

Quoiting Square

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 116673

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Inspector Christine Cutts

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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?

Quoiting Square Playgroup has been established for many years. It operates from the large hall in the United Reform Church in the centre of Marlow. The playgroup has access to the hall, toilets, kitchen and an outside area. The playgroup serves the local community.

There are currently 45 children aged from two to five years on roll. The playgroup is not currently registered to offer funded places for three and four year olds. The setting currently supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The playgroup opens five days a week for 49 weeks throughout the year.

Sessions are from 09:00 until 13:00.

Nine staff work with the children. Two members of staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 3. The others have a variety of experiences of working with young children. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move around freely, spontaneously jumping, running and dancing and enjoy joining in the activity songs during the music session. The children enjoy the opportunities for physical play, while using the small courtyard play area and with the good organisation of the large spacious main room. The premises are clean and well maintained, including nappy changing and toilet facilities.

Staff follow good hygiene routines and children's personal hygiene is supported well with staff encouraging children to use soap and towels before snacks and after toileting, although the routine of using one bowl of water and one towel, in the main room, does not help limit cross-infection. There are systems for recording accidents and medication, although medication records lack parental signatures to acknowledge dosage given.

The group caters for all the children's dietary and religious requirements and all staff are well aware of any child's allergies, ensuring children have healthy and appropriate snacks and drinks. The children enjoy the social interaction at joint lunch times, enjoying the company of the staff and other children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children have a very safe and secure environment in which they have good opportunities to enjoy playing and learning. Children access age-appropriate, safe resources which are well organised to develop their independence skills. There are good systems in place for the safe arrival and departure of children. The security is good ensuring children are unable to leave the premises without a suitable adult.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised in the setting, however the risk assessment has not been reviewed recently. The group has good safety and security precautions and high staff levels enable very good supervision of the children and the identification and monitoring of visitors.

Children benefit from a good range of safety measures, for example socket covers, fire extinguishers and a fully secure outdoor play area. They develop a good awareness of safety through practising emergency evacuations.

The staff have a good knowledge of child protection issues and observe good practices to ensure the protection of the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident in their environment, settle happily and are eager to take part in all activities. Children play an active part in the group, showing enthusiasm as they make independent choices. Appropriate planning provides a wide range of activities that motivate and engross children. They select their own activities from a well-presented range of play equipment, developing their independence skills. Staff have very good relationships with the

children, joining in their play, guiding and leading their learning, building the children's self-esteem and sense of self. However, staff do not make observation of the children to ensure they support their next steps in their learning, play and development.

Children respond well to the routine changes in the session. They have clear guidelines and know the routines well, encouraging them to take care of their environment. Very good positive relationships are evident between staff and children, the staff know the children well, nurturing their sense of belonging.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children contribute to their own play, making choices on activities, asking for help when needed and taking responsibility for tidying up and contributing to group times. Children feel valued in the group with staff being responsive to their requests and needs. All the children access all the activities with suitable support for those needing it, promoting children's sense of belonging and achievement.

Children learn about others through socialising and accessing a range of resources that promote equal opportunities. Children with special needs integrate fully in the group, with very good support from staff and a good range of resources and equipment to help meet the children's individual needs. Children benefit from staff who adopt a consistent and positive approach to the management of their behaviour. Children understand the clear guidelines, know the routines well and are encouraged to take care of their environment. The children's behaviour is very good and they are sensitive to the needs of others, readily share toys and resources and co-operate with each other.

The children benefit from the very good working relationship between parents and staff, with good exchanges of information enabling the staff to meet the individual needs of the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The effective organisation of the available space, resources and very high staff level ensures that all the children attending have full support. This enhances the care and enjoyment of the children attending the group.

Enthusiastic staff consistently promote the children's wellbeing, offering a calm and happy environment where very good relationships between adults and children are evident. Staff demonstrate a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities with relevant training and appropriate policies and procedures in place that work in practice to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare.

All relevant documentation is in place. However, observation are not taken of the children to inform future planning. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection the provision was asked to consider the recommendation to develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level

2 qualification in childcare. Children are fully support by qualified and experienced staff as currently 50% of the staff hold at least a level 3 qualification and all staff have relevant training. The provision was also asked to improve fire safety precautions by ensuring adequate fire detection equipment is in place and the procedure to be followed in event of a fire is displayed. The children are protected because the provision now has adequate fire equipment in place, which is regularly checked. Fire evacuation procedures are clearly displayed and regular fire evacuations are carried out and logged in the fire log.

A further recommendation asked the provision to provide opportunities for parents to receive regular information on their children's progress. Staff share information with parents of the children's progress daily through verbal exchanges at pick up times and through a written annual report. In addition the group were asked to update records and documentation to ensure: all staff checks are in place; behaviour management policy includes a statement on bullying; complaints procedure includes Ofsted's details; policies and procedures are readily accessible to parents. A copy of all policies and procedures are readily available for parents in the main room. They have been reviewed to include the details highlighted at the last inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made 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 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 all medication records are signed by parents
- ensure staff observe what children do and use their observations to plan the next steps for the children's play, learning and development

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