

# Grange Pre-School

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY336648
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sandra Elizabeth Williams
<b>Setting Address</b>	The Pavilion, Yew Tree Road, Grange-Over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7AA
<b>Telephone number</b>	07808 636378
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Grange Pre-School
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Grange Pre-School has been registered at The Pavilion since March 2007 and is committee run. Prior to this it operated from a different building. The provision consists of two activity rooms, a kitchen area and toilet facilities. All children share access to an outdoor play area.

The group serves children from Grange-over-Sands and the surrounding area. A maximum of 15 children aged from two years to under five years may attend the group at any one time. There are currently 10 children on roll.

The pre-school is open on Mondays and Fridays from 09.30 until 11.30 during term time only. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with learning difficulties.

There are three members of staff who work with the children and two of them hold appropriate qualifications. The manager is a qualified teacher.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children demonstrate a good understanding of simple health and hygiene practices and are learning to take responsibility for their own self-care routines. For example, they wash their hands after using the toilet. Children are very well protected from infection because the sick child policy is widely available and well adhered to. Staff are trained in first aid, which further supports children's health and safety. There is a first aid kit available in case of accidents and emergencies and the contents are up-to-date. Children are very well nourished and enjoy healthy snacks each day. They enjoy fruit, fromage fraise, sandwiches and hummus with bread sticks. Children are developing their independence as they make choices about what filling they would like on their sandwich and what drink they would like. Snack time is an enjoyable occasion and the staff skilfully extend the children's learning by asking them to recognise their name labels as they sit at the table.

Children take part in physical activity outdoors in the safe and secure play ground. They have opportunities to practise their physical skills as the play on the swings, slide and climbing frame. Their fine motor skills are developing as they make shapes with the play dough by rolling, cutting and patting the malleable material.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment that is welcoming and safe, vibrant and exciting. The nursery is extremely attractive and welcoming due to the hard work and effort of the staff. Children's art work is displayed creatively on the walls, which positively supports their sense of belonging. The staff display useful information on the parents' notice board in order to keep parents well informed. Activities are very invitingly presented at floor and low-level, which ensures children are interested and motivated to become involved.

Safety is given high priority. For example, staff ensure that they supervise children's arrival and departure extremely carefully and ensure that the gate and doors are always securely closed. Children are independent but closely monitored when using the toilets. Regular checks are made and recorded by the staff to make sure the environment and equipment are safe for the children's use. Fire safety is taught through emergency evacuation practises, however, they are not currently being practised frequently enough to ensure that all children are familiar with the procedure. Children are very well protected because staff fully understand their important role in protecting them from abuse and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice if needed.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy very positive relationships with staff and their peers. They are very excited and show great interest in all they do. For example, they spend lots of time playing with the play dough, developing their fine motor skills by using the cutters and rolling pins to create different shapes. Others are engrossed in their play as they set up the wooden train track and play with the trains. Children frequently use their initiatives. The free play sessions encourage them to continually make many choices in their play. They freely link up with friends and move from

one activity to another. The staff carefully plan focussed activities for each session and observe and keep records of children's individual achievements and progress. The children enjoy creative activities, such as leaf rubbing and hand painting. The current theme is about autumn and the children enjoy learning about how the leaves change colour from green, yellow, orange and brown.

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

The provision is good.

Children make a positive contribution and learn about their own community as the staff encourage them to bring in objects that they have found in their local environment. For example, some children bring in conkers and leaves that they have collected on nature walks. The children also enjoy visiting the local toy library and have visits from people in the community, such as the local radio station. Children have opportunities to learn about different cultures and religions due to the activities organised by the staff, such as Diwali and Chinese New Year. However, the range of multicultural resources are limited and there are few images in the setting that promote positive images of diversity.

Children with learning difficulties are welcome to attend the group and the staff are very aware of the importance of working closely with parents and other agencies to support children's individual needs. Behaviour issues are managed very well by the staff who have a calm and patient approach and use entirely suitable strategies which children fully accept. Children are helped to develop self-esteem and respect for others as they are encouraged to share the toys and books. This also helps them to learn successfully about the needs of others. They are regularly praised and encouraged by staff which makes them feel good about themselves and develop a strong sense of self.

Children are cared for by staff who work very closely and successfully with parents to meet their individual needs. Relationships are warm and friendly, and verbal communication is clearly very good as informal conversations about children's care take place as parents drop off and collect their children. A complaints policy is in place including a system for recording any complaints if necessary.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The care of the children is good due to the thorough organisation of the pre-school by very experienced and well qualified staff. The staff group work very well as a team and provide good consistency for the children. Staff demonstrate a commitment to continual development and they regularly attend relevant training courses to support them in their work. Children are relaxed and confident in their environment due to the effective organisation of their care and learning. Children's play opportunities are good as the staff organise the premises very well, thus allowing children to move about with ease. Space is well laid out and care is taken to ensure that children receive a good balance of free play and focussed activities. Documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in good order and stored confidentially in lockable cupboard. Policies accurately reflect the working practice observed at all times.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration 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 records 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 good. 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):

- increase the frequency of emergency evacuation practises to ensure that all children are familiar with the procedure
- develop the multicultural resources and images in order to further promote positive images of diversity.

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)