



Sure Start Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	161034
Inspection date	22 September 2005
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Registered person	Southampton City Council
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?

Sure Start Crèche is part of the Sure Start project in Weston funded by Southampton City Council. It was registered in January 2001 when the project began. It is situated in purpose built premises in the grounds of Weston Shore Infant School, on a large housing estate. The Crèche operates from a large room with direct access to toilets, a kitchen and an enclosed outside play area all of which have wheelchair access. Occasional use is made of a further community room within the Weston Shore school, which also has access to toilets and a kitchen. Staff have sole use of these rooms when the Crèche is operating.

The Crèche is registered to provide occasional care for a maximum of 27 children under 5 years, although it is the policy of the Crèche to accept children from 1 to 5 years and for no more than 2 hours a day. Care is provided for up to 18 children in the Sure Start building and 9 children in the Community room.

Sessions vary and are arranged as needed to coincide with training and activities provided for parents on or off the project site. The crèche employs five staff, all of whom hold or are working towards appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive in an environment where very enthusiastic staff encourage them to develop independence in their personal care and help them to make healthy choices. Children begin to learn about healthy eating as they select snacks from an extensive and varied range of fresh fruit, vegetables, cheese and rice cakes. They enjoy activities, which enable them to discuss healthy options with staff, for example, as they prepare play food in the home corner. Close contact with parents enables staff to provide food and drinks which meet each child's dietary and religious requirements. Snacks are appropriately prepared by staff who all have relevant food handling qualifications.

Children develop confidence in their personal care as sensitive staff gently encourage them in their toileting skills. They wash their hands at appropriate times, for example before eating, and use paper towels, which help, minimise the risk of cross infection. Children observe staff who role model very good practice as they employ routines, which ensure the crèche, is kept clean and hygienic.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in an environment, which is very attractively decorated with mobiles, posters, photographs and examples of their artwork. They have easy access to resources, which they confidently select and play with in a room, which is laid out to provide safe areas for messy play, quiet play and general activities. Children are very enthusiastic about outdoor play in an area, which has purpose built climbing equipment, a large wooden play bus, sand pit, play tunnels and plant troughs. This play equipment is supplemented by other resources, which ensure children experience a wide variety of enjoyable outdoor activities.

Children's care is enhanced by staff who are vigilant about carrying out regular safety checks and ensuring younger children use equipment like chairs and buggies with appropriate restraints. Close supervision enables children to move confidently throughout the provision supported at their chosen activities by attentive staff. Children experience regular opportunities to practice the emergency evacuation procedure and to discuss safety issues with staff, for example, as they play with the

fire station and fire engine.

Children's welfare is further enhanced by the staff's sound understanding of child protection procedures and their commitment to working closely with other Sure Start staff and outside agencies.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children feel welcomed into an environment where staff know them well and take a real interest in their development. Children are encouraged by really enthusiastic staff to make choices about what they do and to develop their interests. They interact happily with adults who listen to what they have to say and encourage them to be creative. Children often initiate play, for example, when a child suggests having a picnic a member of staff finds a blanket and helps to prepare food and drinks. Skilful support by a very experienced staff team enables children of all ages to feel included and to take part in the whole range of activities offered. For example, all children take part in story time where younger children join in with sounds, actions and older children enjoy talking about the characters, and predicting what might happen next. Children also enjoy opportunities for a wide range of physical activities during outdoor play.

Close contact with parents enables staff to support children who are less confident and encourage them to develop skills and interact with other children. As they gain confidence, children enjoy selecting resources and developing activities like puppet theatre, where they create stories, which they relate to staff and other children.

Younger children enjoy opportunities to touch a variety of textures as they play with resources like dried rice, cooked pasta, sand, play dough, paint and glitter. Older children create models and pictures to decorate the crèche walls and to take home. Provision of a quiet area enables children to rest and relax as appropriate.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from the extremely positive relationships developed between staff and parents. Children and parents are invited to attend play sessions together, enabling children to become familiar with the surroundings and to observe positive interactions between the adults before attending crèche sessions alone. Parents also attend story sack sessions where they create props and develop a story to relate to their children in the crèche. Open and friendly discussions keep parents informed about their child's progress and development.

Children play with an excellent range of resources, which help them learn about diversity and include books, toys and posters showing positive images of culture, gender and disability. Children with special needs are supported by skilled staff who work closely with parents and other agencies to provide high quality care.

Children learn to share and take turns, supported by staff who use very effective strategies for behaviour management. They react very positively to praise and encouragement from staff as they play together and develop their social skills.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children enjoy a wide variety of experiences as staff organise their time to provide indoor and outdoor play with occasional outings. High staff: child ratios ensure each child benefits from regular individual attention. Excellent systems for staff induction, appraisal and training ensure that children are cared for by very competent and enthusiastic staff who work extremely well as a team. Regular contact with other Sure Start colleagues provides additional support for families attending the crèche.

Effective systems of documentation and record keeping ensure children are cared for in accordance with parent's wishes and that confidentiality is maintained. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, the provider was asked to update the complaints policy and daily register of attendance and to ensure Ofsted is kept informed of changes in the crèche. Children's welfare has been enhanced by the changes made to documentation and an improved system, which now ensures Ofsted, is aware of any changes in the provision.

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 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 *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk