

Noah's Ark Playgroup (Bentley Heath)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY277353

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Inspector Lucy Showell

Setting Address St James Church at Bently Heath CE Primary School, Widney Close,
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Registered person Noah's Ark Playgroup (Bentley Heath) 4939617

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?

Noah's Ark Playgroup opened in 2003. It is a privately owned setting which operates within St James Church at Bentley Heath CE Primary School in Solihull. A maximum of 20 children aged two to five years may attend at any one time. The Playgroup is open from 10.00 to 12.30 on Tuesday and Thursday in school term time only. All children have access to a safe and secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 14 children on roll. Noah's Ark Playgroup serves families and children in the local community and surrounding areas. The Playgroup employs three staff. Of these, two, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy good health and a healthy lifestyle is promoted at the setting through the effectively implemented policies and procedures. Their health and dietary needs are met because individual requirements are recorded by parents and staff have devised a list which they refer

to when preparing and serving snacks. Fresh drinking water is available and children enjoy healthy snacks at a routine break time.

Children benefit through a well-maintained environment. The premises and equipment are in good condition of cleanliness and redecoration. Children are protected from the spread of infection as staff understand simple, good health and hygiene procedures such as spraying the tables with anti-bacterial cleaner before food is served. Children are encouraged to understand and learn about the importance of personal hygiene through discussions and the daily routines. Many of the older children are independent in their personal care. For example, they use the toilets and wash their hands appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's welfare is promoted through the staff's clear knowledge and pro-active skills with regard to safety and necessary documentation is in place. Effective risk assessments and daily checks are carried out and staff identify and minimise any possible hazards through constant observation. Children learn about their own and others safety as they receive gentle reminders during play and are encouraged to take care of the environment through tidying up when appropriate.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment. For example, the door is locked throughout the session and children are supervised well while using the outdoor area. The areas used by the children are bright and welcoming and play areas are large enough to give scope for free movement and well spread out activities. Children access a good range of equipment and resources are suitable for their age and stage and comply with British Safety Standards.

Children are protected from harm as the staff demonstrate good understanding of their role in child protection and knowledge of the procedures to follow if there are concerns regarding a child. Current guidance, such as posters and contact details are available, although the setting's policy is not written with regard to this and the procedure to be followed if an allegation is made against a member of staff does not state the need to contact Ofsted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children develop good confidence and positive self-esteem as they receive plenty of praise and encouragement. They develop independence as they select resources and activities from those provided which are rotated to maintain interest. Children build good relationships with each other during play and interact well with staff as they ask questions and respond well to answers in conversation.

Children's individual progress and achievements are recorded by staff and used to inform assessments and future planning. Their learning and play is promoted through the well-planned and well-resourced activities provided. For example, they enjoy physical play with a giant inflatable beach ball and watch with amazement as it is blown up to about four feet wide before bouncing it around the room. At circle time children have opportunities to recognise their name as they self-register, count and compare familiar objects and talk about the weather as they choose what clothes the bear needs to wear today.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are effectively promoted as staff have a key worker system which enables them to develop good relationships with parents and have good awareness of children's needs. Information given by the parents about the children is used effectively to assess the children's starting place for new learning and settling in procedures are discussed and agreed together. Parents have opportunities to see and comment on their children's records and they receive general information about the setting through conversation with staff and clearly displayed notices on a board in the entrance. Generally, the necessary documentation such as policies for equal opportunities and behaviour management are in place. However, the complaints procedure includes outdated contact information regarding Ofsted.

Children's awareness and understanding of the diverse community is developing through the good range of resources available. For example, children enjoy dressing up in traditional outfits, they play appropriately with dolls and play people and look at books and posters around the room which depict positive images of equality. At present there are no children at the setting with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. In the past staff have worked consistently with parents and other agencies to support the children's progress and development. For example, they have attended training and review meetings. The written policy in place has regard to current legislation and implemented practice ensures all children receive appropriate support and are fully included within the setting.

Children have a good understanding of acceptable behaviour. They are generally well behaved and polite, show consideration to others, and take turns and share at playgroup. They demonstrate awareness and respect of others and individual needs as they work harmoniously together. At tidy up time they all help to put toys into boxes and together carefully carry them through to a member of staff in the store room. Children's independence is developing as they are able to select resources for themselves and work independently. Their sense of belonging is promoted through familiar routines. For example, they self-register, selecting their name card and placing it on the 'Who's in Noah's Ark today?' board. They also enjoy taking home 'Sun Beam' the bear and sharing their home experiences when they bring him back, and show his diary and photographs to the group.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

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

Dedicated and caring staff are committed to offering good quality care. They attend relevant training to update knowledge and skills and evaluate systems and performance to ensure that all children are nurtured and protected by suitable adults. Children's welfare is supported by staff who have good knowledge and practical skills and effectively implement the written policies and procedures which are generally clear, detailed and well-organised.

Children's individual needs are met through staff's competent knowledge of child development. Space is organised well and children access a good variety of fulfilling opportunities and experiences to ensure that they progress well at the playgroup. The good staff deployment and suitable adult: child ratio promotes children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting received three recommendations.

First, they were asked to devise and implement a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious. An effective policy is in place and is available in the operational plan, policy folder and within the parents' information pack.

Secondly, they were asked to ensure fresh drinking water is available to children at all times. Jugs of water and cups are situated on a serving hatch in the main room and children access these with support from staff.

Thirdly, the setting were asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote anti-discriminatory practice. The children choose from a range of equipment and resources such as jigsaws, books and dressing up, all of which promote positive images 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 complaints 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 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):

- ensure the written child protection policy is updated in line with current guidance and includes clear details of the procedures to follow if there are allegations of abuse by a member of staff or volunteer, or any abuse which is alleged to have taken place on the premises
- ensure the complaints procedure includes the updated contact details of the regulator.

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