



Hook Norton Pre-School Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	133611
Inspection date	04 January 2007
Inspector	Jan Leo
Setting Address	The Old School, Off Osney Close, Queens Street, Hook Norton, Oxfordshire, OX15 5NW
Telephone number	01608 730560
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Registered person	Hook Norton Pre-School Playgroup
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Hook Norton Pre-School Playgroup opened in 1972. It is a committee run group which operates from the old school building in the village of Hook Norton. The group serves the local area. Children have sole use of a large room for the majority of activities, a smaller room for refreshments, rest and quiet activities, and a secure outdoor area with adventure playground equipment for outdoor play.

The provision may care for a maximum of 32 children from two to under eight years at any one time and there are currently 56 children on the pre-school roll and 28 who attend the out of school provision. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs.

The group opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 09:00 until 18:00 and include a lunch club and an after school club.

Nine staff work with the children of whom two have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or above. There are three members of staff currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from fresh air and exercise each day in order to stay healthy. They take part in active play on a regular basis to develop co-ordination and stamina. As a result, the children move very well in a number of ways, steering bicycles around the playground, climbing in and out of the boat, and rushing about avoiding others. They independently wash their hands thoroughly to remove dirt and germs at regular intervals and some search for the soap if it is out of sight, remembering the good practice they learn. The children are becoming increasingly independent with many capable of using the toilet and blowing their nose without adult help. The majority of staff have a first aid certificate to equip them with the knowledge to administer first aid if children get hurt, and the first aid boxes are well stocked and up to date. Staff routinely keep a record of medication and accidents but some entries lack detail making the loose-leaf forms difficult to keep in sequence. Staff cater for children's individual dietary problems by providing healthy snacks of fruit and biscuits, which are suitable for all who attend. Members of the after school provision have a slightly more substantial snack, eating fruit and toast to sustain them until they get home. Staff make sure drinks are freely available for children to help themselves whenever they are thirsty. Some children bring their own packed lunch from home and sit sociably together during lunch club, showing interest in what other children eat and telling friends about their favourite foods.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play safely in a spacious and welcoming environment, which staff maintain in good condition. Children have ample space to spread out as they play without impacting on other games, and they move around safely. Staff remind children how to keep themselves safe, by for example, explaining how to carry chairs. The staff complete risk assessments in order to limit hazards and supplement safety precautions with supervision. They personally deliver all planned activities and oversee children's free play vigilantly. Children are safe from harm through carefully executed collection arrangements from school, very effective deployment of staff, and well planned security arrangements at the setting. The staff provide robust resources and check equipment every time they use it, in order to keep it in sound condition. All staff are aware of their responsibility to safeguard children from harm and understand the setting's child protection policy. The policy however, does not contain sufficient detail of the action the provider will take if someone raises a concern against a member of staff. The contact number for referring concerns to the relevant authority is not freely available to all staff and users of the group.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children receive a cheerful welcome and rapidly begin play, selecting from an appropriate variety of pre-prepared stimulating activities. Staff swiftly distract young children who are slightly reluctant to separate from their carers, and upset is soon forgotten when they are scooped up for a cuddle and talked to by a warm and caring voice. The children link with friends to share their ideas and competently develop their games by giving roles to other children. For example, two boys dressed up as fire-fighters and chattered in their engine as they 'drove' the chairs home. 'You are the girl fireman and you are the baby fireman' said one when he noticed two other children watching the game. The children all play exceptionally well together and remain fully focused for lengthy periods. They chat sociably with both staff and their peers and all are very vocal. The staff join in child-initiated activities, often lying prone on the carpet along with the children, to extend ideas and seize unexpected opportunities to link learning. For example, staff asked 'are you in Africa yet?' when some children flew off on a magic carpet. The children then searched the box of animals to find some they might encounter in the jungle and had several ideas about where the animals live and what they eat. The children are perfectly at ease with the staff and freely laugh and joke throughout the day displaying their thorough enjoyment of everything around them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children feel valued because staff show great interest in things that are important to them. Children have time to voice their opinions and freely make choices to raise their self-esteem. Staff ensure children with special needs are able to join in activities without any difficulty and other children accept them as part of the group. The staff work very well together as a team and are good role models for children to follow. As a result, the children get on exceptionally well together; they are sociable, confident and independent. Staff set clear and consistent rules and help children learn to be considerate towards others. Each child has a key worker to enable them to bond and settle quickly, and keep parents and carers up to date about how their children have been. Staff display useful information about group's operation, the activities, and how children learn. The contact details for Ofsted are out dated and some useful telephone numbers, for child protection referrals for example, are not openly on display for all who use the provision. Parents and carers find staff easy to talk to and fully committed to providing their children with good quality experiences. They have access to their children's records, policies, and practice documents on request and value the provision highly.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children benefit from a varied and well-organised day and play within a safe environment. The attentive staff provide good quality resources to inspire ideas, and they join in children's play to make the most of every learning opportunity. The staff work very well together as a team and form strong relationships with children, parents and the committee. The committee appraises staff regularly

and supports ongoing training in order to maintain standards. They review policies on a rolling programme and monitor practice to ensure it conforms to policy. Staff and committee work together to identify areas for improvement and take immediate action to repair damage in order to keep the environment safe and welcoming. All of the documentation, required by regulation, is in place but some lacks accuracy or detail to be of full value.

Improvements since the last inspection

Three recommendations were made at the last inspection and all have been fully addressed in order to raise standards. The provision was asked to develop and implement a system for appraising staff and this has been successfully introduced to identify areas for personal development to improve skills.

The staff were asked to routinely obtain a signature from parents on accident records. This is now done as proof that details of children's injuries are passed on to parents and carers to keep them fully informed about their children's health.

The provision previously had no statement regarding bullying. They have prepared a separate bullying policy to ensure such incidents can be dealt with consistently and families know how staff will respond.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 good. 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 all documentation contains full and accurate information.

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