



HOPS (Holiday Opportunity Playscheme)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	251526
Inspection date	31 July 2006
Inspector	Lesley Gadd
Setting Address	Settles House, Kerrison, Thorndon, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7JQ
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Registered person	Hops Holiday Opportunity Playscheme
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Holiday Opportunity Play Scheme for children with disabilities opened in 1978. It is run by a committee of volunteer trustees and operates from within a main building complex called Kerrison in Thorndon in Suffolk. The scheme make use of a large play room, sensory room, sun lounge, art room, soft play room, kitchen and first aid room. All toilets and changing areas are suitably equipped. The scheme is open each summer holiday and one Saturday a month from 10:00 to 15:00. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area .

There are currently 47 children aged from 4 to 14 years on role and a maximum of 25

attend at anyone time on a part-time basis. Children come from a wide catchment area and are transported to the scheme by parents or organised coaches.

The scheme employs four members of staff. All of these hold appropriate qualifications. Additional adult volunteers work with the children to ensure they enjoy ratios of two adults to one child.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment where staff follow suitable hygiene procedures to prevent the spread of infection. Children are beginning to develop positive hygiene habits through use of daily routines. They wash hands before eating and discuss with staff the need to avoid spreading germs and making themselves ill. Children's well-being is considered as appropriate measures are in place to respond when children have accidents or become ill. The scheme holds parents' contact numbers and a first aid kit is readily available.

All children are provided with regular meals and drinks in line with parental wishes. Individual children are well supported. They feed themselves and staff have undertaken appropriate training to help them ensure children with gastric feeding tubes enjoy regular refreshments. However, the menu for snack time and within the tuck shop is limited to sweet produce and children's health is not wholly supported as a result. Children enjoy some opportunities to talk about healthy eating as they discuss how fresh fruit, if eaten regularly, helps the body to grow well.

All children benefit from regular opportunities for fresh air and physical play outside to improve their stamina and health. Children enjoy the sensation of movement as they lie on the trampoline and are gently bounced by adults. Children are thrilled with themselves when they make big waves in the water and splash themselves and others. Children enjoy swinging, travelling down a slide on the rocket shoot, riding bikes and bouncing balls.

Children's sense of well-being is supported. They are able to recuperate with a few quiet moments sat on cushions looking at books or watching the television when needed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised by the setting as all adults supervise them well indoors and outdoors. Staff assess the scheme before children arrive to ensure their safety. A range of preventative measures such as external doors being secured with locks are in place to ensure children's security. A daily attendance register is held, however, hours of arrival and departure are not clearly recorded for all children and no visitors are listed. As a result they may be disregarded in the

event of an emergency evacuation. Health and safety policies are in place, however, there is no clear written detail on the settings procedures if a child is lost or uncollected and parents are not wholly informed or reassured about their children's well-being in these circumstances. Children's awareness of the need to attend to their own safety is reinforced. Staff help them fasten their seat belts on the coach and take things out of their mouth that are not suitable to swallow.

Children enjoy a welcoming environment within the premises ensuring they have a strong sense of belonging. They are able to hang their bags up within a familiar cloak room, look at photographs of themselves on the notice board and display their art work promoting their security. Children are interested in the resources and most confidently select from a range of good quality equipment showing their independence.

Children's welfare is generally well promoted as the staff have attended training in child protection. Staff have some knowledge of signs and symptoms and know what to do if they are concerned about a child in their care. However, procedures held are out of date and as a result children's protection is not fully assured.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in a supportive and caring setting where children and adults enjoy warm relationships. Children greet adults and friends affectionately on arrival displaying their confidence. Children gain a sense of value as adults get down to their level physically and make time to involve themselves in children's play and games. Adults help to read stories, play chasing games and support children when exploring the ball pool well.

All children eagerly join in with a wide range of developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities. Children demonstrate their design abilities as they paint, glue and use a rich range of art materials to make craft masks and circus people. Children use their imagination well as they pretend to serve tea in the café, hold puppets and take baby dolls for a walk in pushchairs. Children enjoy books and one to one time with staff. Older children gain comfort. They rest their head on an adults arm and listen to the rhythmic sound of voices as adults re-enact characters within a story. Children develop their thinking and are stimulated. They make loud sounds when banging instruments and work out how to get a noisy response from activity toys. On occasions children make use of the light and sound room as a stimulus.

