

# Cambridgeshire Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY337360
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Emma Bright
<b>Setting Address</b>	Maple Grove School, Maple Grove, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 8JT
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<b>Registered person</b>	The Governing Body of Cambridge County Council , Cambridge Playschemes
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](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?

Cambridgeshire Playscheme is one of five provisions managed by Cambridgeshire County Council. It opened in 2006 and operates from Maple Grove School in March, Cambridgeshire, offering a holiday playscheme for children with moderate to severe learning difficulties and disabilities.

A maximum of 20 children may attend the playscheme at any one time. The playscheme is open from 10:00 to 15:30 for one week during the school summer holidays. All children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area. There are currently 13 children aged from five to 16 years on roll. Children come from the local area.

The playscheme employs 25 staff. Of these, 13 hold appropriate qualifications and one is currently working towards a qualification.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children are well nourished and staff help them to learn about making healthy choices through a range of practical activities, such as, cooking or making fruit kebabs. Children's individual dietary needs are met as very clear information is gathered from parents about allergies or special dietary requirements. Parents provide their child's packed lunch, which is suitably stored so that food remains fresh. A healthy eating policy has not been fully developed to share with parents to further promote children's health. Children have plenty of water and juice to drink throughout the session so that they remain well hydrated.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities and make very good use of the outdoor area and large hall to participate in active games. For example, they thoroughly enjoy playing outdoors, running around in the sunshine and building sandcastles in the sandpit. Children develop manipulative dexterity as they expertly use a range of utensils; they carefully create shapes from playdough and explain that they are 'making the hearts into clovers'.

Children's good health is promoted because staff help them to understand about good hygiene practices, such as, washing their hands before meal times. Staff act as good role models, wiping down surfaces before serving food to help children stay healthy. If the children become unwell whilst they are in the care of the setting, very clear records and procedures are in place to make sure that they are appropriately cared for in the event of a medical emergency. Children's medical needs are met as clear and detailed information is in place; this is updated regularly to ensure their on-going health is very well maintained.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's safety is paramount within the setting. They are fully protected and kept safe from harm because all staff have an excellent understanding of their role in child protection. Staff regularly access training to ensure their knowledge is up-to-date and in line with local procedures. In addition, staff strictly adhere to the setting's 'lone worker' policy which means that children's welfare is fully safeguarded.

Children play with a good range of toys and activities, which have been very well chosen to stimulate their interest and support their individual abilities. All resources are cleaned and checked regularly to ensure that they remain absolutely safe for children to use. All children have access to an extensive range of good quality, safe equipment; they move freely between indoors and outdoors, selecting resources to support and develop their play. This means children engage in purposeful activity and safely choose items themselves which significantly enhances their independence.

Children's safety is greatly enhanced by very good security procedures to restrict access to the setting and prevent them from leaving the premises unaccompanied. Staff are particularly vigilant in their supervision of children and consistently check that sufficient adults are present, both indoor and outdoors. Children learn about keeping safe as staff provide simple, but clear explanations to help them understand. For example, they remind children to be careful with the sand so it does not get into their eyes and this helps children to play safely.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the playscheme; they demonstrate great enthusiasm for the range of activities on offer and settle down readily to an activity of their choice. Children's communication skills are greatly enhanced by the range of additional strategies in place to help children communicate. For example, pictorial symbols are used to demonstrate the timetable so that children know about the structure for the day and this helps them to feel safe and secure.

Children are extremely happy and settled; they form positive relationships with staff who are particularly caring and sensitive to each child's needs. Staff have an exceptionally good knowledge and understanding of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. They ensure that there is always a varied range of activities which reflect children's abilities and interests.

Staff work very well together as a team to support children's play and provide plenty of opportunities for fun and relaxation. They are adept at organising spontaneous activities to respond to children's requests, which ensures children are interested and involved according to their ability. In addition, an excellent range of experiences and learning opportunities are planned for each day. For example, children thoroughly enjoy the visit from Sam the dog and each take a turn in stroking him. They discuss how dogs can help people and talk knowledgeably about their own pets. Children enjoy an excellent range of art activities; they make 'bumper cars' from junk and draw pictures to share with their parents. They also draw pictures for Sam the dog to take home.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit significantly from the staff's experience and caring support. For example, when children become upset or distressed staff ensure that each child can work through their routines or coping strategies and this helps them to become calmer and reduce their anxiety. Staff respect and value children's individuality and work extremely well with parents to ensure that the specific needs of all children are met. Staff are proactive in working with parents, carers and other agencies to support the children's needs and this ensures that they are fully included in the life of the setting. Individual behaviour plans are in place so that there is consistency between home and the setting. Children learn through purposeful routines and sensitive expectations. Staff are very consistent in their approach and establish clear boundaries so that all children are beginning to understand what is expected of them. They use play to teach children skills, such as, turn taking and sharing.

Children benefit from the setting's high emphasis of working with parents and carers. Excellent settling in procedures, that are based around their individual needs, help to support children in the transition between home and the setting. For example, staff complete home visits before children begin at the playscheme, which enables them to gather good information to be used as starting points for care, teaching and learning. Parents receive clear and detailed information about the setting so they know about activities and events, and have daily opportunities to discuss their child with staff. A comprehensive, written daily record is shared between staff and parents and this ensures parents have additional information about their child's day. This helps children to settle quickly and ensures their individual needs continue to be met. All

documentation is in place to share information with parents and carers so that they know about the setting's policies and procedures.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the very good quality organisation; they benefit from a very well prepared environment that promotes positive outcomes for all children. Staff develop warm and affectionate relationships with children and the effective key worker system means they benefit from the individual care and attention. Clear and comprehensive policies, records and procedures underpin the very good practice, ensuring children's welfare is safeguarded. Children's individual records and details of any medical needs are obtained and stored with appropriate regard for confidentiality.

Children are kept safe because rigorous recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that adults are suitable and have appropriate skills and knowledge to work with children. The thorough induction procedure and a detailed operational plan, with up-to-date information for staff, ensures that all members of the team are secure in their knowledge of their roles and responsibilities. Staff work well together as a cohesive team and demonstrate great enthusiasm for ensuring that the environment meets the needs of the children. They attend a range of training opportunities, which means that children benefit from practices which are in line with current ideas and legislation. Overall children's needs are met.

## **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 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 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):

- develop the healthy eating policy further to share with parents.

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)