



## Woodlands Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	306012
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 October 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Donna Suzanne Lancaster
<b>Setting Address</b>	Yarm Primary School, Spitalfields, Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees, TS15 9HF
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<b>Registered person</b>	Woodlands Playgroup
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](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?

Woodlands Pre-School Playgroup have been registered since 1975. It is a committee run group and is located in Yarm, close to Stockton on Tees. The group use a portakabin within the grounds of Yarm Primary school. There is an enclosed outdoor play area. The group have sole use of the premises

A maximum of 20 children aged from two to under five years may attend the day care facility at any one time. There are currently 59 children on roll. The playgroup opens five days a week school term time only from 09.00 to 15.30. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

There are eight part-time members of staff working with the children, five of whom have suitable qualifications and three members of staff are working towards further childcare qualifications. The playgroup receives support from the local authority and Playgroup Network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted within the pre-school by staff following effective procedures and practices that meet the needs of all children. Staff offer children support and guidance through every day routines, as they gently remind them to wash their hands before having snacks and after going to the toilet, as a result, children are beginning to understand the importance of good hygiene routines. For example, children know washing hands stops germs spreading and making you poorly. Arrangements for first aid, administering medication and the implementation of the sickness policy supports and promotes children's health. There are clear procedures for recording all accidents involving children.

Satisfactory provision is made for children to take part in physical activity both indoors and outdoors. The provision has access to an enclosed grassed and small patio area, which is used on a daily basis, weather permitting. Children enjoy playing on the climbing frames, the slides and wheeled toys. Children can rest and be active according to their individual needs with a suitable area for stories and quiet play.

The staff have a satisfactory awareness of healthy eating. Parents provide packed lunches for their child, whilst the pre-school group provide mainly biscuits at snack times. Although this may not fully promote healthy eating, children's diets are enhanced through the occasional fresh fruit they are offered. Children do not have access to regular drinks. Snack and lunchtime is a relaxed and sociable time when children and staff sit together to share the day's experiences. Children's allergies and special dietary needs are recorded and discussed with parents prior to their placement commencing.

Staff have begun to use 'Birth to three matters' guidance to adapt a good range of activities and play experiences to promote younger children's learning.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Attractive displays of children's artwork ensures that the environment is welcoming, and provides children with a sense of belonging. Children select activities from a wide range of good quality, safe and developmentally appropriate resources. They are well-organised at child-height to encourage safe, independent access. Staff explain to children safe practices. For example, they are reminded to line up and hold hands to go across the school playground to nursery. This helps children learn to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

Staff carry out a basic check of the premises each day, this ensures that children are cared for in a safe environment. There is a clear health and safety statement in place and staff ensure that it is implemented well. For example, a comprehensive annual risk assessment is completed with regard to the safety of the premises. Toys and equipment are checked and cleaned regularly to ensure they remain safe. The fire evacuation procedure is displayed and fire drills are practised

with the children. However, this is not practised regularly with the children to ensure that they remain safe in the event of an emergency.

Children are well protected because staff understand their responsibilities with regard to protecting children and most staff have attended training to improve their knowledge and skills. Child protection procedures are clearly established, implemented effectively and are shared with parents.

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

The provision is good.

All children are happy and settled at the pre-school. They greet each other and staff enthusiastically on arrival. Children are eager to learn and show lots of enthusiasm and enjoyment in taking part in a variety of planned activities. Children are confident and have a strong bond with staff, this increases their self-esteem and well-being. They play happily together and staff encourage them to take turns, share and respond to each other, for example, as they complete the floor jigsaws and play with the musical instruments.

Staff ask children lots of questions to make them think and extend their learning and play in all areas, for example, children are encouraged to develop their mathematical language, to solve problems, calculate and measure, as they weigh small objects, staff asked "how many more do we need to make them balance, how many do we need to take away, when else would we use scales? " one child replied "when we bake, we measure the ingredients".

Children use a wide range of large and small equipment and climb, run and jump with confidence. They use small tools for a purpose and join-in first hand experiences, for example, sand and water play, play dough, painting and drawing.

The well-organised, inviting environment and resources offer good opportunities for children to initiate their own play or to take part in planned activities. This allows children to be active or relaxed depending on their needs. Children become increasingly independent as they choose from a wide variety of toys, books and activities, which appeal to them. Toys and resources are well-maintained and meet the needs of all the children who attend, which promotes their all round development and learning.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are warmly welcomed into the pre-school and good relationships are formed between children and staff. Staff take positive steps to promote the welfare and development of all the children attending. Children have access to activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world. As a result, children's appreciation of the diversity of the wider community and helps children to develop a positive attitude towards others.

Children are well behaved. The staff act as good role models and manage behaviour well, promoting children's self-esteem and confidence by giving appropriate and sincere praise and encouragement. Children respond well to the staff's calm and consistent approach and there

is a strong emphasis on respect and consideration for others. The children relate well to each other, and happily share and take turns when playing games.

Positive relationships are established with parents to ensure children receive good quality care. For example, parent's are warmly welcomed at any time into the pre-school, their views, experience and knowledge of their child is acknowledged and valued, this information is used as a starting point for their child's care. Daily verbal exchanges ensure parents are adequately informed of their child's care. The setting's policies and procedures are not available to them at all times.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by a team of staff who have a commitment to developing the facility. They provide a warm and welcoming environment for children and their parents. Four members of staff have a relevant childcare qualification, and four are working towards qualifications. Satisfactory recruitment and selection procedures are in place. The procedures for staff supervision and appraisal are currently being developed to ensure consistency of care and to identify staff training needs to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare.

Children are well supported and adult-child ratios are effectively maintained. Staff are committed to developing practice through ongoing training. Space and resources are effectively organised to maximise play opportunities for children, which contributes to them being happy and settled. They are able to move around confidently and independently, and they initiate their own play well. Most policies and procedures work in practice to promote outcomes for children, documentation is in good order and stored with regard for confidentiality.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to ensure the medication record was signed by all parents and parental consent was in place with all parents for the seeking of emergency treatment and to provide an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

The registered provider has obtained parental consent from parent to seek emergency treatment and all medication records are signed by parents. This further supports children's welfare. Additional resources are available which promote equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practices. This helps to raise children's awareness of diversity.

### **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 children have access to fresh drinking water at all times
- further promote children's safety by practising a more regular fire evacuation
- ensure policies and procedures are available to parents at all times.

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