



Hough Green Scout & Guide Group

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY290247
Inspection date	15 August 2005
Inspector	Sharon Verma
Setting Address	Hall Avenue, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 8XS
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Registered person	Halton Play Council Limited
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?

Hough Green Playscheme opened in 2004 and is run by Halton Play Council. It operates from two rooms in Hough Green Scout and Guide premises in Widnes, Merseyside. A maximum of 70 children may attend the club at any one time. The setting is open from Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 12.30 and from 13.30 to 16.00 during the February and October school half term and for 3 weeks during the school summer holidays.

There are currently 33 children aged from 5 to 12 years on roll. There are four members of staff employed to work directly with the children, two are working

towards an appropriate qualification in early years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's physical development is promoted well. They benefit from opportunities available each session for physical exercise to develop their strength and coordination, such as team sports and group games. Children enjoy playing cricket, rounders and different parachute games.

Children's health within the setting is supported appropriately, through the implementation of a suitable health and hygiene policy. They learn to keep themselves healthy through good hand washing practices, which are encouraged by staff. They know they must wash their hands after playing outside and before snack time.

An effective sick child policy protects children from illness and infection. Staff also heed any information provided by parents regarding allergies and dietary requirements. This ensures that children's health and welfare is safeguarded.

Children benefit from a choice of healthy and nutritious snacks to promote their growth and development. They enjoy fresh fruit and cereal bars from the tuck shop. Their good health is fostered as they help themselves to easily accessible drinks, which keep them hydrated and refreshed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the availability of a large enclosed outside play area and different rooms, which are organised to provide different areas for rest and play. Children's independence skills are promoted, as they are able to move freely between the two activity rooms and the outside play area. They develop confidence as they make choices about equipment and activities, which are easily accessible.

Children are protected from most hazards. For example, the outdoor play area is checked thoroughly each day before children arrive and fire exits are checked to ensure they are clear. The failure to identify and address other issues of health and safety, such as low level heaters and builders' equipment left on site does, however, expose the children to risks.

Children gain an understanding about keeping themselves safe. They understand that running indoors can be dangerous and about the importance of staying with their partner on trips out. Children also learn how to keep themselves safe in emergencies, as they become familiar with the fire evacuation procedure through regular fire drills.

There is a clear written child protection policy, which is followed by staff and is in line

with local Area Child Protection Committee procedures that protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed at the club and develop independence as they make choices about how they wish to spend their time. They feel valued through regular consultations, which are held with them about future activities. Children feel secure and reassured by staff who are friendly, caring and interested in what the children are doing.

There is a satisfactory range of activities and equipment, which promote the children's development. Children are happy and eager to participate. They benefit from the good selection of outdoor play equipment and engage in different games and sports. Children enjoy planned activities, such as Fun Days and day trips out. Children enjoy reading books as they relax on floor cushions. They develop their creative skills as they take part in arts and crafts activities. Staff are resourceful with the limited range of indoor play equipment, however, the lack of resources limits the challenges and experiences on offer.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and their individual needs are met. This helps them to settle well and gives them a sense of belonging in the club. They develop positive relationships with the staff, which increases their sense of trust and well being. However, children's understanding of the wider world is limited, as there are insufficient resources that encourage children to develop positive attitudes to others and their differences.

Children behave well and cooperate because staff give them praise and support for their efforts and achievements. They learn about the boundaries through discussions with staff, which ensure they are clear about what is expected of them. They develop responsible attitudes for themselves and towards others. They are involved in the rule-making for the club and they display the ground rules on the club notice board.

Staff develop friendly relationships with the parents, which promote the children's welfare. Parents receive written information about the scheme. This ensures that they are clear about how the setting operates and helps them to make informed choices about the care of their child. The entrance area is also used well to provide information about day to day events.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children develop choice and independence as they select from the satisfactory range of resources and play materials, which are organised so that they can access them

easily. Children's work is valued and respected through displays of their art work on the walls.

Recruitment procedures ensure that staff are suitably vetted and do not pose a risk to children. Staff attend a recognised induction training course for play workers, 'Take 5 for Play', which includes basic first aid, child protection, health and safety and behaviour management. This training helps staff to provide a smooth and efficient service that benefits the children's welfare. However, the children's health is compromised at times, because the club does not always have at least one qualified first aider on duty to attend to minor injuries. Children receive good levels of support and their needs are met because the staffing ratios are met well.

Records, policies and procedures are in place. These ensure the efficient management of the provision and promote children's welfare. The provider has not, however, kept Ofsted up to date about recent staff changes.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- improve staff's knowledge and understanding of health and safety issues and risk assessments
- improve the range of activities and resources, including those which promote positive images of race, culture, gender and disability
- keep Ofsted informed of any relevant changes

- develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate will be on the premises, or on outings, at any one time.

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