



Fairfax Community Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	400211
Inspection date	26 July 2005
Inspector	Rachel Ayo
Setting Address	Fairfax Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 7RU
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Registered person	Harrogate Borough Council
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School 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

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?

Fairfax Community Centre Play-Scheme is one of several holiday play-schemes run by Harrogate Borough Council. It opened in 1994 and operates from four rooms within a one storey community centre. It is situated on the Knaresborough Road estate in the Granby ward. A maximum of 40 children may attend the play-scheme at any one time. The play-scheme is open most school holidays from 09:00 to 15:00 and on Saturdays from 11:00 to 15:00. Children have use of a grassed outdoor area for access to outdoor play. The scheme is open-access, although systems are in place to ensure children are collected by authorised persons.

There are currently 30 children aged from 5 to 11 years on roll. The setting serves the general community. The play-scheme currently supports a number of children with special educational needs or disabilities.

The play-scheme employs four staff and a pool of support staff are also used. The manager is currently working towards an appropriate qualification. The other staff members either hold an appropriate qualification or are working towards this and/or have received the Harrogate Borough Council training.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of energetic physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Children participate in the "community challenge" along with other community play-schemes where they are involved in a wide variety of physical games. Children develop confidence as they use a broad range of indoor and outdoor toys and equipment. Children are able to rest or be active according to their individual needs and staff help children to learn about the effects of physical activity on their body. For example, one staff member encourages a child to rest and have a drink, explaining that he looks hot and flushed after running around.

Children benefit from healthy snacks of fruit and children confidently choose when they want a drink from accessible jugs of water. Although children bring their own packed lunches they learn about the benefits of healthy living to a good standard as staff discuss different types of food which are good for them.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through well organised routines and good practice. Signs are displayed in the toilets to remind children to wash their hands and they wash their hands before eating. A rota is displayed in the toilets to ensure that these are checked regularly and are in a suitable state of hygiene. Children are well protected from infection because staff demonstrate a good understanding of health policies and procedures which work well in practice. Accident and medicine procedures are well implemented and children's safety is promoted well because all staff maintain a current first aid certificate.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, well maintained environment. Displays of information, bright posters and children's artwork contribute to a warm and welcoming environment. Children benefit from a good amount of space. It is organised creatively to enable children to move around independently and engage in a wide variety of activities or rest and play quietly. Children use a good range of safe and suitable equipment and resources which are appropriate for their ages and individual development needs.

Children benefit from a good range of safety measures. A detailed risk assessment is in place along with health and safety policies and procedures. Staff are trained to have an understanding of health and safety requirements and most staff are vigilant about children's safety and potential hazards. Children's welfare is effectively promoted. All staff are vetted before they commence working at the play-scheme. Staff have a good understanding of their role in child protection and the procedures to follow, and effective security measures are in place for the premises. Children develop a good awareness of safety through discussion and regular practice of the emergency evacuation procedure. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they are involved in setting up a contract which sets the ground rules for the setting. These include safety issues, such as no running and children are reminded of the contract each morning.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and show good levels of interest in what they do. Their emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities are promoted effectively because they take part in a very good range of well planned, stimulating activities. Children develop confidence and independence because a secure environment is provided. Staff are friendly and approachable. They talk with and listen to children and they carefully balance their interaction. For example, children are given time to play and learn independently, initiating their own activities, such as imaginative play, but they also engage in activities which need more support and direction from staff, such as arts and craft. Children's ideas and opinions are valued and respected as they talk about what they would like to do and take part in evaluation sessions at the end of the day. Children make positive relationships with both staff and their peers. They begin to distinguish between right and wrong as they are fully involved in setting their own ground rules and remind each other of these from time to time.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are highly valued as individuals. They develop a positive attitude to others and develop a good understanding of wider society through posters showing diversity and by celebrating different festivals. Children also have access to a good range of resources which show positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability, such as dressing up clothes, books and puzzles.

The individual needs of all children are well met. Younger children are helped to feel secure by having a designated member of staff as their key worker. Registration cards ensure that information is obtained from parents to enable appropriate care. The setting has an excellent inclusion policy. Planning reflects the policy by ensuring that activities are appropriate, and adapted if necessary, to enable children with special educational needs or disabilities to take part and feel fully included and valued. All children are treated equally and fairly and have equal access to all resources. Children develop good levels of self esteem because good behaviour is

valued and encouraged and appropriate behaviour management strategies are used.

Children benefit from positive partnerships between staff and their parents. A parent pack has been devised for parents so that they are fully informed about the play-scheme and activities which their children will be taking part in. Effective communication systems are in place. Staff talk to parents daily, a notice board in the entrance hall displays detailed information, including available policies and procedures, and ingredients for the day's baking activity. This helps staff and parents to work together to promote the care and welfare of children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Effective recruitment and vetting procedures are in place. This means that children are well protected and cared for by staff who have appropriate knowledge and skills to provide good quality care for children. Very good induction training, which includes all policies and procedures, is attended by all staff before the play-scheme begins. This ensures that they are aware of their roles and responsibilities and promotes consistency in the setting. Most policies and procedures are understood and generally implemented to a good standard by staff to promote positive outcomes for children.

Children benefit from well organised space and resources and good routines are in place. Effective grouping of children and very good staff deployment enables children to vary their experiences throughout the day, have good levels of support and take an active part in the setting.

Documentation is generally maintained to a good standard and is well organised. This ensures the efficient and safe management of the provision and promotes the welfare, care and learning of children. The needs of all children who attend are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection there were a number of recommendations in relation to; access to drinking water; the physical environment and documentation. Jugs of water and cups are now easily accessible to children which promotes their general health and development. Good hygiene practices are maintained throughout the building which supports the good health of children. A daily record is now maintained of staff attendance which enhances documentation. However, a record of all visitors present on the premises is not maintained. This is reflected as a recommendation in the report.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- ensure that a record is maintained of all visitors on the premises
- ensure that all staff are vigilant about children's safety indoors.

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