



Cygnets Pre-School Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY339943
Inspection date	09 November 2006
Inspector	Susan Rogers
Setting Address	Winshill Village Primary School, Brough Road, Winshill, Burton On Trent, Staffordshire, de15 0bt
Telephone number	01283 239485
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Registered person	CYGNETS PRE - SCHOOL PLAYGROUP COMMITTEE
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Sessional 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?

Cygnets Playgroup opened in 2006. It operates from Winhill Village Primary School in Burton on Trent. There is a large playroom including a wet area, toilets, cloakroom and outside play area for the children's use. The playgroup serves children from the Winhill and Burton on Trent area.

A maximum of 24 children may attend the setting at any one time. There are currently 31 children from two to four years of age on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The group opens five days a week during school term time. Sessions are from 9:00 until 11:30 from Monday to Friday and 12:30 until 15:00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The nursery employs five members of staff. Of these, all hold an appropriate early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

All of the routines are highly effective in protecting children from illness and infection; since the tables are washed with anti-bacterial spray before children eat and children use anti bacterial soap and paper towels for their hand washing routines. Children have effective skills that help prevent illness and infection. They are learning about effective routines that keep themselves clean by washing their hands after using the toilet, and wearing aprons when they play with messy activities.

Children are learning to extend their food tastes through a wide range of snack foods that include scotch pancakes, fruit, breadsticks and milk. They are actively encouraged to eat fruit and vegetables by serving these with dips and yoghurt that makes the food more attractive to children. Children's different nutritional needs are given high consideration when the snacks are planned. Consequently the food meets with the children's preferences, with filling options that are also healthy, being regularly served. Children are actively encouraged to change their eating habits for more healthy food.

Children are very well hydrated as they have ready access to drinks of water throughout the session. For example, they learn to enjoy drinking water through staff setting positive examples and sitting with the children whilst everyone enjoys a drink. Children are very well protected in the cold weather as staff ensure they wear coats scarves and hats when they play outdoors. Children have excellent protection in the sun as parents give permission for sun protection cream to be applied, they wear hats and play in the shade on hot days.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play safely as staff are very vigilant of their whereabouts and behaviour, making certain that children are safe at all times. Staff provide one to one care for some of the children in order to maintain their safety and to support their outdoor play opportunities. Children are learning about the dangers of fire, as explanations are offered to children regarding the need to evacuate the building during the fire drills. Children enjoy excellent protection as the risk assessments are thorough, and all aspects of the setting are safe for children's play. Children are thoroughly protected against all risks, through the manager's risk assessment training and daily recording that provide evidence of the settings commitment to the care of the children. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe whilst they play, through sound explanations that they understand.

Children play safely, given that they have excellent supervision that does not compromise their need for independence. Staff are consistently vigilant of the children's activities, know the children well and are able to adapt their supervision to accommodate their different supervisory needs. They are well protected if there are concerns over their care, as staff have completed child protection training, there is comprehensive support from the school staff, and staff recognise the symptoms and inform parents of their obligations. Children's learning is

well-motivated, due to the fact that there is varied equipment in the setting that provides greater variety for children's play.

The premises are well organised around the children's needs and are warm and friendly as there are different areas available to meet the play and development needs of the children. For example there is a main play room with adjacent access to a messy play area that allows children to freely access an area of their choice and further their development. The equipment is, for the most part, well chosen to meet the needs of the children, however their greater independence is limited as there is insufficient equipment available for smaller children to reach the wash basins when they wash their hands.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children contribute widely and are tremendously enthusiastic regarding their play activities as a result of the polished skills of the child-care practitioners. Children are encouraged to learn as staff are meticulous in their support, choosing effective methods of interaction so that children respond well, and participate in meaningful activities that challenge their learning.

Children enjoy high quality activities as staff have an excellent understanding of the 'Birth-to-three matters' framework and the Foundation stage through their professional training. Children's individual learning needs are well monitored through an assessment profile, which provides staff with a thorough understanding of their individual stages of development. Children therefore benefit from excellent learning opportunities, as staff plan for all their development needs. The assessment profile is exceptionally thorough and ensures that the activities are organised around their specific learning needs.

Children blossom as a result of the richly rewarding environment where they are happy and frequently enjoy cuddles and comfort from the staff. The activities are well structured ensuring that children glean maximum learning opportunities, as these are designed to meet the children's differing levels of concentration. Children are thoroughly absorbed in their play as they enjoy significant support from highly skilled and well motivated staff.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children have excellent opportunities to learn about different cultures and traditions through effective links with the community and parents. For example parents contribute towards children's development through visiting the setting and giving children an insight their roles in society, work or different traditions. Children appreciate the needs of others through a wealth of activities that promote the positive images of diverse groups and traditions.

Children are kind to each other and readily include others in their play, contributing collectively to all aspects of the setting. For example, children work together to make a house from mega blocks and eagerly recognise their play is enhanced with the inclusion of others. Children enjoy taking responsibility for their play environment, and are skilfully supported and encouraged

by staff. For example children's self-esteem is enhanced as they clear away their toys and equipment, and take turns helping to serve each other at snack times.

Children behave very well because staff have a thorough knowledge of their needs and ensure activities are stimulating to individual children. They are consistently engaged in meaningful learning opportunities which promote their positive behaviour. Children's good behaviour is promoted, since staff provide positive role models for the children, through their calm and caring responses.

Children with learning difficulties and disabilities have extensive care as staff have immense knowledge regarding their care needs, and promote their development through their effective liaison with other agencies. Children with individual needs make exceptional progress, since staff are knowledgeable regarding the needs of all children, and adapt their care so that children develop well.

Children blossom as a result of the first rate partnership with parents, since parents are encouraged to help at the setting through a voluntary rota. Children settle very well as staff encourage parents to spend time in the setting, especially during the initial stages of their placement. Children enjoy consistent care, as the differing needs of the parents are accommodated. Exceptional communication techniques are employed by staff, to ensure care is adapted to respond to the child's needs. Children's individual care needs are extremely well met through the meticulous assessment process, that monitors the development of the children. This ensures that their care is consistent, and parents are fully versed on the progress of their child.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children thrive as a result of efficient staff deployment ,which provides children with consistent high quality learning opportunities. Staff are consistently vigilant of the children's activities through their thorough knowledge of the children, and expertly adapt their supervision to accommodate their different supervisory needs. Children have high quality care, as the setting has meticulous methods of self-evaluating its own practice, that include the staff meeting regularly to plan for children's individual development needs.

Children blossom as a result of the tremendous commitment shown by staff towards their professional training. This results in their excellent understanding of the 'Birth to three matters framework' and the 'Foundation stage'. Staff use their expertise to ensure that children gain consistent meaningful learning opportunities.

Children are very well-protected as all staff members are vetted, and the manger has effective contingency plans to ensure they are always cared for by cleared persons. Meticulous planning provides children with well-measured learning opportunities. For example individual assessment records for each of the children follow the 'Birth to three matters framework' ensuring that each of the children's needs are met, as staff use these profiles to plan for the next stage in their development. Children enjoy excellent protection as the documentation is sound and is

reviewed regularly. Overall 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

Since registration 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 complaints record may contain complaints other than those made by 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):

- provide suitable equipment that promotes an accessible environment for the children, in respect of stepping stools in the toilet area.

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