

Wye Under Fives Accredited Pre-School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	960662
Inspection date	19 September 2007
Inspector	Clare Stone
Setting Address	Village Hall, Bridge Street, Wye, Ashford, Kent, TN25 5EA
Telephone number	01233 812235
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Registered person	The Trustees of Wye Accredited Pre-School
Type of inspection	Integrated
Type of care	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.

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?

Wye Under Fives Accredited Pre-School is a committee run group. It opened in 1957 and operates from one main hall and reception area in a purpose built building. It is situated in the centre of the rural village of Wye.

A maximum of 25 children may attend the pre-school at any one time. The pre-school is open each weekday from 09:00 to 15:15 for term time only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor area. At the time of the inspection there are 61 children aged from two to under five years on roll. Of these, 45 children receive funding for nursery education.

The nursery employs five staff, of which four of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is currently working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a clean and well-ordered environment allowing them to move around easily and safely. Effective systems are implemented to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases, for example, surfaces are regularly cleaned with anti-bacterial spray and children routinely wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. The provision does not care for children who are contagious ensuring others are not at risk of cross-infection. If a child becomes poorly at playgroup, they are comforted until their parents can collect them.

Excellent procedures are in place to promote children's health. Clear and concise records are kept of the children's accidents, medication and allergy requirements. Parents and carers are fully informed and involved with keeping records up-to-date and these are reviewed regularly.

There is always one member of staff present who has a current first aid qualification; there is a first aid kit that they check and replenish as necessary. This ensures children's welfare in the event of an accident.

Children enjoy plenty of fresh air as they can access outdoor play for all of the session. There is a fantastic garden for children to explore and face new challenges. They have a magical garden with paths to follow, shops to buy supplies and large equipment to extend their gross motor skills. Outdoor play is planned and carefully assessed to ensure children reach their full potential and follow their own interests.

Children enjoy healthy and nutritious snacks. They undertake projects where they learn about how to eat healthily and choose food from their vegetable patch in the garden to eat. They each have a bowl and cup, and serve themselves to a good variety of fruit or vegetables. They pour their own drinks, encouraging their independence. Water is available throughout the session to ensure children do not become dehydrated. After children have finished with their snack and lunch they are encouraged to wash up their own plates. This allows the children to take responsibility in a safe environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The playgroup is decorated with an extensive range of children's individual work and large art displays. Brightly coloured posters and photographs help to give the playgroup a homely, welcoming atmosphere. Staff continually evaluate how different areas in the room are being used and whether the environment is aiding children's involvement and level of development.

Regular risk assessments ensure the children's safety and these are recorded and revisited to ensure the appropriate action has been taken. All equipment and resources are of a high quality. The staff ensure they check and clean these regularly to prevent children from becoming injured. Staff remind children how to keep safe in the setting, this helps them learn to take personal responsibility for their own safety. Staff are very keen to include the children in the running of the playgroup and ask them to think of ideas to keep themselves safe.

There are exceptional procedures in place to safeguard children. The manager has recently attended child protection training and has cascaded this information to the staff. New staff are introduced to child protection and read the settings clear and detailed policy of their

commitment to protect the children in their care. There is a Child protection officer appointed in the playgroup who follows up any concerns and keeps staff informed of any changes in legislation. All staff know the correct procedures to follow and are aware of the possible signs of abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children who attend the playgroup are extremely happy and settled. Staff and children have an excellent relationship and the whole environment is child-led. Children play happily with each other and staff. This is helping them learn to take turns and share toys. Staff are professional and have a very good knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework. This ensures that staff have a good understanding how younger children develop and learn. Children can independently choose from an extensive range of activities that are easily accessible and provide stimulation. Younger children are able to explore and investigate their surroundings. This allows them to settle at their own pace and find activities that they can relate to.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. All staff have an excellent understanding of how to provide an environment where children enjoy learning and make significant progress towards the early learning goals. The organisation of the sessions allow children to follow their own interests and provides balance to obtain a full curriculum. Staff use their time effectively to observe children and use this information to inform the planning. All planning follows the Foundation Stage and children's achievements are clearly linked to the stepping stones. This helps staff meet the needs of all the children including those with learning difficulties. Children are progressing well and enjoy their time at playgroup. They are excited to try new activities, offer to help the staff prepare activities and help tidy up. Staff encourage this as it gives the children a sense of belonging.

