

Hop, Skip and Jump Cotswold

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	101494
Inspection date	18 March 2008
Inspector	Bridgette Williams
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Registered person	The Trustees of Hop, Skip and Jump Cotswold
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care, Crèche

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?

Hop, Skip and Jump Cotswold opened in 1982 and is funded and managed by Seven Springs Foundation. The centre operates from two log cabins located in the rural area of Seven Springs to the south east of Cheltenham. The centre has an art room, main hall with soft play area, kitchen, sensory room, clinic, parents room and changing and toilet facilities. There is an enclosed adventure play area and playing fields for outdoor activities. The centre support special needs children from Gloucestershire and are open to groups on a pre-booked basis, families are welcome at any time.

A maximum of 60 children may attend the Saturday and After School Club at any one time. There are currently 39 children aged from four to under eight years. Additional care is provided for children up to 18 years. The centre is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 09.00 to 17.00 all year round. After school club runs on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays. Children are accompanied by their teachers or carers during the week. On Saturdays children under eight are collected in the centre's mini-bus and may attend unaccompanied from 10.00 to 15.00. The children are cared for by a team of staff, some hold early years qualifications, the manager holds recognised child care qualifications to level 3.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy playing in the extensive rambling adventure playground area, they develop their large muscle skills by climbing up the wooden steps and slopes to reach the slides. Children invite staff to play football in the large enclosed field and enjoy negotiating the bikes around the cycle paths, these opportunities to practise and develop physical skills contribute towards developing a good healthy lifestyle.

Children are encouraged to develop good personal hygiene routines, liquid soap and warm water are used to wash hands before eating their meals and the risk of cross infection is minimised as paper towels and hand dryers are used to dry hands.

Staff follow good hygiene procedures when preparing food such as wearing aprons, Children benefit from nutritious meals which are prepared at the setting. Children do not become dehydrated as they have drinks at their meal times and are confident to ask staff for a drink when they are thirsty. Cutlery and drinking cups provided are appropriate to the children's individual needs, staff sit with the children providing help where needed to develop the skills necessary for children to feed themselves independently and encourage children to eat their vegetables as they are good for them. This helps the children to develop healthy eating habits. There is a lovely friendly atmosphere during tea time, the children interact well with their friends making this time an enjoyable social event.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play and learn in a secure environment where they can move around safely they are closely supervised when playing indoors and outdoors by staff. The setting is attractive with challenging outdoor play equipment, indoors there is a large soft play area with a large ball pit. There are procedures in place to ensure that the play equipment is regularly checked by staff to contribute to the safety and well being of the children. They have free access to a wide range of toys which are easily accessible from toy trunks and dressing up clothes are stored in fabric tubs. Children are protected from unknown visitors as they can only enter the setting via a buzzer system, a member of staff uses an electronic key to open the gate and all visitors are required to sign the visitors book. Children and staff practise fire procedures, this helps children become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency.

The setting has effective procedures in place for picking up children from their local schools in their two vehicles, children are aware of the importance of making sure their safety belts are on when travelling on the bus as they help staff check they are done up.

Staff are aware of child protection policies and understand the procedures to follow if they have any concerns. This contributes to the children's wellbeing.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children relate well to staff and each other. Children confidently approach staff for support while playing indicating good trusting relationships are being built. Children independently

choose from a range of activities that are easily accessible and provide stimulation. They benefit from having access to a combination of relaxing and energetic activities, staff respond to the children's individual requests, they enjoy being able to freely run around outside and have good opportunities to relax inside reading books, lying in the ball pit and gently feeling the balls stimulate their muscles and watching the fish swim around in the tank.

Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as playing on the keyboard and singing to each other. There is a separate art and craft area where children can access draws of resources that are suitable to their age and stage of development and explore different craft materials and enjoy looking at their collages presented in books. They have opportunities to explore their senses in the sensory room and outside in the garden where they enjoy planting seeds.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are warmly welcomed as staff value and respect their individuality. Children arrive at the setting happy and relaxed, some children confidently talk to staff and quickly instigate what activities they would like to become involved in. Those less confident are guided by staff to become involved in the different activities. Staff treat children with respect and use lots of praise and encouragement to promote their self esteem. Staff manage children's behaviour calmly and patiently. This encourages children to respond effectively to any guidance and praise. Children gain a positive attitude towards diversity. They become aware of their own and other cultures through a range of resources and planned activities such as African drummers visiting the setting.

Relationships with parents are friendly and supportive, the setting have family days where outside agencies visit to share their knowledge with parents such as, nutritionists. These days provide parents with the opportunity to meet with other parents and watch their children having fun under the supervision of the staff at the setting. Parents are informed of forthcoming events via newsletters and there is an informative notice board for parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Most documentation required for the safe and effective management of the nursery is in place such as, well maintained registers, which contributes to the welfare of the children, however the setting do not have an effective procedure in place to inform the regulator of significant changes to senior staff. This is a breach of regulations. The learning environment is well laid out and staff work well as a team and show a clear understanding of their role in supporting the children in their play and learning. Management actively encourage staff to undertake relevant training. This helps support children in the setting. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting agreed to develop staff's knowledge and awareness of child protection issues and extend the procedure to follow if an allegation of abuse is made while a child is in the care of the setting. Devise and implement a policy about the exclusion of the children who are ill or infectious and ensure medication and accident records are shared and

signed by parents. Extend the complaints policy to include contact details and make policies available to parents.

In response the settings child protection policy includes what procedure they would follow in the event of allegation being made while a child was at there setting and new members of staff attend child protection courses. There is a sickness policy in place stating when children are not to attend the setting due to not being well. Systems have been put into place to share accident records with parents although there is further scope for improvement for parents to sign the records of medication given to children. Parents are informed that policies are available for them to see in the office and the complaints procedure contains contact details for the regulator although they are out of date.

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 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):

- extend medication records to include parents signature to acknowledge that the medication has been administered
- ensure policies contain up to date contact details for the regulator
- implement effective procedures to notify the regulator of significant events

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