



Motcombe Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY302564
Inspection date	18 May 2006
Inspector	Chris Mackinnon

Setting Address	Motcombe Swimming Pool, Motcombe Road, Old Town, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21
Telephone number	01323 410748
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Registered person	Eastbourne Leisure Trust - Serco Leisure Ltd
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Motcombe Playgroup (Serco Leisure) opened in 2005. It operates in a converted house within the Motcombe Swimming Pool buildings in Eastbourne, East Sussex. A maximum of 10 children may attend at any one time. The playgroup is open each weekday from 09:15 to 12:00 during school term time only. Children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 13 children aged from two to under eight years on roll. Of these

nine receive funding for nursery education. The setting supports children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The setting employs five staff, most of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications, with one staff member currently training.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are healthy and active through staff following successful procedures and practices which meet the children's health and nutritional needs. Consistent adult support and guidance helps children gain an effective understanding of hygiene and a desire to maintain independence in their personal care.

Children are active and move with confidence around the setting. Staff have a good understanding of children's development needs and provide plenty of challenges to promote children's manual skills and use of tools. Children explore resources and develop healthily, within a well organised and stimulating environment. Children demonstrate a positive attitude to exercise and have fun during a wide range of expressive games and activities, such as balancing and climbing, lively music and movement sessions and outdoor games with staff, which they enjoy enthusiastically.

Children enjoy healthy snacks and have a variety of fresh fruits. The quality of the food and drinks provided is good and staff give consideration to children's individual dietary needs. Staff support individual children's physical development with a well planned programme of physical fitness tasks and activities. The overall good quality of the activities and consistent staff involvement, contributes greatly to children's healthy growth and development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their play and learning activities in a welcoming and stimulating environment. The setting has two bright and colourful play areas, providing many opportunities for children to develop and learn new skills. Care is taken to organise the children's play areas to be safe and well organised for a wide range of challenging activities to take place.

Children are protected from accidents and harm through close staff supervision and a wide range of effective safety procedures. Written assessments are in place which are regularly reviewed to reduce hazards. Staff have a consistent understanding of the need for safety outdoors and organise physical play activities that are effectively supervised. Staff are consistent in helping children to learn about playing safety together.

Children use safe play equipment and materials that are appropriate to their ages

and level of development. Staff are guided to regularly check the condition of all play resources. Plenty of resources are available for all children to be imaginative and to enjoy their activities and have fun. A broad range of messy-play and art-crafts materials are provided, but children have limited experience of technology resources and reduced access to the setting's computer. Children with special needs are safely included, with sensitive adult support and adaptations made to resources and activities.

A range of security measures are in place to keep children safe and secure during play sessions. Clear staff guidance and parental consents contribute to children's safety on outings. Children are well protected by trained and experienced staff who have a clear understanding of child protection procedures and give priority to children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their play and are well stimulated by their experiences at the setting. They achieve easily, explore resources confidently and have fun. Children become well involved in the play and learning environment, supported by staff and the provision of challenging games and activities. Children have many positive adult-child learning interactions that develops their language and communication skills. Children join-in eagerly and are delighted by a range of expressive activities. For example, exciting physical activities, lively music and movement sessions and imaginative role-play.

All children engage in a wide range of play and learning activities that are well organised to meet their developing needs. Children are confident learners, closely supported by staff who help to extend their skills in writing and recognising words. Children explore a range of materials and media in interesting art-craft and creative projects. Children learn numbers and sizes and use a wide range of assembly and making materials to represent their ideas. Children are imaginative and create their own games and adapt resources, during many role-play activities.

Children use a range of outdoor play equipment, with plenty of opportunities for climbing, jumping and learning balance. Children respond enthusiastically to a well planned programme of activities that helps to extend their physical confidence. Staff help children learn about nature, growing and the seasons. A range of festivals and planned learning themes relating to travel and other cultures, supports children's knowledge of the wider world.

