

Annual Inspection Report 2022-2023

Braddan Pre-school

Child Day Care Centre

24 and 25 January 2023



DHSC

We carried out this announced inspection on 24 and 25 January 2023. The inspection was led by an inspector from the Registration and Inspection team.

Service and service type

Braddan Pre-school is a child day care centre. This means they provide day care for one or more children under the age of eight for more than two hours in the same day and is not a private dwelling.

People's experience of using this service and what we found

To get to the heart of people's experiences of care and treatment, we always ask the following five questions:

- Is it safe?
- Is it effective?
- Is it caring?
- Is it responsive to people's needs?
- Is it well-led?

These questions form the framework for the areas we look at during the inspection.

Our key findings

Areas of improvement were identified as a result of this inspection.

Staffing levels were safe and the manager had arranged for an additional member of staff to come into work in order to assist with the inspection process. The team worked well together and knew the children in their care. They were positive about working at the setting and parents said they found the team to be approachable, lovely and friendly. The interactions between the staff team and the children were comfortable and natural and this helped create a warm and homely atmosphere.

We identified some issues in the toilets used by the children and were assured the registered manager will raise our findings with the landlord.

Feedback received from the families who responded to our request was positive.

- 'The setting is small and extremely nurturing, I often describe to people that it is like dropping your children off at their grandparents house.'
- 'Children learn whilst also having fun. Very traditional playgroup - no tv'
- 'The staff at Braddan are doing a wonderful job of preparing [child] for education and encouraging [child] growth and development into a well-rounded little [child].'
- 'The staff and manager are very approachable and helpful'
- 'Since the first day that [name] started at Braddan, I have had nothing but good words to share. Sue and her team of staff are incredible.'
- 'The 'Aunties' really do create such a caring environment for the children and it really does feel like a family.'
- 'They love our children and create a fun learning environment'
- The children are provided with lots of lovely activities, some of this child-led and other bits adult-led. The children are allowed the freedom to explore their own play and imaginations within a safe and secure environment.'

About the service

Braddan Pre-school provides sessional, term time care from a hall in Braddan Church. They are registered to care for 40 children aged 2-5 years. The setting has a large playroom, a small playroom, toilets and a kitchen. All areas are shared with other users but the pre-school has sole use of the playrooms during operating times.

Due to the pre-school's operating hours, children do not have lunch at the setting but are provided with a mid-morning snack.

Registered manager status

The service has a registered manager. This means that they and the provider are legally responsible for how the service is run and for the quality and safety of the care provided.

Notice of Inspection

This announced inspection was part of our annual inspection programme which took place between April 2022 and March 2023. Inspection activity started on 23 January 2023. We visited the service on 24 and 25 January 2023.

What we did before the inspection

We reviewed information received about the service since the last inspection. We used the information submitted by the manager in the provider information return (PIR) and supporting documentation, notifications, complaints/compliments and any safeguarding issues.

Feedback was sourced via email from 17 families who use the service. Seven responses were received.

During the inspection

Due to the sessional hours provided by the setting, we visited over two mornings in order to carry out the inspection. Children's care records and a variety of documents relating to the management of the service were reviewed and an inspection of all rooms was undertaken.

We spoke with two members of staff and the registered manager and observations were carried out using an observational framework for inspection to help us understand the experience of staff and children.

SECTION C Inspection Findings

C1 Is the service safe?

Our findings:

Safe – this means we looked for evidence that children were protected from abuse and avoidable harm. The service requires improvements in this area.

This service was found to be safe.

Systems, processes and practices to safeguard children from abuse.

All staff at the setting have attended level 2 Safeguarding Children training and were aware of the procedure to follow should they have concerns about a child. There was a system in place for recording and reporting any concerns raised or disclosures made.

The setting had a safeguarding policy and a child protection policy. One gave overall information about keeping children safe and the other included the procedure to follow should staff have a concern about a child. Through discussion, the registered manager decided to combine the two policies in order to create one policy that contains all the necessary information.

The pre-school operates in a large open plan room which meant the staff team do not work on their own. The toilets used by the children were outside the room and the manager had implemented safe arrangements to ensure the children were escorted to and from the area with members of staff.

Staffing ratios and recruitment

Staffing levels were observed to be safe and exceeded the required adult:child ratios. In order to allow the registered manager to be available to the inspectors, an extra member of staff had been brought in to work. Examination of the setting's attendance records showed ratios were being consistently maintained.

All staff at the setting held a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and evidence was seen to show annual online checks were being carried out on those that had signed up for the update service.

Assessing risk, safety monitoring and management

Children's individual needs have been assessed by the manager and all relevant information has been shared with the staff team.

The staff team check the environment and resources on a daily basis and we were informed action is taken to address any issues found. A variety of risk assessments were in place and were being regularly reviewed. The assessments seen did not clearly identify the possible risks to the children or staff team.

The premises were found to be secure and suitable arrangements were in place to ensure no unauthorised persons could access the premises. Visitors can only enter when let in by a staff member. Once in visitors' are asked to sign in and are supervised at all times.

Routine checks on the environment and equipment were up to date. Certificates and records were in place to evidence this.

Using medicines safely

The registered manager informed us that due to their opening times, they are not usually required to administer medication. Should they be asked to administer medication, we were told this would not be done until written parental permission was in place. Parents would be asked to complete a medication form. The form seen included all the required information and there was section for staff to complete each time medication was administered. Suitable arrangements were in place to ensure any medicines would be stored safely.

Preventing and controlling infection

The playrooms, resources and equipment were found to be clean. Attention is needed in the toilets used by the children as we found the room temperature to be below 18°C. There was bubbling/peeling plaster on the wall inside one of the cubicles and paint was missing from sections of the walls. We also noticed the sealant on the sinks was in poor condition and the wooden unit housing the sinks and ceiling vents needed cleaning.

Action we require the provider to take

Key areas for improvement:

- Action is needed to ensure the toilets used by the children are maintained in a suitable state of repair and decoration and at an appropriate temperature.
- Action is needed to ensure identified risks are clearly recorded

Inspection Findings

C2 Is the service effective?

Our findings

Effective – this means we looked for evidence that children’s care, learning and development are supported and achieving good outcomes. The service does not require any improvements in this area.

This service was found to be effective.

Staff skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and support

All staff were knowledgeable about caring for children and had a variety of experience that enabled them to support, promote and encourage the children’s learning and development. All mandatory training was up to date and additional training had been undertaken by the staff team to ensure the children’s individual needs were being met.

Supporting and developing children’s care and development needs

The setting followed the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and provided planned activities that linked to the learning areas. The registered manager assesses the children’s work regularly in order to monitor their developmental progress and this information is shared with the parents. One parent told us ‘Every few weeks [name] brings home a small workbook which is full of all sorts of activities, mainly pen holding activities, including letter formation, joining pairs, drawing shapes etc.’

All resources had been made easily accessible to the children and the team had created an environment that promoted spontaneous play. During the inspection we observed two adult-led activities being carried out and it was the children’s choice as to whether they participated.

Due to the sessional provision of the pre-school, they have to pack everything away at the end of each morning and are limited in being able to display the children’s work. The team have been creative in finding a solution to this and have a number of arrangements in place. Children’s work was displayed on large pieces of cardboard that are placed on surfaces during the session and mobile display boards are used for other daily activities.

Working with other agencies to deliver effective care and support

The registered manager liaises with outside agencies when there is a need. We were informed the parents would be fully informed and included at every stage.

Inspection Findings

C3 Is the service caring?

Our findings

Caring – this means we looked for evidence that the service involved and treated children with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect. The service does not require any improvements in this area.

This service was found to be caring.

Ensuring children are being treated with kindness, respect and compassion

The interaction between the staff and the children was observed to be kind, caring and respectful. The children were comfortable with the staff and there was lots of conversation between them.

