



## Endcliffe Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	300777
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Yvonne Victoria Facey
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<b>Registered person</b>	Endcliffe Playgroup
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Sessional 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](http://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?

Endcliffe Playgroup is run by a voluntary management committee and has been registered since 1997. It is located within Endcliffe Methodist Church Hall in Sheffield. A maximum of 20 children may attend the playgroup at any one time. The playgroup is open Monday and Wednesday during term time from 09.15 to 11.30. Children have access to two playrooms and toilets. The outdoor play area is fully enclosed.

There are currently 30 children aged from two to under five years on roll. The playgroup employs three members of staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

The playgroup is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean and reasonably maintained environment. Children's health is supported appropriately by staff who have a suitable knowledge of health and hygiene procedures. There is a clear sickness policy, which ensures children who have an infectious disease do not attend. Children are becoming confident in self-care skills and are learning about the risk of infection. For example, they know they need to wash their hands before snack and staff talk to them about washing germs away. However, all children wash their hands in the same bowl of water and use the same towel for drying their hands. This does not prevent the risk of spreading infection.

Staff are aware of children's individual dietary needs and plan snacks accordingly. Children enjoy making their own snacks using healthy foods, such as fruit, raw vegetables and rice cakes. They also choose from milk, juice or water to drink at snack time.

Children take part in a balanced range of activities, which contribute to keeping themselves healthy. They take part in indoor and outdoor activities that develop their large and fine motor skills. For example, children enjoy riding bikes, climbing and using scissors, pencils, and paint brushes.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a wide range of age appropriate toys and equipment, which are in good condition, stimulating and fun. There are appropriate procedures in place to ensure children are safe. Risk assessments are conducted on a regular basis and adequate security arrangements are in place. For example, visitors are greeted at the door at all times and doors are secured throughout the session. Children are carefully supervised and there is an appropriate procedure to follow in the event of a child being lost or not collected. The children practise fire drills on a regular basis, although the recording of practices are not always up to date.

The staff demonstrate a sound understanding of child protection procedures and how to keep children safe. They understand their role in protecting children and use this knowledge suitably to promote the children's well-being. Sound arrangements are in place for persons that have not been vetted, ensuring they do not have sole charge of children.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the playgroup; they are happy and settled within the setting. They arrive talking happily about events from home and are excited to see each other. Children are interested and eager to become involved in the broad and stimulating range of activities provided. They are able to make decisions about their play and engage in activities where they can explore and investigate. For instance, they spend a lot of time in the space ship exploring all the different accessories made available to them. There is good use of number, shape, colour, during everyday activities. For example, children count the number of tomatoes they place on their biscuits when making a snack.

Children are engrossed in their play and receive good levels of support from the staff. They are encouraged to try new skills, and staff listen and respond, asking questions to help them think about what they will do next. For example, children talk to each other about the pictures they are going to draw and a member of staff asks them, "What else do we need?". Children are confident and involved in their surroundings and interact very well with staff and each other.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's behaviour is well managed and children quickly settle into the group's routine. As a result, they play well together and show care and consideration for each other and staff. They are able to learn right from wrong as staff set clear boundaries and establish good routines. Children are encouraged to behave well, share and take turns with lots of support and praise given by staff for their efforts and achievements.

Appropriate activities and resources are helping children to become aware of similarities and differences. Books, toys and pictures with positive images are used to introduce the children to the wider world. Although no children attend at present who have identified special needs, systems are in place to ensure care is appropriate to promote an inclusion environment.

Parents are given adequate information about their child's day. Parents and staff are developing secure working relationships to meet the needs of all children attending. Staff gather personal information regarding children's needs to ensure that they are cared for in an environment that is sensitive to their individual needs. Parents are actively involved in the group as they volunteer as helpers and are part of the management committee.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the clear daily routine, enabling them to participate in a broad range of activities throughout the day. They are relaxed and interested in the happy and stimulating environment. They are starting to initiate and progress their own play and interact well together.

Space and resources are used appropriately to meet the needs of all the children and staff are suitably deployed. All required documentation is in place, retained and stored to maintain confidentiality. Written policies and procedures are reviewed regularly and shared with all staff and parents, although not all staff are familiar with the National Standards. There are suitable procedures in place for carers who are not vetted. However, Ofsted has not been notified of the change in the named contact person, therefore checks have not been carried out. This is a breach of regulations.

Overall the setting meets the needs of the children who attend.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection, the playgroup's recommendations were to update policies and procedures, making them available to parents. These included the procedures for parents making a complaint and gaining permission for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. Also, to consider recording more detail in the fire drill practice.

The group have addressed the complaints procedure and seek permission for emergency medical advice or treatment, which effectively contributes to the organisation of the setting and inform parents. Children are learning to keep themselves safe when practising the fire drill. However, recording of practices are not up to date.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

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.

## **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):

- review the arrangements for children's hand washing to minimise the spread of infection
- ensure that any significant changes in all personnel are notified to Ofsted and they have sight of the National Standards and Guidance
- record fire drills when they are practiced.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)