Staff are well motivated and support children's interactive skills effectively with well organised group activities. Staff use questions successfully to challenge children's thinking and extend learning. Staff take care to monitor individual children's development effectively, which helps them to learn and achieve. Staff observe and record children's progress successfully and plan a varied range of activities to ensure children enjoy their time at playgroup.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is good. The setting has a well organised nursery education programme that ensures children have a wide range of experiences to support their learning in all areas. Staff provide well planned and focused activities to ensure each child has many learning and development opportunities. Clear records of children's individual development helps staff to plan the next steps for each child. Well organised and effective group learning activities excite the children and staff present these well.

Children enjoy books and choose favourites and invent their own stories. Children are able to express their thoughts and experiences well, using good and developing vocabulary. Many opportunities are provided for children to develop an understanding of how to communicate and interact with others; during art-crafts, making and assembly activities and role-play. Good use is made of numbers and counting resources and children learn about shapes, sizes and how to count the days of the week, developing a good early understanding of calculation.

Children learn about the wider world from travel projects, outings and other culture festivals that are celebrated throughout the year. Many day-to-day opportunities are provided for children to explore diversity and learn differences. Well-presented learning themes ensure children have positive and rich learning experiences. For example, in learning about animals, children explore sounds, sizes and become aware of other countries.

Children express themselves creatively through a range of media and are able to draw, describe and construct items that represent their ideas. Children also enjoy learning how things fit together and are able to help each other when using tools and resources. Children enjoy moving to music and singing and know the words to many action songs and rhymes. Children are confident within their group and can appreciate each other's contributions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed and encouraged to join-in and play co-operatively together. The setting encourages all children to help and share, which fosters their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Children's behaviour is good and staff take care to develop individual children's self confidence. Staff are consistent in setting clear boundaries for children, which helps them learn to take responsibility for their own actions. Staff are successful in helping children to feel secure and be involved with the group. Staff are enthusiastic role-models and encourage children to contribute fully in the play and learning activities. Children respond well to prompts to care for their surroundings, resources and each other.

Children have an ample range of opportunities to learn about themselves and each other. The setting's learning programme includes a broad range of activities well organised to reflect diversity and develop children's awareness of the wider world. Children also learn about their local community through planned activities and regular

outings to local places of interest.

Nursery Education

The partnership with parents is satisfactory. Staff keep clear information on individual children's achievements and provide opportunities for parents to know how their children are progressing. Efforts are made by staff to encourage parents to support their children's learning, but the information provided for parents on the day-to-day learning themes is limited. Parents have access to a regular newsletter and are encouraged to support events and attend outings.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and benefit from the good organisation of the setting's rooms and colourful play environment. Staff are effectively deployed to encourage children's development and communicate well to support individual children's achievement. The indoor and outdoor play areas are well prepared to encourage expressive and physical activities and provide plenty of learning opportunities for children. A generous supply of stimulating and attractive play and learning resources supports children successfully in having fun and learning new skills.

Children benefit from well qualified and experienced staff, who are actively supported by the person in charge. A staff appraisal system is in place to support competence and staff are committed to improving their practice and are actively engaged in further training and development.

All required record keeping that contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and is well maintained. The setting has well organised documentation, which is easily accessible to staff and parents. Clear and detailed policy guidance material is also in place to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Nursery Education

The leadership and management within the setting is good. The funded children are successfully supported in their learning by a committed staff team who have a consistent knowledge of children's learning stages. The manager leads staff well in planning a stimulating programme of activities and learning themes, that effectively promote children's achievement. The written evaluation of children's activities is well organised and is effective in helping staff to support children's learning. The staff team consult regularly to discuss the effectiveness of their teaching and are experienced in identifying strengths and areas for improvement.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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.

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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):

- develop children's use of technology resources and access to the setting's computer

The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- develop the day-to-day information given to parents on the children's play and learning themes

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