



Grasshoppers (An Integral Prt Of Springboard Proj)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113501
Inspection date	29 August 2006
Inspector	Bridget Richardson
Setting Address	52 Hurst Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2EP
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Registered person	Grasshoppers (An Integral Prt Of Springboard Proj)
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?

Grasshoppers is an integral part of the Springboard Project and opened in 1998. It operates from a purpose built facility that provides integrated play and relaxation facilities for children and young people with special needs or disabilities; and in a youth centre close by. Both buildings are located in the centre of Horsham. A maximum of 60 children may attend at any one time. The setting is open during all school holidays between 10:00 and 15:30 and on Saturday mornings between 10:00 and 13:00. All children share access to outdoor play areas.

There are currently 48 children aged from five to under eight years on roll who come from a wide catchment area. The setting supports children with special educational needs, and supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The setting employs 10 staff. Four of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. One staff member is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities, which contribute to their good health. Each day there are indoor and outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies. For example, soft play equipment, bat and ball games, large play equipment, parachute games, visits to local parks and to a swimming pool.

There are generally suitable procedures in place to help to prevent the spread of infection. Children who are infectious do not attend which helps prevent the spread of contagious diseases. Staff support and encourage children to wash their hands after toileting and before lunch. However, hygiene procedures when nappy changing are not sufficient as staff are not cleaning the changing mat prior and after individual use.

Parents give prior written consent to administer medication that ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. A high ratio of staff hold a current first aid certificate. This means they can give appropriate care if there is an accident. However, not all accidents that children have whilst at the setting are signed by parents, which means that parents may not be aware of all that happens to their child whilst in the setting's care.

Staff gather all relevant information regarding diet and medical history. This helps to ensure children's individual needs are met. However, no clear procedures are in place to ensure each child collects the right lunch box at lunchtime, which means the risk to children have not been sufficiently minimised to meet their individual needs. The procedures for the effective storage of perishable foods supplied by parents to prevent from spoiling are not clear to ensure all lunch boxes are stored appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff organise the indoor space effectively, allowing children to move around freely and independently. Toys and resources are carefully selected to ensure they are suitable for children. They are easily accessible, offering children freedom of choice.

There are generally suitable procedures to ensure children's safety within the premises. Staff supervise children at all times and a staff member is always situated at the door to ensure children cannot leave unsupervised. A risk assessment both indoors and out is carried out on a weekly basis, which helps to minimise risks to children. However, within the setting plug sockets are not made safe or inaccessible to children and outside plants that pose a hazard to children are accessible. This means not all risks have been sufficiently minimised to ensure children's safety.

Regular fire drills are not held, which means children and staff do not have the opportunity to practice the emergency evacuation and become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency. There are clear procedures for outings that ensure children's safety. Staff risk assess

the areas they wish to take the children to prior to the visit to ensure suitability. A mobile phone and contact details on all children are taken on outings and information is maintained within the setting on who and where the children and staff have gone.

Staff have a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and know what action to take if they have concerns about a child in their care. This ensures staff quickly recognise when a child is in danger and can act in the child's best interests.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are actively involved in their play. Staff encourage children to make choices by making the toys and resources easily accessible, promoting children's independence. Staff have a good knowledge of individual children and praise and encourage them increasing confidence and self-esteem. Children relate well to staff and some are beginning to relate to each other. Children confidently approach staff. For example, a child taking drawings to a staff member to share. The child enjoyed the one to one attention the staff member gave, and drew more pictures whilst with her sharing at all times what was happening in the pictures and asking the staff member to label them.

Children attending enjoy a wide range of activities both planned and free. They move confidently around the areas provided, where they are supervised on a one to one basis at all times, helping them to be able to achieve in their chosen activity. For example, a child playing with two adults and a tent, asking one adult to go in to the tent. Once inside the tent the child initiated a game. The adult followed the child's lead and allowed the child to take control of what would happen next in the imaginary play, pretending to go to sleep and wake up in the morning. Asking the child if it was morning and if they should get up. The child enjoyed the staff member joining in with the game and lots of giggling and chatting came from the tent.

Staff organise a range of group games with children and encourage all children to play an active role in the game. For example, parachute game. The staff member, patiently encouraged children to join in with the activity and talked with the children about what they were going to do introducing the game slowly and calmly with the children, giving them time to take in the rules and expectations of the game. Children were observed joining and leaving the game, and the staff member in charge of the game, offering the children who left choices when the game changed, and by welcoming back children who chose to join in again.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy sound relationships with adults and are beginning to form them with each other. Staff encourage children to participate in the activities provided. This ensures children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential. Staff offer good support for children with special needs. They know the children well and respond positively to their individual needs. There are suitable systems in place to liaise closely with parents and outside agencies

to ensure all children's needs are well planned for and met. Some staff use Makaton, which helps children who have hearing difficulties.

Children generally behave well and benefit from the one to one supervision and the constant praise and encouragement they receive. Staff generally manage children's behaviour calmly and patiently. This encourages children to respond effectively to any guidance and praise. However, some behaviour management strategies are not appropriate within the setting and need revising to ensure that suitable alternatives are offered.

Relationships with parents are friendly and supportive. Daily discussions with parents helps to ensure continuity of care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The person in charge holds a relevant childcare qualification. She regularly updates her knowledge by attending relevant childcare courses. This ensures she has sufficient knowledge of current childcare practices to support the care and learning of the children. Staff understand their role and responsibilities. They have the opportunity for professional development and the management actively encourages staff to attend training. Staff deployment is effective and ensures children are well supervised at all times. Children receive good support from staff who know them well.

All mandatory records are in place, confidential and generally well maintained. However, accident records are not all signed by parents and regular fire drills are not held. There is an induction and appraisal system in place for all staff to support them in their role. Through this procedure, staff training needs are identified and they are given opportunities to enrol on relevant courses. This supports staff in their role and ensures they have opportunities to gain the most relevant information available. There are suitable plans in place to cover for staff absences to ensure children always have appropriate supervision. However, some weaknesses remain in the outcomes for children, as hazards within the setting have not been sufficiently minimised to prevent them from posing a hazard to children. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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):

- ensure clear procedures are in place to make sure lunch boxes cannot be mixed up and that procedures are introduced for the safe storage of perishables
- ensure parents sign all entries of accidents that happen to children whilst in the setting
- ensure regular fire drills are completed to ensure staff and children have opportunities to practice
- ensure hazards identified both indoors and outdoors are made safe or inaccessible to children
- improve hygiene procedures when nappy changing
- develop behaviour management strategies to ensure children's needs are met.

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