

St Stephen's Extended Day Care

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	132386
Inspection date	04 April 2008
Inspector	Lorraine Sparey
Setting Address	St. Stephen's Children's Centre, Whitfield Road, London, E6 1AS
Telephone number	020 8471 1366
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Registered person	The Governing Body of Rebecca Cheetham Nursery Education Centre
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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.

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?

St Stephen's Extended Day Care is run by the Local Authority. It is situated in St Stephen's Children's Centre a purpose built building. It is situated in a residential area in Forest Gate an area of London. The children use three playrooms and there is a separate room available for children who require a sleep. Each play room has its own outdoor area in addition to a large garden at the rear of the building.

A maximum of 57 children may attend at any one time. There are currently 33 children on roll. The group supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children for whom English is a second language. The facility offers various sessions including full day care for 48 weeks of the year. Sessions are available Monday to Friday 08:00 to 18:00.

A team of 12 staff work directly with the children, 10 of whom are qualified in early years, two are on training programmes. In addition there are two managers and a head teacher who support staff. The setting receives support from an advisory teacher and local Authority support workers.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well supported. They follow good hygiene practices such as washing their hands prior to eating. Children automatically flush the toilet and wash their hands after using the facilities. Staff provide appropriate resources to support children's independence such as low-level toilet facilities and paper towels. Babies and toddlers are kept comfortable because staff use effective nappy changing procedures which include wearing gloves to reduce cross infection. Staff speak warmly to the children whilst changing nappies to ensure they are relaxed. Staff liaise closely with parents to ensure that potty training is completed when children are ready. Children are supported in the event of having a minor accident or requiring medication because staff implement good procedures. Clear records ensure that parents receive detailed information to support consistency in their child's care. Several staff are trained in first aid and well-stocked first aid kits are available throughout the centre. This means children are dealt with quickly in the event of requiring first aid.

Children have fantastic opportunities to play and exercise in the well resourced garden and outdoor areas. Each play room has its own outdoor area. Children freely move between indoors and outdoors. Babies and young children enjoy using the sensory garden. They have opportunities to play in the sand and use the wheeled vehicles. Older children enjoy climbing, swinging and sliding on the large climbing frame. Children benefit from outings to the park where they can develop their physical skills.

Children's general health and well-being is effectively supported. They benefit from healthy and nutritious snacks and meals. A cooked lunch and tea is available and parents can provide their own food if they prefer. Children have a good choice at breakfast which includes fresh fruit, cereal and toast. Staff sit and eat with the children making mealtimes very social occasions. Children have their own named cups to ensure that they have frequent drinks throughout the day. Children's awareness of healthy foods is well promoted through discussion and topics. They grow their own vegetables in their allotment which they prepare and enjoy eating them.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff implement a range of policies and procedures to support children's safety. A register is in place to record staff and children's hours of attendance, however, the systems to ensure it is completed are not effective. Often children and staff are not signed out. This is a breach in regulations and does not fully support their safety.

Children safely choose from an extensive range of toys and equipment. Good procedures are implemented to ensure that all resources are checked on a regular basis to maintain their continued suitability. Staff implement effective procedures to support children's safety whilst they are sleeping. A member of staff remains in the sleep room whilst children sleep. Children's safety is generally well supported. Staff supervise children well and risk assessments identify any hazards which are addressed. All play rooms provide a safe environment for children to explore. Children's awareness of maintaining their own safety increases through discussion. Staff gently remind children about how to use equipment properly to ensure their safety.

