

Manor Road Community Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 310240
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Inspector Jasmin Myles-Wilson

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Registered person Committee of Manor Road Community Playgroup
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Manor Road Community Playgroup opened in 1993 and is run by a management committee. The provision operates from the hall within Holy Saviours Church, Tynemouth and is located close by public transport systems and other amenities. The group is open four days per week Monday to Thursday and sessions run from 09.00 to 11.40 hours during school term only. All children share access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

Children attending the group are from the local area. A maximum of 24 children can attend at any one time. There are currently 29 children aged from two and a half to under five years on roll. The provision employs four members of staff, of these 50% hold appropriate early years qualifications.

The provision receives support from early years workers within the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing an awareness of how they can keep themselves healthy through daily routines and practices. For example, they are encouraged to clean their hands before they eat and they observe staff using antibacterial sprays to clean tables at snack time. However, provision of appropriate resources for children to clean their hands and care for their own personal hygiene is not sufficient. Therefore, children's health is put at risk and their independence is limited. At least 75% of staff are qualified in first aid and there are suitable procedures in place so sick or injured children receive appropriate care and attention.

Children enjoy going outside to do physical activities, such as riding bikes or just playing outside in the fresh air. They also have sufficient opportunities to exercise their bodies when they can not play outside due to the weather, as staff create an environment so children can use outside toys inside. Such activities promote children's physical development and give them an overall feeling of well-being.

Healthy eating is adequately promoted. Children's individual dietary needs are met as staff have sufficient knowledge of their individual dietary requirements. Staff provide, in the main, healthy snacks which children enjoy as they sit together and socialise. Drinking water or milk is given to children at snack time but children can ask for a drink if they need one throughout the session.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed in the group and most of them settle generally well. They access a range of maintained, suitable and age-appropriate activities. The premises are appropriately maintained and secure which contributes to children being safe. Children move freely and safely around areas due to staff taking reasonable steps to ensure risks to children are reduced. For example, staff do visual risk assessments of the premises and activities on a daily basis before children arrive.

Children begin to develop an awareness of their own health and safety through staff giving them reminders, such as not running inside the premises. Children also practise evacuating from the premises in an emergency which raises their awareness to safety issues.

Staff have sufficient knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and their responsibility, therefore, children are safeguarded and their welfare is protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy activities of their choice and remain focused, for example, children choose to play with the play dough and stay at that table for at least 10 minutes. Activities are planned that are age appropriate and give children appropriate challenges. Children grow in confidence as they communicate and make their requests known in an appropriate manner.

Children generally play well alongside each other and are interested in what they are doing. Most of the time their individual needs are met as staff are aware of children's starting points through discussion with parents and written information they receive. Staff communicate with and listen to children, therefore, children's capacity to think is being developed. For example, staff ask children, who are wearing wellingtons, what colour they are and they go into a conversation about what they can do when wearing wellingtons, such as splash in puddles. Staff are aware of when to become actively involved and support children in their play interests.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated according to their individual needs. Staff have suitable understanding of equality and diversity and acknowledge children's differences. Children have access to an appropriate supply of activities and resources that give them opportunities to develop and acquire an awareness and appreciation of differences in the wider world and in their community. For example, children play with small play figures representing race and during arts and craft time, flags are made to represent different countries.

Children generally behave and follow instructions well, such as tidying up when asked. Staff teach children to respect each other and give them reminders of how to behave towards each other. For example, children learn that they have to wait until someone has finished playing with a particular toy before they can have it. However, staff do not always fully implement their behaviour management policy. Children approach staff with their requests and staff respond appropriately. Their self-esteem is built up as staff encourage them when they achieve something or for the positive things they say or do. For example, children are thanked when they help to put the toys away.

Most parents and staff interact sufficiently to meet the needs of children appropriately. Parents are generally happy with the service provided. They are encouraged to be involved in what the service provides by familiarising themselves with information displayed or given to them. However, should parents wish to make a complaint, they do not have instant access to Ofsted's contact information. Concerns and information regarding their children is shared so that children receive continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff organise the space reasonably well to enable children to move around their environment independently. They use their time sufficiently to assist and be interactive with the children throughout the session so children are settled and secure.

Adequate documentation is in place to ensure the safe management of the group and to ensure children are safeguarded. At least 50% of staff are qualified and acceptable contingency plans and recruitment procedures are in place which ensures that staff are suitable to care for children. The manager's fair understanding of her responsibilities means that she informs Ofsted of any significant changes.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the manager include the address and telephone number of the regulator in the written complaints procedure.

The provision now have a written complaints procedure which includes the contact details of the regulator, however, parents do not have instant access to this information.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted that required the provider and Ofsted to take action in order to meet the National Standards. On 9 March 2006 concerns were raised about staff suitability, children's personal hygiene and lack of information given to parents. These concerns relate to National Standard 1: Suitability, National Standard 7: Health, and National Standard 12: Working in partnership with parents and carers. Ofsted asked the provider to conduct an investigation and report back. An action was raised and satisfactorily met by the registered provider. Ofsted is satisfied that the provider remains qualified for registration.

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):

- improve hygiene practices and give children independence to carry out their own personal care
- fully implement in practice the written procedures for behaviour management
- improve the information given to parents about how to contact Ofsted, for example, to make a complaint and ensure it is available 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