Children's interests are noted and they gain in confidence as they develop throughout attendance at the holiday scheme. Activities are planned by staff to accommodate children's requests making them feel involved and appreciated. Children like swimming and the scheme co-ordinator and committee have fund raised to purchase a new pool. Children now have access to this on a daily basis. The pool is closely supervised and the children have begun to learn how to float and move themselves in the water. Children are encouraged to try different activities as adults offer good support, encouragement and praise. They are keen to try playing table football and adults show the children how to hold the rods and move the players. Children

persevere and are pleased with themselves when they manage to achieve this task. Parents are kept informed about what activities the children have enjoyed during the sessions. Timetables of activities are listed on notice boards and adults complete activity sheets to give to parents on collection. This lets them know what their children have been doing throughout the day and in this way they are encouraged to take an interest in the children's care and activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting as they settle well and play confidently. Adults have a good knowledge of children's individual needs through effective documentation and good levels of communication with parents. They demonstrate genuine care and affection for the children through their positive interaction with them which promotes children's self-esteem. Children form positive relationships with each other and with adults and play co-operatively together. Children are able to share crayons and talk about their favourite play station games. Children are beginning to develop their awareness and understanding of others as the setting has started to increase the range of resources and activities that reflect equality.

Children behave well and are becoming aware of the boundaries for acceptable behaviour. Adults set a good example and give clear and consistent explanations frequently praising children. Children are sensitively supported to acknowledge unacceptable behaviour and consider the consequences of their actions. Adults then distract them with play opportunities and turn their attention to more positive pursuits.

The partnership with parents is good. Children's well-being is promoted through the friendly relationships that adults develop with parents. They are kept well informed. Details about children's activities and the setting's policies and procedures are displayed on notice boards and a daily activity sheet goes home with the children. Parents are confident to speak to the approachable staff. They engage in daily discussions regarding routines and children's developmental needs to ensure continuity of care. Parents and children comment positively about the setting and that they think staff are friendly. The setting has a complaints policy, however, detail within this is out of date and as such parents cannot be fully assured about their children's welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for by a consistent staff team and supporting adults who are skilled and appropriately qualified. Sound recruitment and selection procedures ensure that they are suitably vetted and experienced. Staff and adult volunteers are clear about their roles and responsibilities due to the comprehensive induction procedures implemented. Children are well supervised and supported during activities due to the effective deployment of staff and high volunteer ratios. Children are relaxed and confident within the setting. They are able to move freely

around their identified areas, make independent choices regarding their play and eat in comfort.

A range of detailed written records, policies and procedures are available to guide staff. However, these are not all up to date or easily accessible and the setting is not clear about all their responsibilities under the National Standards. As a result parents are not wholly assured about their children's welfare.

A strong partnership between the co-ordinator, committee and regular staff ensures the scheme remains open and available for parents. They are actively looking to recruit new members to take over running the scheme and to further develop the quality of the children's holiday care experience.

Overall the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the scheme was asked to update policies and procedures to meet current regulations particularly, child protection and complaints. In addition to keep written medication and accident records.

Whilst the scheme have made some progress on addressing the above points to further support the children's welfare, the need to update child protection and complaints policies remains a recommendation for this inspection.

The scheme have set up a written system that records intentions for children's medication. Details are filled in by parents, medication given and signed by staff. Parents then sign to demonstrate they have been informed about medicines administered. Accidents are listed on separate forms and parents again sign to say they have been informed about matters. Staff complete training in child protection, however, procedures held are out of date and as a result children's protection is not fully assured. Complaints information has been established for parents, however, detail within this is out of date and as such parents cannot be fully assured about their children's welfare.

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 the 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):

- improve the snack and tuck shop menus to further promote the children's health
- improve policies, procedures and records to ensure they fully comply with current National Standards and are always available for inspection, particularly lost and uncollected children, arrival and departure times within registers for all children and visitors attendance, child protection and complaints.

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