



Rosehill Pre School Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	305984
Inspection date	19 September 2006
Inspector	Pauline Pinnegar
Setting Address	Rosehill School, Upsall Grove, Fairfield, Stockton on Tees, TS19 7QN
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Registered person	Come Along Club
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Rosehill Pre School Playgroup is a committee run playgroup which was registered in January 1994. It operates within one room in a prefabricated building within the grounds of Rosehill School. The playgroup serves the local school and the surrounding communities. A maximum of 29 children may attend the playgroup at any one time. The playgroup is open each weekday from 09.00 to 15.00 during school term time. Children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 39 children aged from two years six months to four years on roll. The playgroup supports children with learning difficulties. The playgroup employs six members of staff. All have appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well taken care of if they have an accident, due to the well-maintained accident and medication records, and the fact that all staff are trained in first aid. There are however, some minor deficiencies in procedures which means that children's health is not always fully supported. For example, parental consent for the administration of medication is not clearly written. There is a clear policy about children who are ill or infectious, including a procedure for contacting parents if a child becomes ill whilst at playgroup. Staff do have written parental consent to seek emergency medical help if needed. Children are supported by staff, and learn about basic health and hygiene practices as they wash their hands during the day. For example, staff encourage independence and gently remind children to use the soap, get a paper towel and put it in the bin afterwards.

Children are suitably nourished and snacks provided for them are generally healthy and appropriate. For example, they enjoy fresh fruit or chopped vegetables, such as carrots. Packed lunches are provided by parents and many contain healthy options. Staff encourage parents not to put sweets into the lunch boxes. Children are actively encouraged by staff to eat the healthier or savoury food first. Although children are provided with drinks at meal and snack times, fresh drinking water is not freely available to them. Although there is a drinks dispenser on the premises, there are no cups provided for children to promote their independence. Staff are very clear about, and work well with parents to ensure that children's dietary requirements are consistently met.

Children are able to enjoy a range of physical activity which contributes to their health and development. Children move confidently and safely, indoors and outdoors, successfully negotiating space and obstacles. They are effectively supported to develop and extend their physical skills. Children enjoy running in the large grassed areas outdoors. They can explore their gross motor skills using large climbing apparatus. Indoors they enjoy opportunities for music and movement.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment. Bright and cheerful examples of children's work are displayed throughout the room. The premises are well organised indoors to maximise play opportunities for children. Children use a broad range of safe, developmentally appropriate resources. These are suitably organised in child height furniture in the activity room to encourage independent access. Children learn to keep themselves safe as staff involve them in discussions and teach them safe practice. For example, staff encourage children not to walk up the slide as they may fall and hurt themselves. Children learn about safe evacuation in an emergency when they practise fire drills. Topics such as road safety and 'stranger danger' have been discussed and explored with children. The local school crossing patrol and police have visited the group to talk to children about their roles in the community and safe practice.

Children are cared for in safe and secure premises by staff who clearly understand their role in keeping children safe. Staff conduct clear daily risk assessments to reduce potential hazards and minimise the risk of accidental injury to children. Health and safety procedures are implemented effectively. There are clear policies and procedures in place for outings and collection of children. Prior risk assessments take place before visits to ensure children's safety at all times. Staff have good systems in place to ensure all toys and resources remain safe and suitable as well as clean and hygienic for the children to play with.

Children are cared for by staff who give priority to protecting children and keeping them safe. Staff's sound understanding of their responsibilities within child protection procedures help to ensure that children are effectively protected and their welfare safeguarded. Staff have attended additional training to support them in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at playgroup and arrive happy and eager to participate. Those who are new to the playgroup are helped to settle by staff who are sensitive towards their individual needs. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. Good quality adult-child interactions are supportive of early communication skills. Children begin to make sense of the world and express their ideas as they join in a varied range of sensory and exploratory experiences. For example making lavender bags, planting bulbs in the garden and tasting various fruit and vegetables. Children enjoy the well organised, comfortable story corner.

