



Southcote Children's Centre Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

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Registered person	Southcote I.T Experience
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of 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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Southcote I.T Experience Crèche opened in 2006. It operates from a purpose built crèche room within the children's centre. There is access to a secure outside play area. The crèche room is also registered for the children's centre. The crèche is situated in the large residential area of Southcote, Reading. It provides childcare for children whilst parents attend I.T Experience courses and adult learning opportunities.

The crèche is open 09.30 - 11.30 Monday to Saturday and 12.30 - 14.30 Monday to Friday all year. There are currently 24 children on roll aged from three months to five years old. The setting supports children with special educational needs and disabilities and those for whom English is an additional language.

The crèche employs nine members of staff who work directly with the children and 3 hold relevant childcare qualifications. The crèche receive support from the Early Years Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The provision to help children be healthy is outstanding. Children are cared for in an extremely warm, clean environment where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children's good health is promoted effectively by staff that demonstrate a sound knowledge of the crèche's health and hygiene procedures and attends appropriate training. Children have a clear awareness of their own needs and are developing independence in their personal care. Suitable hand washing facilities such as a sink at child height, using a soap dispenser and paper towels aid the children's development in hand washing and independence skills. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after playing outside and after using the toilet reduces the risk of cross contamination. Whilst learning 'All about me' the children used a tooth model to practice and understand how to clean their teeth efficiently each day. They have great fun talking about the differences and similarities between themselves and painting their pictures which have been displayed on the wall.

All staff are trained in first aid, therefore children receive appropriate first aid, which is recorded and countersigned by parents. Children are only administered medicine that has been authorised by parents. Sick children are sensitively cared for by the staff and appropriate procedures followed, which reassures and comforts children.

Children enjoy a vast and stimulating range of activities, which actively contributes to their good health. Each day there are outdoor activities to help them to develop control of their bodies. They enjoy regular fresh air and opportunities to develop physical skills, whilst playing in the outside play area. They enjoy riding on wheeled toys and scooters which improves their balance and co-ordination, or simply running around with their friends which help keep them in good health. Indoors the children have opportunities to develop their fine motor skills by doing cutting and sticking activities, rolling and shaping play dough and drawing and painting which they are very proficient at.

The staff builds very strong relationships with the children making them feel secure. The staff knows the children well and is responsive to their individual needs, which allows them to learn and develop a variety of skills and to safely extend their boundaries appropriate to their ages and stages of development. The staff have an exceptional understanding about appropriate types of activities and levels of support to give children the confidence to try out new skills, set their own limits and know when to ask for help.

Children's healthy growth and development are met well as staff show an excellent understanding of their dietary requirements. Children's food and drink are labelled individually with the child's name and kept in a cool-box and details of any child's food allergies are kept on file and made known to all staff to ensure vigilance. Children are offered a good variety of drinks and healthy snacks, such as fruit, vegetables and smoothies. They are aware drinks are available to them at all times and that they must sit down whilst they are drinking. During the warm weather children are offered extra drinks which prevent them from becoming dehydrated. Children are learning about healthy eating which is the current topic; they have enjoyed using their senses

and feelings to distinguish different textures, smells and tastes such as mustard, jelly and spaghetti.

The staff have an excellent knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework which they use to monitor and extend children's personal goals and development to meet their developmental milestones.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The provision to protect children and help them stay safe is outstanding. Children are cared for in a spacious environment where, the staff identifies all risks and minimises hazards. For example, daily risk assessments are carried out on all areas of the crèche and garden and recorded on a check list; daily checks are made on toys and equipment and broken toys are removed and entered into the 'Broken toy' log book.

The children are able to move around very safely, freely and independently. The staff give extremely high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety outside the crèche by establishing a balance between freedom and setting safe limits. This allows children to learn some sense of danger and knowledge about how to protect them from harm. The children explored the topic of 'Road safety' and learnt about all aspects of road safety using resources such as the traffic lights; played 'stop & go' with the cars and extended the activity by making short bread car biscuits and sponge painting vehicle shapes. This allowed for natural discussion to take place about keeping safe when they are walking out and about.

Children feel confident and secure in their environment through good deployment of staff working directly with the children. Staff's awareness of children's developing abilities helps to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place to avoid dangerous situations and minimise risks.

