

# Rawthorpe Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	311303
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Hilary Mary Mckenning

<b>Setting Address</b>	Rawthorpe Youth Club, Nether Hall Avenue, Rawthorpe, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD5 9PG
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<b>Telephone number</b>	07985780528
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<b>E-mail</b>	
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<b>Registered person</b>	Rawthorpe Playgroup
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<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
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<b>Type of care</b>	Sessional care
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## 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](http://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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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?

Rawthorpe Playgroup opened in 1976. It operates from two classrooms within the high school at Rawthorpe, near Huddersfield. The playgroup is committee run and serves the local area.

There are currently 36 children attending a variety of sessions. This includes five children receiving nursery education funding. The playgroup supports children with learning difficulties and children for whom English is an additional language. The playgroup opens five days a week during school term times.

There are two part-time staff and a regular volunteer working with the children. The staff have early years qualifications. The setting receives some support from the Pre-School Learning Alliance and the local authority.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are active and enjoy physical activities throughout their time at the playgroup, which contributes to their general good health. They learn hand and eye co-ordination as they ride bikes and carts, negotiating space and obstacles confidently and safely.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment. They receive support and guidance from staff in understanding the importance of following hygiene procedures as they discuss washing their hands. Staff have current first aid certificates and accident records are appropriately maintained.

Children enjoy well-balanced snacks. They choose from a variety of fruit and toast, which encourages children to have an awareness of a healthy lifestyle. Children are developing some independence as they butter their own toast using appropriate cutlery. Staff take account of parents' wishes so that children's individual health and dietary requirements are met effectively; for example, these are recorded and displayed in the kitchen to ensure children's needs are met.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. They are able to move around safely and independently. A regular safety checklist is completed and action is taken to minimise risk. Children have sufficient space to move easily. There are appropriate procedures in place to ensure children depart with appropriate adults. Visitors are monitored when on the premises and children cannot leave the premises unsupervised. Children are carefully supervised and there is an appropriate procedure to follow in the event of a child being lost or not collected. The children practise fire drills on a regular basis and appropriate recordings of practices are up to date. This helps children to become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency.

A sufficient range of age-appropriate toys, furniture and resources is presented on the floor and table tops to encourage children to independently access them. Resources are stored at child height, promoting children's independence, confidence and the opportunity to make choices about their play.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as staff have a good understanding of their role and responsibilities regarding child protection matters. There are systems in place that follow the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and secure as staff take time to get to know them and their families, fostering warm, trusting relationships. Children enjoy their time in the playgroup and arrive eager to participate in the day's events. Children are becoming independent as they choose between a range of toys and activities made available to them. They enjoy exploring a range of activities that contribute to their creativity, such as painting and model making. Younger children enjoy a variety of experiences. For example, they play with the trucks and diggers alongside older

children. Children easily engage in conversation with their peers and adults as their language skills are developing well.

### Nursery education

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. Children enjoy coming to the playgroup and are supported by the staff. This ensures children make satisfactory progress in all areas of learning. Staff have knowledge of the early learning goals and they use this to plan activities to meet the needs of most children.

Children are good communicators and use language confidently for a variety of purposes. They readily initiate conversations and make their needs known as they ask for drinks. Children access books and are aware print carries meaning. However, there are missed opportunities for children to use writing for a purpose, such as when writing and recognising their names on pictures and their work.

Children gain confidence in using numbers and they are developing good counting skills. Children readily engage in simple mathematical problems as they join in songs and action rhymes. However, there missed opportunities for children to solve simple mathematical problem within daily routines.

Knowledge and understanding of the world is developing as children visit local places of interest. They are introduced to different celebrations and festivals as part of planned topics and themes. Children are sensitive to the needs of others and their behaviour is generally good.

Staff are aware of children's interests and needs as priority is given to getting to know children and their families. Staff obtain information by talking to parents and observing children as they play. They regularly assess children's progress through the stepping stones, although these are not used to plan the next steps for individual children's learning. Parents may access their child's record of achievement at any time. Overall, children make satisfactory progress in all areas of learning.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a sense of belonging to the playgroup as they become familiar with routines and expectations. They have close, affectionate relationships with the staff and each other. Behaviour is generally good and children are aware of their boundaries; for example, they know they must inform staff if they need to visit the toilet. They help to tidy away activities and are beginning to take responsibility for their own behaviour as they are encouraged to share and take turns. Praise is given freely to children, ensuring that they develop confidence and self-esteem.

Partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. The playgroup values and respects parents and a partnership is developing with them. Parents have been involved in helping to provide information and signs in different languages. Parents have their own noticeboard where they can access information, for example, the fire drill and staff details. Throughout the year the playgroup ensures parents are aware of current activities by providing them with information through regular newsletters. Parents have a prospectus and a welcome pack of the setting. However, information is not routinely given to parents regarding the curriculum and how their children are progressing towards the early learning goals.

Staff treat all children equally and are committed to inclusion. They are calm, polite and respectful, and children follow their example. Children encounter experiences to learn about themselves, each other and the world about them; for example, they have opportunities to sample other cultures' foods at snack time and visit places of interest within the local community. There is a written equal opportunities policy in place which is consistent with current legislation and guidance. Children access a variety of resources that reflect diversity. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The committee and management team failed to inform the regulator of the changes to the registration and the registered person. This is a breach in regulation that may potentially put children at risk.

Leadership and management is satisfactory. The manager works alongside staff in order to offer support and guidance. Staff work together as a team and are aware of their roles and responsibilities. There is an appraisal system in place to identify staff training needs and ensure the policies and procedures are consistently applied. Organisation of the planning is a team effort and a key worker system is in place for the recording of observations.

Children are cared for in an environment where they can move around and explore freely. Familiar staff are always on hand to offer support and reassurance. This contributes to children feeling secure and content in the playgroup. Most policies and procedures are in place to support children's welfare, which are shared with parents.

Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to address several issues relating to the organisation of activities and staff, the use of sun creams and the premises. There is now clear identification of staff roles within the planning of activities. There is a clear policy now in place regarding the use of sun creams and appropriate permissions are in place.

The provider was also asked to provide more opportunities to enable children to develop their early writing, mathematical and technological skills. There are now some opportunities for children to develop their early writing skills. However, there are few instances within activities for children to use writing for a purpose.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 April 2004 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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- provide an action plan to ensure notification of all significant changes.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

#### 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):

- use the information gained in observation and assessments to increase challenge for more able children, including the use of daily routine to support children learning
- introduce children to writing for real purposes and encourage children to use different forms of writing, for example, lists, cards, instructions and stories
- introduce children to simple problems and pose more complex problems for more able children, in daily routines and practical activities
- further develop ways of sharing information given to parents regarding the curriculum and how their children are progressing towards the early learning goals.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)