Children independently select activities from the well planned and balanced range available. They explore activities freely, such as sand, paint, craft and construction. They use the small world and role play resources cooperatively, involving others in their play. They concentrate well on activities which interest them, like painting pictures to take home and playing with the cars. They develop good levels of hand eye coordination as they use small equipment such as paintbrushes. Good use is made of the attractive outdoor play area and children are developing their large physical skills well as they use large apparatus such as slides, bikes and the climbing frame.

Activity planning is based on topics such as shapes, colours and the weather. However, planning does not clearly identify the learning outcomes for children to assist teaching methods. Staff are not using the Birth to three matters framework to enhance the planning for younger children, and have yet to access suitable training. Children's progress is discussed informally with parents but staff do not record their observations to plan the next steps for children's play, learning and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Effective communication between staff and parents ensures that children's individual needs are consistently met. Support for children with special needs is well considered; where

appropriate staff use signing which supports inclusion of both verbal and non-verbal children. Staff sensitively enable all children to be part of activities. Well considered links have been established to assist transfer to school and are in place for all children.

Children's awareness of the wider world and other cultures is raised effectively. Staff plan imaginative activities, with the help of parents, which raise their understanding of the lives and cultures of other people. For example, children have explored topics about Africa looking at animals and different tribes. Other topics have included American Independence and food tasting activities relating to France where children tasted frogs legs and snails. Some grandparents have been involved when the children explored 'D Day'. Visitors to the group and occasional outings stimulate their interest in the local community. Children feel a strong sense of belonging because staff welcome them very warmly and cheerfully into the group. Less confident children are offered kind words and reassurance by staff until they feel able to play. Staff implement their behaviour management policy well and are good role models for children as they interact cheerfully with each other. Children access a varied range of resources to increase their awareness and understanding of diversity. This includes multi cultural dressing-up outfits, books.

The group establishes a good partnership with parents and carers. Parents feel comfortable within the group and relationships are relaxed and friendly. The friendly and open rapport ensures verbal information is regularly exchanged. Parents are made aware of how to make a complaint, however the procedure does not as yet reflect the recent changes to regulation and does not include all the necessary detail.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Clear policies and procedures are in place to support children's welfare. These are shared effectively with parents. Close teamwork help to ensure procedures are consistently applied, so that children are protected. Staff have suitable skills and experience to work with children. Most required documentation, which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and implemented appropriately. However, the child protection statement was not available for inspection which is a regulatory requirement. Parent's wishes regarding their child's care influence day-to-day practice.

The group is organised effectively to promote children's welfare and safety. Daily routines are clearly planned and staff are deployed effectively to respond to children's varying needs and interests. Procedures for recruitment, to ensure the suitability of staff to care for children, are not yet sufficiently robust. Induction and appraisals are currently being developed so that staff development can be clearly identified.

Overall the playgroup meets the needs of the range of children for whom care is provided.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to; ensure that there are effective procedures in place for the appointing and the induction of new staff, ensure child protection policy includes a statement with regard to allegations against a member of staff and children's progress records

are maintained and shared with parents; ensure children's arrival and departure times are accurately recorded.

The playgroup has just begun to develop systems and procedures for the recruitment and induction of new staff. However, there have been no new staff appointments since the last inspection. Although the child protection policy has been updated to include a statement regarding procedures to be followed should there be an allegation against a member of staff, the policy was not available for inspection. However, staff are fully aware of what action should be taken in order to protect children and ensure their welfare. Children's progress is informally shared with parents daily, however, written records are not completed. The attendance register has been updated and now includes details of the times children arrive and depart which contributes to their overall safety within the group.

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 complaint 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):

- ensure access to fresh drinking water is available to children
- ensure parental consent for medication is clear
- ensure records are maintained of what children do and use these observations to plan the next steps for children's play, learning and development
- develop the written planning documents to ensure clear learning outcomes for activities are identified and planning for younger children is in place using birth to three matters framework
- ensure the complaints procedure is updated in line with changes to regulations and information about contact details for Ofsted are correct

- ensure the child protection statement is available for inspection
- develop robust systems to check new staff and develop clear recruitment, selection procedures.

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