergency contact numbers and GP details.
- ensure fire evacuation procedures are practiced regularly, and recorded appropriately

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