

Southampton (Hardmoor) Opportunity Group and Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	131559
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Inspector	Alison Large
Setting Address	Leaside Way, Southampton, Hampshire, SO16 3EP
Telephone number	02380 552 220
E-mail	info@hardmoor.southampton.sch.uk
Registered person	u/a
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Sessional 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Southampton (Hardmoor) Opportunity Group and crèche is a committee run group. It opened in 2001 and operates from two rooms in Hardmoor Early Years Centre in the Bassett area of Southampton. It serves the local and wider area. A maximum of 24 children may attend the group at any one time. The opportunity group is open for two sessions each week from 13:00 to 15:30 on Tuesdays and 09:15 to 11:45 on Wednesdays during term times only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The crèche will open to provide care for children when parents and carers attend training sessions at the centre.

There are currently 19 children aged under five years on roll. The setting specifically supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The group employs three members of staff, all hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children have exceptional opportunities to engage in daily physical activities. They benefit from an exciting range of challenging activities and staff give high levels of support as they learn to crawl and climb on a range of apparatus. Children have access to an outside play area and make use of wheeled toys, negotiating space and developing increasing control and co-ordination. They encourage babies to reach out for toys, and toddlers practise walking holding hands and learn to use climbing apparatus and slides unaided.

Staff implement highly effective hygiene procedures, such as changing nappies and preparing tables for meals minimising risk of infection. Children learn about health and hygiene and how to look after themselves through personal routines, including hand washing after toileting. They confidently recognise the need to wash their hands after messy play and particularly enjoy washing in the baths after body painting.

Children develop a very good understanding of healthy eating as they make selections of different fruits and vegetables and other healthy options at snack time. Staff are highly effective in supporting younger children to develop their independence, for example by learning to feed themselves and older children are actively involved in making some of their own snacks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit enormously from the well organised and vibrant learning environment and an extensive range of equipment and resources is available, suitable for the abilities of the children attending. Excellent procedures are in place to ensure equipment is safe and well maintained. Children learn to keep themselves safe in welcoming and stimulating facilities, where they are able to freely move around the inside learning environment across the session. Staff are vigilant about children's safety and children are able to talk about safe practice, for example they recognise they must not leave the room unless they are with an adult. They are reminded about safety during soft play, to help them recognise the need to be careful when climbing on the equipment. Staff are supportive of the children to ensure they remain safe.

Children are well protected because staff have a good knowledge of child protection issues, they recognise their role and responsibilities and know how to implement the group's and local child protection procedures. The policies for the non-collection of children, lost child and child protection, contribute to ensuring children are safeguarded from harm. However, parents staying for the session are not recorded on any signing in sheets in the building, which means they may not be accounted for in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children build excellent relationships with staff and thrive in the exciting range of activities and experiences offered to them. Children are helped to explore their senses as they access a range of tactile toys, and natural objects. Children use their senses and explore lights and soft play in an exceedingly well equipped sensory room and enjoy creative activities such as body painting and exploring sand and water.

Children learn to communicate very well using words and gestures and increase in confidence as practitioners respond to the noises they make. They participate enthusiastically and explore sound and rhythm as they take part in group singing time, which contributes to developing their communication skills. The group provide an exciting and stimulating learning environment, in which babies and children are able to develop high levels of independence and competence in these early stages of their development. Children relish their time at the group, because staff have an excellent understanding of how the children develop most effectively and give high levels of support to the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children flourish in the group because they are exceptionally well supported by staff who encourage them to develop independence. Children show an excellent attitude towards one another and become extremely confident and self assured. Children play extremely well together and independently, they learn to share and take turns and staff show genuine care and concern for the children.

Children develop a secure sense of belonging, behaviour is excellent and children show high levels of independence, confidence and self-esteem as practitioners continually praise and value their achievements. All children and their families, especially those with additional needs and English as an additional language receive outstanding support from practitioners, enabling them to thrive and make excellent individual progress.

The children enjoy cuddles from practitioners and become self assured developing independence and a sense of security and belonging. They benefit from a superb partnership with parents, ensuring their individual needs are fully met and they make progress in their development. Parents are fully involved in their child's time at the group because highly effective communication takes place between staff and themselves.

Staff pay high priority to establishing and securing the links between home and the group, ensuring parents are actively involved in their child's care. Parents receive extremely good support, which helps them to understand how their child learns and develops through play. They work together with staff to assess their child's ongoing achievements and progress which helps to ensure all children make excellent progress and allows parents to play a full part in their child's time at the group.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children's care and learning is enhanced by the organisation of the group. All staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the provision ensuring all children are provided with high levels of support. Policies and procedures are consistently applied across the provision to promote the care and welfare of the children. However, the times of arrival and departure of the children are not recorded which was highlighted at the last inspection and staff have not yet implemented this.

All staff working in the provision are fully involved in the running of the sessions and high priority is placed on the care of the children and their individual progress, ensuring effective support takes place. The committee and senior practitioner have a very clear knowledge of the

strengths within the provision and evaluate to identify areas in which further development could be made.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group were asked to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment; to ensure the Child Protection policy includes the duty to inform the registering body of any referrals; to ensure that all staff and volunteers sign in at each session and that the register for children shows times of arrival and departure; and to ensure a record of any complaints made by parents is maintained. Since the last inspection the group have met most of the recommendations given, however they have not yet started to record the times of arrival and departure of the children, so this has been included as a recommendation at this inspection, to ensure the safety and welfare of the children is safeguarded.

Complaints since the last inspection

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 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 good. 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 the times of arrival and departure of the children are recorded and parents staying at the session are recorded in the register.

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