



Cavendish Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY252616 |
| Inspection date | 05 April 2006 |
| Inspector | Sue Taylor |
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| Registered person | Eastbourne Borough Council |
| Type of inspection | Childcare |
| Type of care | Out of School 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?

Cavendish Playscheme, known as Rascals, is one of three schemes run by Eastbourne Borough Council. It open in 2003 and operates from rooms within Cavendish School in Eastbourne. It is situated in a mainly residential area on the outskirts of the town. A maximum of 50 children aged under 8 may attend the playscheme at any one time. The scheme is open weekday from 8:45 to 16:30 during the school holidays. All children share access to enclosed outdoor play areas.

There are currently 189 children aged from 4 to under 8 years on roll, in addition to children aged over 8. Children come from the local area. The playscheme supports

children who speak English as an additional language.

The playscheme employs 18 staff. Of these 6 hold appropriate qualifications and 6 staff members, including the manager, are working towards a suitable qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a clean and warm environment with good natural light. Children are generally independent in their self-care skills and routinely wash their hands after using the toilet. However, they are not always washing their hands before eating. Documentation sharing with parents, regarding the care of sick children, helps prevent the spread of infections.

The children have easy access to drinking water throughout the day with a jug and cups available. Children made good use of this, particularly after and during physical play. This helps them control their own thirst needs and prevent dehydration. A displayed notice informs parents about the storage and content of packed lunches. However, the current range of tuck shop items does little to promote or encourage healthy eating.

Children are regularly involved in energetic physical games both indoors and outside. The children thoroughly enjoy football and group games. Resources and activities support children's developing hand eye coordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from a generally secure environment, with staff who supervise them well. Assessing potential hazards ensures risks are minimised though there are times when the unsecured entrance to the building is not effectively monitored.

Children play in an organised environment with easy and safe access to a range of toys and activities. All children use resources and play materials, appropriate to their age and stage of development. Explanations and support from the staff promotes children's developing knowledge of how to keep themselves safe.

The play scheme has clear procedures in place to help safeguard children's welfare. The recording of accidents, incidents and medication administration ensures parents are informed, with children appropriately cared for. The staff have an understanding of child protection issues and know how to act if they have a concern about a child in their care, helping to keep children safe from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children arrive happy and settle very quickly. They enjoy their time at the playscheme, showing good levels of involvement and interest in the available activities and resources. They have opportunities to take part in quiet and active games. Easily accessed toys and resources allow children to make choices about their play.

Warm and caring relationships that staff develop with children help give them confidence. The staff get to know the children well and use this knowledge in supporting individual children. Children communicate easily with staff and others.

In addition to activities such as puzzles, construction and board games, children's creative development is supported through the art and craft activities. For example, children enjoyed creating Easter hats and cards, using a good range of craft materials. The bouncy castle and games using the parachute were very popular. Children are well supported by staff who provide activities that engage their interest.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop good self-esteem and confidence, well supported by positive relationships with staff. The staff acknowledge and value children's individual needs. Some activities assist children's growing awareness of the wider world. However, there are few resources providing positive images of other cultures or disability. Children gain a sense of belonging as they display their work on the wall and are sometimes involved in the day's planning.

Behaviour management is effective. Children are involved in devising 'rules' at the start of the holiday scheme. They learn to treat others with respect, as the staff act as good role models themselves. Children listen to staff and respond positively.

Parents and carers gain information about the day's activities from the displayed timetable. At the end of each scheme their views are sought and valued. They are made aware of the existence of the policies and procedures. However, they do not receive effective detail themselves and the complaints procedure requires amending to meet current guidelines. The friendly relationships between staff, parents and carers help contribute to children's wellbeing.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a safe and organised environment. A comprehensive recruitment process with a clear induction programme helps ensure the suitability of staff. The management team make effort to try and meet the required ratio of appropriately qualified staff. The majority of policies and procedures are clear and include the necessary detail. The relevant records are in place, though a parent or carer's name is not always clear on the registration form.

Staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities. Children benefit from the staff working well as a team. The staff are effective at interacting with the children, responding and listening to their ideas. They give children support and encouragement, and as a result children are secure, happy and content. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the playscheme have made progress with the five recommendations set. The staff have ready access to first aid equipment to assist in the event of an accident. Documentation is regularly updated and amended as necessary. However, as noted, the current complaints policy does not provide the required detail. The incident record has been altered and now parents or carers can sign the record when they are informed of an incident involving their child. Children have easy access to a box of books during part of the day. They enjoy reading to themselves or with a member of staff. However there are still very few resources and activities that positively reflect diversity.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint relating to Standard 11: Behaviour Management. The complaint related to the handling of an incident. We asked the provider to investigate the concerns raised in February 2006. The outcome of the investigation was satisfactory. The provider remains qualified for registration.

The provider is aware of the need to keep a record of this complaint in their complaint record. 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):

- encourage healthier options at snack times

- ensure parents and carers are fully informed of the policies and procedures
- ensure the complaints policy and procedure complies with current guidance and is shared with parents and carers
- ensure parent or carer details are clear on the registration forms.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk