

# Cuckfield Pre-School Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	113454
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Elaine Simmons
<b>Setting Address</b>	The Youth Club, London Road, Cuckfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 5BD
<b>Telephone number</b>	01444 450438 or 01444495795
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Cuckfield Pre-School Playgroup
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Cuckfield Pre-School Playgroup opened on the current site in 1990. It operates from two rooms in a single storey youth club, and has an enclosed area for outside play. The setting is located in Cuckfield and serves the local area.

There are currently 57 children from two years six months to five years on roll. This includes 38 children who receive educational funding. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports two children with learning difficulties or disabilities, and one child who has dual language skills.

The group opens Monday to Friday during school term times. Sessions are from 09:15 until 12:00 on Tuesday and Friday. An extended session is offered on Monday and Wednesday and on Thursdays when the setting is open from 09:15 until 12:45. During the summer term on Monday and Wednesday, sessions are from 09:15 until 15:15. The Monday afternoon being for children aged two years six months only and the Wednesday session for children aged four years of age.

There are nine part-time staff who work with the children. Eight staff have level 3 qualifications and one is currently in training. The setting receives support from a mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP), and is currently undertaking the West Sussex County Council Kite mark quality assurance scheme. Most staff have a current first aid certificate.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

The children benefit from the staff's extremely good hygiene procedures that help to minimise infections. They ensure the children wash their hands before eating and after toileting. A clear sickness policy is shared with parents. All accidents and any medication administered is amply recorded, and parent's signatures obtained as an acknowledgement. Children have lots of varied activities for robust physical play planned by the staff and these successfully promote their physical well-being.

Staff provide healthy, nutritious and interesting snacks for the children, these vary from day to day. Children have regular opportunities to help prepare the fruit or vegetables and sit in small groups at snack time to share what is provided. Staff encourage children to taste new foods and planned cooking activities support children's understanding of healthy eating. Water in a jug with beakers is always available for children to independently help themselves to a drink at any time. Children are offered diluted juice, water or milk at snack time. They are encouraged to pour their own drinks and staff are always ready to support any child who requires help. During the summer when the weather is exceptionally hot, parents are asked to provide a bottle of water with their child's name on, to encourage the children to drink more fluids. This helps to prevent dehydration and to successfully support children's good health.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The staff provide a very secure and welcoming environment for the children. The premises are shared with a youth club and equipment is set out and put away after every session. Staff provide bright and colourful posters to make the environment look interesting. The children have access to a very wide interesting, age appropriate, range of activities, resources and equipment. Brightly coloured screens are used to partition areas and to display children's work. Children are able to access a large, varied range of activities throughout the sessions arranged inside and outside the premises, and as a consequence their play and learning is very well supported in all areas. Parents have a fund raising committee that provides a good source of income for the setting and this allows staff to replace old toys and to purchase new equipment to meet the needs of all the children successfully.

Children's safety is promoted extremely well. Staff ensure regular fire drills are undertaken so that each child and every member of staff understand what to do in an emergency. They take positive and effective steps to minimise accidents throughout the setting by: providing constant supervision; teaching children good safety procedures; completing a daily risk assessment of the equipment and premises. Children's safety is further protected by the staff's clear understanding of all child protection requirements, and their willingness to undertake and cascade training to ensure new procedures are thoroughly understood by all the staff.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The children are offered an extremely wide range of interesting activities, toys and equipment to meet their individual needs and these provide them with lots of fun and enjoyment. Staff build a very good rapport with children and provide friendly and positive support to help them learn as they play. They are very supportive towards children who are just starting playgroup and ensure that a flexible arrangement is in place to help those children who find separation from their parent or carer difficult.

### **NURSERY EDUCATION**

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. The staff work together as a very cohesive team. They ask children open-ended questions effectively, drawing on the children's experiences and knowledge, and staff use everyday routines to further and consistently support children's learning. The staff have regular meetings to discuss planning and concerns they may have about children. They are very aware of the important role that parents have in children's learning and work with them to improve and support children's development in all areas.

The children are confident and are generally able to sit and concentrate quietly when appropriate. The staff are aware that a high number of four year olds are currently attending and have procedures in place to ensure they are put into smaller groups for story and snack time. This is to ensure that the children have close supervision and can join in discussions appropriately.

Staff boost children's self-esteem by encouraging and praising them at every opportunity. Which means children form good relationships with adults and their peers. They sit and play together happily and are considerate towards one another. They take turns and work together harmoniously. The children have good opportunities to learn independence skills, as they: put on dressing up clothes; manage their own personal hygiene; select activities and resources from the wide range staff have put out for them to choose from.

Staff take full advantage of village events and skills that parents have and are willing to share with the group. As a consequence children are involved in lots of interesting experiences. For example, they take part in the annual village fair and amongst others enjoy visits from the emergency services personnel.

Children are beginning to link sounds and letters of the alphabet. They sit and listen appropriately to stories in a large or small group or sit alone to look at books. They are starting to write their names and can use a pencil and hold it effectively. They have a very well resourced writing area and the materials provided help to fully support handwriting and letter formation.

The staff use everyday opportunities to reinforce children's understanding of numbers. For example, children count how many children and adults are left in the room and how many people there are altogether. They can, with some adult support, complete sequencing number puzzles from 1 to 10. They use mathematical words to describe shape, size and position correctly and are able to solve practical problems when using construction toys. They have good resources that enable them to build and model using a selection of tools. Children also use the laptop computer independently and confidently, moving the mouse effectively to complete the programme.

The children have excellent opportunities to observe the natural world around them. Staff take them for walks to the allotments to see the vegetables and fruit growing. They provide a small

aquarium tank where the children can observe tadpoles changing into frogs and another container where caterpillars are changing into butterflies. The children really enjoy watching the butterflies being set free and flying away in the garden.

The children have lots of opportunities for robust physical exercise. They enjoy playing parachute games and taking part in imaginative musical movement exercises; also acting out movements that are linked to the story and theme for that session. For example, the children enthusiastically act out the hungry caterpillar story and are able to show an awareness of space and each other as they move around the room. Children also sing simple songs and join in happily using musical instruments rhythmically.

Staff provide children with art and craft resources that they can independently access themselves using their own imagination to make what they want. They also arrange art and craft activities that relate to the theme and show children how things can alter and change. For example, the children are supported by staff as oil based paint is added to water and paper dipped in to create their own individual patterns, which gives them a sense of achievement and wonder.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered. The staff have a clear understanding of how to provide equality of opportunity for children. The children have very good resources that reflect the modern world in which they live. Staff provide good opportunities for children to learn about other cultures and beliefs through planned activities. They meet and support children's individual needs successfully and positively support children with disabilities or learning difficulties. They work with parents and other professionals to provide individual care and support through appropriate play plans to enhance children's learning and development.

Children behave very well because the staff have realistic expectations and use very good behaviour management techniques. They also apply clear and consistent boundaries and these help children understand what is expected of them. Staff also provide a wide range of varied activities that keep children interested and give them lots of enjoyment. Children's choices are respected by staff and they are allowed to choose what they would like to do where possible. The staff apply good strategies to minimise noise levels that can cause disruption and distraction, by dividing children into smaller groups for story and snack time.

The partnership with parents is outstanding. The staff provide lots of good information on the notice board and exchange information readily with parents about their child's progress. There are always two supervisors on duty so that there is always one person available to talk to parents. The staff also arrange individual appointments every term, so that parents can take time off of work, and come in and talk to them on a one to one basis. Parents are also provided with a written report covering their child's progress on each area of learning as their child leaves to attend school. They are given good written and verbal information about the Foundation Stage of learning, as a result, the parents really support the staff. They fundraise so that staff can replace and purchase new equipment which in turn supports children's development effectively. Parents are able to volunteer to come in and help by putting their name down on the parent helper rota, which several parents said they really enjoy. The staff also provide a room and a small selection of toys, where children, parents and siblings can wait between the school drop off time and playgroup session starting.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The children are cared for in a rich, child centred, secure and friendly environment where they feel happy and settled. Staff are aware of the adult to child ratios and ensure these are adhered to at all times. They provide constant supervision and continuous support to enable children to enjoy their time at playgroup. The daily attendance register is well maintained and shows the times children and staff are on the premises. All documentation is well organised and up to date. All required written permission is sought from parents who also give staff extensive information about their child, this allows staff to provide comprehensive and consistent care. Policies and procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure the setting is organised effectively and to ensure the children's well-being is thoroughly maintained.

Leadership and management is outstanding. There are clear procedures for the recruitment of staff and all staff are trained or are attending a relevant child care course. Staff have good opportunities to attend further training to improve their knowledge and understanding of child care procedures. They highlight any training needs or preferences at their annual appraisal and these are taken into consideration when the training courses are announced by the local authority. Staff attend regular team meetings and cascade any extra training undertaken to the rest of the staff team, which helps to keep everyone up to date with current requirements. The staff work together in twos to complete children's developmental records. They record observations on any child and these are then used to help plan future activities. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous care and nursery education inspections the provider agreed to: ensure paper hand towels are disposed of hygienically; provide resources to promote the children's knowledge of diversity; extent the support offered to more able children and to provide resources and opportunities for children to write for a purpose.

A lidded container has been purchased for the disposal of paper hand towels, which minimises the risk of infections; and extra resources have been purchased and activities planned to promote children's knowledge of diversity. Staff work with children in small groups to enable them to support children's learning effectively and have provided a range of resources so that children have good opportunities to write for a purpose.

## **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 complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

### WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

#### **The quality and standards of the care**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

#### **The quality and standards of the nursery education**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of nursery education are outstanding.

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)