

St Mary's Family Centre Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique reference number | 125042 |
| Inspection date | 01/04/2009 |
| Inspector | Marianne Harris |
| Setting address | Our Lady of Fidelity, 147 Central Hill, London, SE19 1RS |
| Telephone number | 0208 766 6271 |
| Email | |
| Type of setting | Childcare on non-domestic premises |

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the setting

St Mary's Family Centre opened in 1992 and is set within the private grounds owned by the Convent of Our Lady Fidelity. This is a voluntary charity run by a management committee. The Chair is also the registered provider. The family Centre has self-contained accommodation on the ground floor of a converted school building. The after school club is housed in Virgo Fidelis Preparatory school on the same site. There is an adjacent fully enclosed play area. The building is accessible by wheelchair users. The centre supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those for whom English is not their first language. The Family Centre operates on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 09.00 to 17.00, and on Wednesday from 09.00 to 12.30, for 48 weeks of the year. It also provides a breakfast club from 07.30 until 08.55. The after school club is open from 15.00 until 18.00 term time only. The day nursery is registered for a maximum of 20 children and currently have 23 children on roll aged two to three years who attend either full time or in the morning or afternoon session. Seven of these are funded for nursery education. There are five staff, of whom four hold an early years qualification. The out of school club is registered for a maximum of 40 children. Currently there are 38 children on roll aged from four to 10 years. There are six staff, four hold an appropriate early years qualification, two are on training programmes. This inspection focused on the day care provision. The setting is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding. St Mary's Family Centre provides an excellent standard of care and education for the children and their families. Children are very happy and really enjoy all of the opportunities they have to explore their ideas and interests. Staff meet regularly to ensure that all of the children are included in the activities and that their needs are fully met. Since the last inspection the staff have introduced an excellent assessment process that details what the children have learnt and what they need to experience next. The regular review of the provision ensures that there is excellent capacity to improve further and meet the needs of the local community.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- building on plans to introduce activities that adults decide upon in order to extend children's experiences

The leadership and management of the early years provision

St Mary's Family Centre is at the heart of the school and local community. The Centre is extremely well led and managed so that all professionals work as a team to provide the very best possible care and education for the children and their families. Health and social work professionals provide excellent support to families and help them access extra facilities as needed. The nursery staff meet regularly to ensure that they are providing an excellent standard of education. All safeguarding and welfare requirements are fully met and children are safe and secure. There are clear procedures for dropping off and collecting children. Those who attend the breakfast club are escorted to their schools at the right time and staff make sure that they arrive safely. Procedures for safe recruitment are fully established and all policies are in place. The meals and snacks that are provided are healthy and nutritious. The children enjoy the meals and parents appreciate the choice and the way they are kept informed about what is available. There are clear behaviour management systems in place and any incidents of unacceptable behaviour are dealt with sensitively and in a caring manner.

The partnership with parents is excellent. Staff are very keen to speak to all parents on a regular basis, both formally and informally. At the beginning and end of each session there are many opportunities for parents to talk to any member of staff and more formal consultations are planned on a regular basis. Staff respond to individual needs, including flexible sessions and any social support. The fact that there are so many professionals on site means that these needs can be quickly addressed. The nursery provides a large display board to ensure that any relevant information is given to parents as quickly as possible.

The setting's self-evaluation is excellent. There are weekly sessions to review the work of the centre and there is a clear programme for future improvement. Work is planned carefully and staff have recently trialled planning activities based on children's interests. This has been reviewed and there are now plans to introduce activities that are not necessarily chosen by the children, but are introduced by the adults in order to extend children's experiences and knowledge.

Since the time of the last inspection the staff have made excellent progress and have been very successful in tackling the issue identified. There is now a comprehensive tracking and assessment system in place. This shows how much progress the children have made in all areas of learning and also gives a clear overview of which areas contain observations of learning and where staff need to focus to ensure that the record is complete. Each observation also identifies the next steps the children need to take in order to build on their previous learning. There is also a procedure for parents to contribute to the assessment process by sharing the experiences their children have outside of the centre.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children make excellent progress towards the expected goals for their learning. Adults provide activities that are exciting and stimulating. Most of the work is

planned using the children's interests and staff now plan to introduce topics that they have decided so that children can experience a wider range of themes. The outside area is particularly motivating because children can experience every area of learning in the garden. For example, they have the opportunity to extend their knowledge and understanding of the world by digging and planting, investigating mini beasts and learning about the natural world. They enjoy using both the large equipment and wheeled toys, whilst balls and skipping ropes help them make very fast progress in developing their physical skills. The inside area is extremely well organised with dedicated areas for every area of learning. Children make rapid gains in their early reading and writing skills through hearing stories from a wide range of stories and information books, by experiencing drawing and writing using a wide variety of pens, pencils and paper. Speaking and listening skills are developed very effectively so that children can talk about things that worry them and know that they will be listened to. Children learn to count correctly and to identify shapes. They are very good at solving simple problems such as how many cups are needed in the very well resourced role-play area. The children make excellent progress in developing their creative skills. They have access to a very good range of creative activities and confidently choose to cut and stick or to paint or draw. Many of their pictures are effectively displayed around the room and children take great pride in the fact that they are all their own individual work.

Children with additional needs are quickly identified and, where relevant, appropriate support sought. There is a wealth of expertise within the Family Centre to quickly address any concerns and ensure that children are extremely well supported. The new assessment system is excellent at tracking the progress that all children make and ensures that the accurate information helps children make outstanding progress in their learning.

Children make particularly outstanding progress in their social and personal skills. They behave very well and make friends quickly. Staff form excellent relationships with the children and their families ensuring that all are involved in the life of the family centre. Children have an excellent understanding about the benefits of exercise and many choose to go outside and try out the many resources for physical activities. Hygiene routines are emphasised and children know that they have to wash their hands before eating and after going to the toilet. Children feel extremely safe because the site is well maintained and staff make sure they are very well cared at all times. Children and their families play a great part in both raising funds for the centre and in contributing to the management committee that oversees the work of the centre, the breakfast club and the after school facilities. As a result, resources are constantly updated and facilities improved. Children are very happy and this means that they move on to the next stage of their education as confident learners who enjoy learning.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

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| How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage? | 1 |
| How well does the provision promote inclusive practice? | 1 |
| The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement. | 1 |

Leadership and management

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| How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed? | 1 |
| How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement? | 1 |
| How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others? | 1 |
| How well are children safeguarded? | 1 |

Quality and standards

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| How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop? | 1 |
| How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted? | 1 |
| How well are children helped to stay safe? | 1 |
| How well are children helped to be healthy? | 1 |
| How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve? | 1 |
| How well are children helped to make a positive contribution? | 1 |
| How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being? | 1 |

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.