



Mytholmroyd Playgroup and Toddlers

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY224876

Inspection date 07 November 2005

Inspector Alexandra Cole

Setting Address The Community Centre, Elphaborough, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5DU

Telephone number 01422 882226

E-mail

Registered person Mytholmroyd Playgroup and Toddlers

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Mytholmroyd Playgroup and Pre School has been registered for a number of years and is run by a voluntary committee. The playgroup is registered for 24 children aged from 2 to under 8 years and there are 11 children on roll; of these two children are in receipt of Nursery Education Funding. The group operates from two main rooms within Mytholmroyd Community centre with dedicated kitchen and toilet facilities. The playgroup operates Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 15:30 during term time offering

sessional care with a wrap around lunch time club. Four members of staff work with the children and all of the staff hold an appropriate childcare qualification. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Staff address and support all aspects of children's health. Arrangements for administering medication and recording accidents are in place and requirements for first aid training are effectively met; ensuring children are fully protected. Staff act in the best interest of children when they are ill; protecting them from illness and infection. Children benefit from physical exercise, for example, as they dance in the main hall and play balancing games with the tyres in the outdoor area. They also have opportunities to develop their physical skills as they walk to the local fruit shop each week to select fruit for the following week. As they visit the fruit shop children learn about healthy lifestyles because the staff talk to them about what is considered to be good and bad foods. Encouraging them to understand the benefits of a healthy diet.

Children are independent in self care skills and have a good awareness of healthy practices. For example, as they independently select tissues to wipe their nose. They are encouraged to wash their hands and individual paper towels are provided, which helps to prevent the spread of infection. Food and drink are stored and prepared appropriately reducing the risk to children's health. Snacks are healthy and nutritionally balanced to meet dietary needs and requirements, essential for their well being. Staff comply with children's special dietary requirements to ensure children remain healthy. Effective arrangements are in place to allow children to rest and sleep according to their individual needs and routines. An example of this is when a member of staff recognises that children are tired during lunchtime and settles them down for a sleep.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, adequately maintained environment which is suitably organised to enable children to move around freely. However, the organisation of the play environment does not effectively allow children to have access to all aspects of the provision. The main playroom is made welcoming to children and adults with attractive examples of children's work displayed around the room. Children are able to access most resources independently from trays and boxes at child height and staff regularly check toys and equipment to ensure they are appropriate and safe for their use.

Children benefit from some good safety measures, for example, the outdoor area is fully secure and the door to the playgroup is locked when the session is in progress.

Children develop a good awareness of fire safety through practicing emergency evacuations regularly but there are no smoke detection devices within the playgroup; compromising children's safety. Children learn about how to stay safe whilst on outings through activities such as setting up a role play zebra crossing and following the 'green cross code' when on walks.

The children have a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe through regular reminders and explanations from staff, for example, to sit on a chair correctly to prevent them falling off. Staff are aware of their responsibility towards child protection in line with Area Child Protection Committee procedures. However, the child protection policy does not include the procedure to follow if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff; consequently children are not fully protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled at the playgroup and they are fully involved in their play. Warm and caring relationships are apparent between the staff and children and they are confident and happy to arrive at the setting; contributing towards their sense of belonging. Children are confident in their relationships with the staff. They play happily together and with adults enjoying using resources such as the paints, play dough, sand, water and outdoor equipment, suitable to their age and stage of development.

Children's self esteem is developed through the staffs good use of praise and support, for example, when the children are praised for helping to tidy up. The staff use effective questioning to make children think. An example of this is staff asking children what the green or red light means on a traffic light. Children play well together, they learn to share and have respect for each others feelings. Children are involved, interested and enjoy their play, for example, as they spend a long period of time playing in the water together.

Nursery Education:

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. The staff have an adequate understanding of the Foundation Stage and of how children learn. They plan a suitable range of activities and experiences to cover most areas of children's learning. Planning is informal and flexible and covers most aspects of the areas of learning within the curriculum. However, there is insufficient planning to create opportunities for children to use Information and Communication Technology impacting on children's ability to know how to operate simple equipment. The system of planning and assessment fails to address ways of further developing children's independence. Resources are generally well used but little emphasis is given to providing focussed activities to older children to ensure they are fully challenged and have access to activities that are more challenging.

Overall children make satisfactory progress in all areas of learning. Staff use open questions to promote children's thinking, for example, when children are involved in

completing the weather chart. Children are learning to recognise the letters in their name through the use of a self registration system and they are beginning to ascribe meanings to marks. An example of this is when children pretend to write letters when in the mark making area. Children are developing an understanding of the natural world through activities such as planting bulbs and watching them grow. They enjoy using their senses to explore a range of different materials including sand, water and play dough.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are adequately met and they are fully included in the setting. They confidently enter the setting and immediately get involved in the activities on offer. Children develop a positive attitude to others and develop an understanding of the wider world and community through celebrating festivals and having access to a range of resources which show positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability.

Children are well behaved and have a good understanding of the boundaries and older children often remind younger children of acceptable ways to behave. For example, when younger children push each other when playing outside the older children tell them "we don't push". Clear and consistent boundaries ensure that children understand right from wrong. For example, when a triangle is played to signal it is time to tidy up children say "it's tidy up time". Children are given a sense of responsibility within the playgroup which helps to build on their self-esteem. An example of this is when they are made the snack time 'helper' and give the cups and fruit out to the other children.

Partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. Staff record all of the necessary information from parents and share policies and procedures with them. However, they are given limited information on the foundation stage and how their child is progressing. For example, staff record children's achievements in an 'all about me' record but this is only generally shared with parents when the child leaves the setting. Parents are given general information about activities provided through the use of a newsletter but they are not provided with information of how to extend their child's learning at home. Children's progress is shared verbally at the end of the session in an informal way. This ensures there is continuity of care between home and the playgroup. The setting fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The environment is mainly well organised, staff know their roles and responsibilities and sufficiently implement routines to give children a range of experiences. Children benefit from well deployed staff, who consistently interact with them and give children effective support and encouragement, which helps them feel secure and confident.

Most of the documentation required for the safe and effective management of children is in place and appropriate, but the behaviour policy does not include all of the required information and there is no system for recording complaints. The required adult to child ratios are met ensuring staff are able to provide good levels of care and supervision. In response, children are confident and secure in their surroundings.

The leadership and management of the nursery education is satisfactory. Some staff have attended Foundation Stage training and are involved in planning for the curriculum to help children to develop in all areas. An informal system to observe and evaluate staff performance is used to plan their development and training needs. The setting are able to identify their strengths and weaknesses and have a positive attitude to improvement. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the group have improved health and safety at the setting by seeking advice from the fire service regarding security locks and ensuring food preparation areas comply with environmental health guidelines. They have improved security through ensuring unwanted people do not have access to the premises and made effective arrangements to improve the cleaning arrangements in the physical activity room.

Documentation and procedures relating to child protection, recording children's attendance, medication and records relating to the safe use of the outdoor area have been revised and improved; contributing towards children's safety. The staff have developed their understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour and consequently children are well behaved whilst at the playgroup. They have re - organised the playgroup environment so that children can independently choose most of their own play materials and develop their own play ideas.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

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):

- develop the child protection policy to include the procedure to follow if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff and put smoke detection devices in place
- devise a complaints record and develop the behaviour policy to include bullying
- review the organisation of the play environment to ensure children have access to all aspects of the provision

The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- devise and implement a system of keeping parents informed of their child's progress and of how to extend their child's learning at home
- review the system of planning and assessment to ensure children are given further opportunities to develop their independence and to use information technology.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk