

The Leys Childrens Centre Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY347985
Inspection date	25 June 2008
Inspector	Sheena Bankier
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Registered person	Leys Childrens Centre
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Leys Children's Centre Crèche registered in 2007 and is one of a number of facilities offered to families at the Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre in the Blackbird Leys area of Oxford. The crèche operates from rooms within the family centre and there is access to outdoor play. The crèche opens at various times during the week when classes are running for families. There are children on roll and the number on roll varies. A maximum of 20 children may attend at any one time with no more than ten children under two years. The crèche is led by a manager who oversees a team of staff who have a range of early years qualifications. Additional services are available to the families which include parenting courses and there are links to various health services.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. There are appropriate procedures in place to minimise cross infection, for example, the crèche staff wear disposable gloves and aprons when changing nappies. Children wash their hands with anti-bacterial soap and there

is individual hand drying. This prevents cross infection. Children's good health is promoted as the crèche has sickness exclusions which parents are made aware of. The crèche reminds parents with notices about sun safety and asks parents to provide sun hats and to apply sun screen to their children. The crèche has covered areas in the garden which protects children from the effects of the sun.

Information is sought from parents regarding children's health and dietary needs, for example, allergies and medical conditions. Staff are made aware of these on a daily basis which ensures the children's needs are catered for. First aid trained members of staff are always present at the crèche which ensures children's minor accidents and injuries are treated appropriately. Records of accidents are made, however, staff only enter their first names. This does not provide a sufficiently clear record of the persons involved. Not all parents have fully completed the registration form to give their written consent for staff to seek emergency treatment or advice for children.

Children develop understanding of a healthy lifestyle at the crèche. They are offered healthy snacks which consist of a variety of fruit, such as apple, orange and raisins. Children sit together at the table with staff to eat their snack which makes it a social occasion. Healthy drink options are available of water or milk. Resources in the crèche reflect healthy choices, such as a poster with fruit and vegetables. Children benefit from fresh air as they play in the outdoor area. A good range of equipment is available to promote children's physical activity, such as pedal tricycles, push along toys and a barrel for crawling through. Babies' needs are met well as the care provided is individual to each child. Parents provide bottles and information about the babies' feeding requirements and needs to staff. This enables staff to provide familiar routines and comforts to the babies. Babies are held warmly whilst being bottle fed. Their needs for sleep are observed by staff who cuddle or rock the babies in their own pushchairs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The crèche provides a warm and welcoming environment to children and parents. Children's artwork, photographs and posters are displayed and the crèche is bright and inviting. There are soft furnishings, such as sofas and bean bags which reflect a homely environment. Child size furniture is in place which encourages the children's independent skills. Staff provide a warm atmosphere where children feel valued and at ease. A good range of resources are in place. These are suitable for the age and development of the children attending. The toys and resources are well maintained through regular checks and cleaning.

Most aspects of safety are suitably addressed. There is a daily safety checklist which staff complete before the children arrive. Children are supervised closely by staff at all times which promotes their safety. Evacuation procedures are displayed in the room, however, the information displayed by the fire exit door directs people only to one gate, although there are two gates which provide exits from the garden. The gate which the procedure indicates to use was padlocked on the day of inspection. In the event of an emergency this puts children at risk.

Staff understand their responsibilities to safeguard children in their care. They know the signs and symptoms which may indicate abuse and the procedures to follow in the event of concerns about children's welfare. A policy and procedure is in place, although this lacks information regarding procedures to follow if allegations are made against staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a good range of toys and activities. They are able to make choices and decisions from the resources on offer. Children are happy and settled at the crèche and enjoy their time there. They confidently decide what to do, for example, playing in the water tray where they have fun exploring the different containers and toys or digging in the large outdoor sandpit. Children enjoy activities organised by staff, such as painting at the easel where they use their imaginations and creativity on large pieces of paper with a choice of paints. This enables children to express themselves in their art work.

Staff interact well with children and ensure the children are occupied well and enjoy their time whilst at the crèche. Information cards are displayed in all areas of the crèche about how children learn and develop through their play. These support the staff and parents who use the crèche in promoting children's development. Children take part in a range of play opportunities and activities which support their development well. Staff play and sing along to music and read books to the children which develops their language skills. Children enjoy imaginative play with the toy kitchens as they pretend to cook.

Babies benefit from toys to explore and investigate, such as ones which make noises or have different textures to feel. They are encouraged in their development, for example, as they learn to sit by themselves cushions are used to support them. Babies are taken outside where they can feel the wind and observe the tree blowing around. This allows the babies to experience the natural world outside.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are known and understood well as parents and staff exchange information. Staff value and support children well. Children have equal access to all age and developmentally appropriate resources. The resources reflect the different backgrounds of those who use the crèche. This values the diversity amongst the families and children. The crèche supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities well. They work closely with parents and other parties involved to ensure children are appropriately supported. Staff also develop skills to support children, such as training in sign language. The crèche is able to support children who speak English as an additional language. Some of the staff are able to speak the same home language as the children. There is also some writing displayed in different languages within the room.

Staff provide a good role model to children, they use good manners, such as 'please' and 'thank you' with them. Children's behaviour is good. Staff praise and encourage the children well for their efforts and achievements. This ensures children develop self-esteem and confidence.

There are good partnerships with parents. Staff and parents communicate well and exchange information together. This contributes to the individual care needs of children. Information is available to parents through notices displayed and notice boards. Parents are able to freely access the policies and procedures. Staff spend time with parents providing verbal feedback about their child's session at the crèche. This ensures parents are well informed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The staff working at the crèche are suitably qualified and experienced. The management undertake the necessary checks for the staff employed for the crèche. Children and families benefit from the wide range of services the children's centre is able to offer. These provide support to the families and children living in the local community.

Staff have a clear sense of purpose and understand their roles and responsibilities. They are appropriately deployed and ensure children benefit from their time and attention. Children benefit from a stimulating environment which is bright and inviting. They enjoy a good range of activities and play opportunities which support their development.

All required policies and procedures are in place although some lack the necessary detail. The evacuation procedure lacks clear information and the exit which it indicates to evacuate through is padlocked. This puts children at risk. The child protection does not contain procedures to follow in the event of allegations against staff. Personal information is stored securely which ensures confidentiality. Some paperwork has not been fully completed. This includes the accident records which have not been signed with staff's full names. As a result this does not ensure a clear record. Some parents have not completed all aspects of the registration form including the written emergency consent. This means the crèche does not have written consent to seek emergency treatment and advice for all children.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

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 standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of consents 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 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 the child protection policy includes a procedure to follow in the event of allegations against staff
- ensure accident records are signed by staff with their full names and obtain written consent from parents to seek emergency treatment or advice for all children
- review the evacuation procedure to ensure it is appropriate and accurate.

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