Children independently select activities from an ample range of stimulating and interesting toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The staff carefully and skilfully monitor and supervise children's choices of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. The staff consistently applies the exceptional policies and procedures to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children. For example, the staff hold current first aid certificates and have a good understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures and Safeguarding Children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children settle extremely well at the crèche. They enter confidently and make themselves at home. They relate exceptionally well to each other and socialise with other children, forming some close relationships. Children independently choose between a variety of imaginative and dynamic toys, books and activities that appeal to all. For example, the sand, home corner, and copious amounts of art and craft materials. Children listen and respond to music, stories and

songs. All children spend their time purposefully engrossed in an exciting range of highly innovative and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities which provide optimal challenge which is appropriate to their ages and stages of development. Children's development and wellbeing is effectively promoted through the well organised space.

Children enjoy their time at the crèche. They arrive happy and confident and quickly settle into the routine making their own choices about their play. The support from friendly, dedicated staff helps the younger children settle and become familiar with their surroundings and the daily routine. Children are interested in activities and involved in their learning. The staff use a curriculum plan which identifies the Early Learning goals, developmental milestones and Birth to three matters framework and plan activities to incorporate and extend all the children's individual learning. Practitioners know children well and talk to them about their family and what they have been doing at home. This interaction, and the implementation of a successful key worker system, helps to secure relationships between children and staff developing a strong sense of trust.

The children develop very good communication skills as they contribute to group discussions and become competent learners. For example, they self-select activities such as puzzles and shape blocks helping to increase their manipulative skills. Children enjoy opportunities to express imagination through role-play and telling stories. They experience a range of media and materials, encouraging them to explore their senses and sensory action through the use of 'feely' bags. Practitioners talk about how each child is progressing and plan their next step for development. They recognise the value of play in a child's development and introduce a range of experiences, enabling all children to learn to play and work together in large and small groups as well as independently. The children are happy to initiate their own play and the staff encourage them to do so, which formulates their own ideas and enables them to make decisions about the structure of their play. For example, who is going to push the buggy and be 'mummy' and who is going to wear which dressing up clothes.

Children are adept in their physical skills. They move confidently between areas both indoors and outdoors. They have good co-ordination and awareness of others, particularly when riding bikes and wheeled toys outside. Children take part in a wide range of activities in all areas of learning, which help to develop their fine and gross motor skills. They are able to control pencils, scissors and paintbrushes with a good range of activities to develop their manipulative skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The provision to help children make a positive contribution is outstanding. Children feel respected and valued as individuals and are made to feel good about themselves. Children follow excellent daily routines, which enable them to feel secure. The play is organised and monitored extremely well to ensure children have access to the full range of activities, both indoors and outdoors. For example, all toys and resources are at child height and amenable to children; the home corner, dressing up and the book shelves which are indoors. The hoops, wheeled toys and scooters, which are in the outside play area, provide the children with stimulating accessible activities. Children arrive at the crèche happy and confident. They are welcomed by the staff and eagerly look forward to the day's activities. Children learn about

themselves and the wider world through planned activities and discussions, for example around a variety of cultural festivals, helping them to understand and value the similarities and differences between themselves and others. There are a lot of children from different cultural backgrounds who attend the crèche and the majority of children speak Urdu. Therefore the Birth to three matters framework and the fire drill which are displayed on the wall have been translated into Urdu so that they are accessible to everyone who attends the crèche.

The staff provide an excellent range of stimulating activities and resources that promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness and their understanding of others. For example, they talk about different festivals, celebrations and travel across the world. Children have extensive opportunities to learn about the inspiring qualities and experiences each child has, within the crèche, through innovative interaction.

The crèche has a large range of positive, anti-bias anti-discriminatory toys and pictures and pictures of positive role models.

Partnership with parents is outstanding. Children benefit from excellent relationships and working partnerships with parents, which contributes to their wellbeing and the relationships they develop in the crèche. Staff work extensively with parents and carers to share relevant background information, play activities and children's specific needs. The open door policy for parents to speak to staff on a daily informal basis works effectively. This is reinforced through newsletters, parents' evenings and additional information accessible to parents via the crèche website. Parents are well informed about the routines, curriculum and all aspects of the nursery. SITE also provides Family drop ins which helps to support the families in the crèche if needed. The staff have excellent relationships with all of the parents, which is friendly and supportive. Parents are fully informed of the crèche's practice, ensuring the children's continued support and welfare. Parents feel welcome and value the staff's congenial and consolatory approach to caring for their children.

Through working in partnerships with parents the crèche aims to improve outcomes of local children's lives by extending opportunities to their whole family whilst enabling the individual life of the child or adult that interacts and participates in activities in the centre to be expanded and developed through the opportunities, support and guidance available to them. By providing the crèche, parents can access further training and support groups to advance their own needs and therefore the impact on the community as a whole, establishes a process of long term change and investment that will be benefit all in the area as children receive more at school, young people participate positively in the society and become potentially better parents themselves.

Staff are proactive in ensuring the needs of all the children are met and demonstrated a very good knowledge of the individual needs of the children in their care. Staff offer good support for children with special needs. They adapt activities so that all children can experience a wide range of stimulating activities appropriate for their level of ability. The manager demonstrates sound knowledge of the fundamental principals of the Code of Practice. As a result, staff work together with parents, carers and other professional bodies to organise the environment and plan appropriate activities to ensure the children take part at a level appropriate to their needs. Staff have partnerships with the Family Liaisons officer, speech and language therapists and

health visitors so any developmental delays can be picked up and referred quickly. These partnerships also give staff an insight into deciding the best ways to meet children's individual needs.

Children benefit very well from staff who adopt a consistent and positive approach to the management of their behaviour. Staff freely offer cuddles and words of praise and encouragement. Children show care and concern for each other, and play harmoniously together. They enjoy each other's company and treat each other kindly, which helps them to learn to respect each other and their surroundings. Children play extremely confidently and effectively on their own or with others. Children know right from wrong, they are sensitive to the needs of others, readily share toys and resources and co-operate with each other. They become aware of the crèche's routines and procedures and know what is expected from them through response to the routine changes in the day. Children are given clear guidelines, know the routine well and are encouraged to take care of the environment. Children show care and concern for each other, and play harmoniously together. They enjoy each other's company and treat each other kindly, which helps them to learn to respect each other and their surroundings. Children play extremely confidently and effectively on their own or with others. Children benefit from praise and they behave exceptionally well. Excellent explanation helps children learn right from wrong and teaches them self-discipline. Children make themselves at home, confidently deciding what to do, helping themselves to drinks and independently visiting the toilet. They have time to relax as well as be active, which develops the children's independent freedom of choice.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The organisation of the provision is outstanding. Children's care is significantly enhanced by the crèche's excellent organisation. Children's care and learning is reinforced by the effective deployment of staff and superb leadership and management which is achieved through regular supervision and team meetings that identify staff's personal development and training needs. The staff work naturally as a team which endorses the calm, productive atmosphere within the crèche. The children feel at home and at ease with the extremely well organised, child orientated and comfortable environment, which means they relish their time in the setting.

Indoor and outdoor space is laid out exceptionally well to maximise play opportunities for children. This means they are extremely confident and self-assured to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Staff working with the children are enthusiastic, knowledgeable and consistently promotes the children's wellbeing in line with the comprehensive and robust policies and procedures. They demonstrate an excellent knowledge and understanding of the National Standards. All relevant and mandatory documentation is in place and well maintained to an excellent standard. The staff use the outstanding policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children.

Staff observe children's development and learning and keep detailed records that help meet their needs. Children's records are openly shared with parents and their contributions valued.

The staff attend relevant training courses whenever they can, which increases and develops their knowledge and understanding of child care. This contributes to the exemplary service

which is offered and is used to help develop their skills in organising a provision that meets the children's needs. Staff demonstrate a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Parents receive information regularly, which keeps them extremely well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity and excellence of care.

Leadership and management is outstanding. The manager is enthusiastic about the crèche and early years, which results in a happy team who work effectively together where children feel safe and secure in their environment and make good progress towards the early learning goals, developmental milestones and Birth to three matters framework. The manager and her team's vision of the quality of early years care and education is evident through its aims, good relationships with children and their parents and carers and has a positive impact on the children's learning and development. There is a strong commitment to improvement, training and development of the staff, which enhances and maintains the outstanding care, learning and wellbeing of the children. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 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.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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