During the session children communicate very well with staff and peers. They are confident and approach visitors to introduce themselves and inquire about their reason for a visit. During the inspection children choose to look at books and relate well known stories. All around the playgroup there are writing implements which encourages children to become confident writers. They are learning their sounds and understand that marks have meanings.

Children count confidently throughout the session and recognise numbers during free play. There is an area for maths where children can explore the numbers and the physical value that they represent. Children's understanding of space, shape and measure is developing very well and the staff support the children by asking open questions.

Children have access to a vast set of resources that help promote their knowledge and understanding of the world. During the session the children found a frog in the garden. The staff extended the children's learning by helping the children find a book about frogs. They also went into the garden to draw the frog and then look at how it developed from a tadpole to a frog. This helps children organise their thoughts and make sense of what they see. Children have constant access to a computer and play with this when they want. They demonstrate very good mouse control when playing games on the computer.

Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as painting, singing and a very well prepared home-corner. The children have access to two

home-corner areas. Of these, one is for everyday imaginative play and the other is topic based. The topic based home-corner is set up as a hospital/doctors. Here the children learned about x-rays, appointments and how to look after sick or injured patients. The staff are skilled at promoting the participation in imaginative play and the children were very eager to try out their nursing skills. Children enjoy music and respond enthusiastically during music sessions. They choose different types of music to dance to and talk about the culture which surrounds that sound. This is then followed on by themes to reinforce what the children have already learnt.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children have a considerable range of toys showing positive images of equality every time they attend. There are dressing-up-clothes, books, cooking equipment and small world figures. All of these resources are left out for the children to play with and not used just for topics. Children use toys and equipment which show positive images of race, culture and gender and disability. This enables children to embrace other cultures and learn to accept differences as positive experiences.

Children settle well and are happy at playgroup. They are observed and given support if necessary but allowed to make attachments in their own time and follow their own interests. The displays of children's work gives them a sense of belonging and that their work is valued by the staff. Overall, the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

There are good behaviour management strategies in place to help children learn about their behaviour. Children are given gentle reminders on how to behave and parent's are included in any behaviour issues. The playgroup has a behaviour management policy and parents are given a copy of this before the children start.

The staff are fully aware that all children develop at an individual pace. To help all children reach their full potential the staff have put in place individual education plans to observe and plan activities for any children with learning difficulties. This ensures that all children's individual needs are being catered for.

Partnership with parents is outstanding. Parents report that they have regular discussions with key workers and can see their child's development records at any time. Parents feel they can help out at the setting and get involved with their children's learning. Parents are aware of the Foundation Stage and know how it works and can work on activities at home with their children to extend their child's learning. There is a notice board to inform parents of upcoming events and folders with ideas for parents to follow. With this excellent two way flow of information children's achievement can be celebrated and enhanced.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The playgroup is exceedingly well organised. There are comprehensive policies and procedures in place that are always available for parents to read. The recruitment procedure is vigorous and all staff are checked with the criminal records bureau. Nearly all the staff who work with the children hold a childcare qualification. All relevant documentation is in place and staff understand the importance of confidentiality. All the staff have a very good knowledge of the

National Standards and are committed to giving the children an exceptionally high quality of care and education.

Leadership and management is outstanding. The manager is very clear on the aims of the playgroup. Staff complement each other and work well as a team. Staff share information, new ideas and attend regular staff meetings. There are robust systems in place to review and monitor the playgroups educational plan. This ensures that all practice is current and meaningful. Staff are encouraged to attend training and improve their knowledge in the childcare field.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the following recommendations were made:

- 1) Ensure all areas of the fairy garden are safe and well maintained. The staff now complete a risk assessment on this area and address any concerns immediately.
- 2) Ensure lost child policy includes all relevant details. The lost child policy is now up-to-date and contains all relevant information.
- 3) Review food and drink policy to reflect current practice. The food and drink policy is now up-to-date and contains all information about the current practice.

All these changes improve the outcomes for children.

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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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