Children are protected from harm and neglect because staff implement good safeguarding children procedures. All staff are required to attend training on possible signs and symptoms of abuse and effective procedures to follow if the concern is raised. A designated child protection officer provides information for staff and parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children flourish and thrive in the setting. They choose from an extensive range of high-quality toys and resources. Children confidently separate from their parents and carers and quickly become involved in stimulating and interesting play opportunities. Staff complete regular observations and assessments and clearly know the children well. They are skilled at planning and providing high quality play opportunities tailored to individual children's needs. Children benefit from the extremely positive interaction from the staff. They show genuine interest in the children's play and use effective questioning to promote their learning. For example, children in the baby unit enjoy exploring water in a large shallow container. Staff provide good resources such as twigs and small branches, soft animals and glitter. Children use their hands to explore and splash the water. The adult supporting gives a running commentary to develop children's language. Other children enjoy making containers to collect eggs in whilst on an Easter egg hunt in the garden. Staff hide various eggs around the garden and children work together to find them. Children have fantastic opportunities to develop their creative skills. They freely choose from an extensive range of resources such as paint, feathers, glue, glitter and corrugated paper. Examples of children's creative work are displayed throughout the setting. Children enthusiastically make their own gloop using cornflour and water. They experiment with cooked pasta talking with staff about the texture. Babies show obvious enjoyment playing the setting's piano while sitting in their high chairs. Staff support and encourage them to make different sounds.

Parents are encouraged to be involved in their children's development and learning. Regular meetings ensures that they are able to share information on their children's progress. Children benefit from a range of outings in the local community. They visit the local shops and Park.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs are exceptionally well met. Extensive settling in procedures ensure that staff and parents work very closely together sharing information. Parents and their child's key workers work together to write children's individual home routines which are displayed in the play areas to ensure that all staff are aware of the information. Children have fantastic opportunities to learn about the wider world and their community through well-planned activities and play opportunities. They celebrate a range of festivals and discuss various faiths throughout the year. An extensive range of resources provide children with positive images of all aspects of our diverse society. Many of the staff are bilingual and are able to support children who have English as an additional language. Children gain a strong sense of belonging to the setting. They have their own named pegs and equipment such as cots. Photographs of the children involved in activities are displayed around the centre at the children's level. Children with additional needs are very well supported. Staff and parents liaise closely and other professionals provide additional help and support to ensure children reach their full potential.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. They show consideration to their peers and benefit from the staff being clear and consistent when managing behaviour. Children respond exceptionally well to the staff's consistent use of praise and encouragement. They value children's ideas and suggestions. Staff in the baby unit use lots of clapping and smiles to promote good behaviour. Children benefit from the exceptionally good relationships developing between the staff and their parents and carers. They receive comprehensive and detailed information on the children's progress. They are invited to regular meetings to share information about their children's progress and view their child's records. All parents report that they are very happy with the welcoming and friendly environment. They comment that they feel their children are receiving the best start in their care and education.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide. Staff implement a range of policies and procedures to support providing positive outcomes for children. However, the systems to record children's and staff's attendance are not effective. This is a breach in regulation. Policies and procedures are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the information is consistent and reflects the service offered. Regular staff meetings ensure that staff are aware of children's changing needs. Documentation is generally well-organised and stored securely to maintain the confidentiality of the children and their families.

Effective recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Regular training opportunities ensure that all staff keep updating their skills and knowledge. Children benefit from the high adult: child ratios, they are well supported in their play and learning. The space and resources are used successfully to promote children's choices in their play and learning. The outdoor play areas are used as an extension of the indoor areas. Children freely move between inside and outside depending on what they would like to play with. Staff are well supported by the management of the centre.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting received two recommendations. Develop the organisational plan to include how the developmental needs of children aged two to three years will be met; ensure that written evidence is maintained on staff and students' suitability to work with children.

The operational plan has been reviewed and now contains details of training that staff have undertaken specifically working with the younger children. Activities are age appropriate and provide children with good play and learning opportunities. Effective recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Detailed staff records contain evidence of their suitability.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take action in order to meet the National Standards. The complaint related to National Standard 6: Safety and National Standard 11: Behaviour. Concerns were raised regarding the management of a child's behaviour. Ofsted wrote to the provider and requested that they investigate the concerns raised and report back on their findings. Upon receipt of this information there was no evidence to suggest the National Standards were not being maintained

in relation to the concerns raised. Further information was requested in regard to dealing with parental complaints. After receiving the information Ofsted set an action relating to National Standard 12: Partnership with parents and carers. The provider responded to Ofsted to show that suitable measures had been taken to meet the action and no further action was taken.

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 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 that an accurate record of children's attendance is maintained

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