Staff were patient and took time to explain things to the children in order to ensure they understood what was being asked of them. Families commented they found the staff team to be 'very caring'. One parent told us 'I have no doubt my child is in the best of care at Braddan Pre-school. The work the Aunties do is exceptional.'

Maintaining children's dignity, privacy and promoting independence

Arrangements throughout the setting supported staff in maintaining the children's privacy and dignity. Intimate care routines were carried out in the setting's toilets and were supervised by staff. Doors were in place to ensure privacy and dignity were maintained for children who toilet themselves.

Children were being encouraged to make their own choices about their play and staff were observed promoting the children's independence by encouraging them to do things for themselves.

Confidential information was being held securely and any sensitive information was only shared with relevant staff on a need to know basis. Staff members were aware of the need to maintain confidentiality and signed agreements were in place.

Inspection Findings

C4 Is the service responsive?

Our findings:

Responsive – this means we looked for evidence that the service met children’s needs. The service does not require any improvements in this area.

This service was found to be responsive.

Delivering personalised care

Parents are asked to provide information in regards to any cultural needs, languages, dietary preferences/requirements and or any medical conditions their child may have. This information has been shared with the staff team to ensure the individual needs of the children are being met.

Responding to concerns and complaints and using to improve the quality of care

A policy was in place and information on how to make a complaint was clearly outlined. A copy of the policy was displayed by the entrance for the parents to see.

There have been no complaints since the last inspection. The registered manager stated they have an open door policy to enable parents to discuss any concerns they may have. Parents found the manager and staff team ‘approachable’ and felt confident they would be listened to. The manager said any concerns or complaints would be used as an opportunity to learn and improve.

Supporting children when dealing with significant events

The setting had a selection of resources available in order to support children when a significant event occurs such as the death of someone close, parents separating or the arrival of a sibling. The manager explained that she would discuss the situation with the parents and work with them to ensure consistency in approach and that any cultural or religious beliefs were respected.

C5 Is the service well-led?

Our findings

Well-led – this means we looked for evidence that service leadership, management and governance assured high-quality, person-centred care; supported learning and innovation; and promoted an open, fair culture. The service does not require any improvements in this area.

This service was found to be well-led.

Clear vision and strategy in place to deliver high-quality care and promote a positive culture that is person-centred, open, inclusive and empowering which achieves good outcomes for children.

Staff members told us they felt supported and valued by the registered manager and that her enthusiasm and drive helped to keep them motivated.

Team meetings are held each term and a record of the meetings was seen. The meetings are used to discuss children's progress, new ideas, working practice, planning and other items of interest. Staff said they were encouraged their ideas in order to improve the service they provide to the children.

Governance framework in place that ensures responsibilities are clear and that quality performance, risks and regulatory requirements are understood and managed.

The registered manager was clear about her role and regulatory responsibilities. The registered manager works alongside the team and this has enabled her to continuously review the quality of care being provided. The outcome of the reviews are discussed with staff during their supervisions. Staff spoken to said they found the meetings supportive.

Engaging and including families using the service, the public and the staff team.

The team at the setting have been working together for a number of years and said they enjoyed working at the pre-school. They all felt they had developed good relationships with the families that use the service. Parents said they were happy with the service being provided and found the environment to be 'welcoming and homely' and the staff team to be 'caring, approachable and helpful'.

Continuous learning, improvement, innovation and ensuring sustainability.

The registered manager explained she carries out regular audits of the premises, resources and equipment. Should any issues be found, we were informed, actions would be taken to rectify and improve the service being provided.

Working in partnership with parents.

Parents are given verbal feedback about what the children have done that day but help parents feel involved in their child's pre-school day, they also have a closed Facebook group that is used to share information and photographs with the parents. Only families of the children currently attending the setting have access to the group. Parents said the setting kept them well informed about their child's progress. One parent told us 'Day-to-day there is a closed Facebook group where Sue will share photos and an update of what the children have been up to each day' and another stated 'I am informed of the care and development progress via the Facebook private group, through learning journals and from talking with Sue.'

