

# Oulton Abbey Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 218197  
**Inspection date** 13 November 2007  
**Inspector** Shirley Amanda Wilkes

**Setting Address** Oulton Abbey, Church Lane, Oulton, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8UP

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**Registered person** OULTON ABBEY PLAYGROUP COMMITTEE

**Type of inspection** Childcare

**Type of care** 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?

Oulton Abbey Playgroup opened in 1970. The group has sole use of a single storey building, which adjoins Oulton Abbey. There is a fully enclosed area for outside play.

The group is open from Monday to Friday 09:00 to 12:00 term time only.

The playgroup is registered to care for a maximum of 26 children. There are currently 23 children on roll who attend a variety of sessions.

There are five members of staff who work directly with the children, more than fifty percent hold childcare qualifications.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted well as they are learning the importance of good hygiene procedures. They wash and dry their hands using liquid soap and paper towels, which limits

the risk of cross-infection. There are good procedures in place to protect children from the risk of catching infectious illnesses as staff use clear guidance to advise parents about how long children need to be excluded from the playgroup when they are unwell. Young children who wear nappies are protected well as staff follow good procedures at nappy changing times that include wearing disposal gloves and cleaning the changing mat with antibacterial spray between each use.

Children are well cared for in the event of an accident most staff attend first aid training and can easily access a well stocked first aid kit. Details of accidents are clearly recorded and information shared with parents to support children's continuity of care. If children require medication during their time at nursery, parents are asked to give written permission and clear records are kept to ensure that children only receive prescribed dosages.

Children follow daily routines that help to keep them healthy. For example, they have snacks that include fresh fruit and toast and drinks of water or milk. Children are able to access drinks freely throughout the day to ensure they do not go thirsty. Children are beginning to understand healthy eating through planned activities.

Daily routines offer children opportunities to access fresh air and exercise as they regularly play outdoors or go out for walks. Children are developing their physical skills as they play games and access equipment that enables them to climb, balance, run, jump and learn to control and use their muscles in different ways.

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

The provision is good.

Children have use of two rooms which are divided into different play areas. The rooms are light and airy. A variety of children's pictures and creations are displayed, giving the room a welcoming, homely feel. Good procedures for the arrival and collection of children are in place, for example, children are signed in by parents and the time recorded.

Children use a suitable range of toys and equipment which are well maintained. Toys are easily accessible to children and stored appropriately. Large equipment is checked before each use. Good evacuation procedures are practised which help children understand how to keep themselves safe in an emergency situation. Activities take place to help children understand road safety, for example, the 'green cross code' is displayed to reinforce children's understanding.

There are good procedures in place to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. Staff have a good understanding of the group's internal safeguarding children procedures and the local authority referral system, which ensures children's well-being.

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

The provision is good.

At the playgroup, children choose from a very good range of activities, enjoying plenty of free play, as well as structured sessions. They move freely between the two rooms, accessing a wide range of resources, such as role play and small world equipment, art and craft resources, construction materials or sensory play with sand and dough. Staff are deployed well to support their development and children are confident, enthusiastic learners. However, their independence at snack time is not being fully developed as they do not contribute to the preparation of their snack or pour their own drinks unaided.

Children move confidently and are developing good coordination skills, they handle a range of tools and small equipment well, such as pencils, paste spatulas and scissors. They are able to practise their climbing and balancing skills both indoors and out, for example, using the steps and 'dinosaur' balancing beam and climbing frame. Children use a variety of different materials, painting and printing techniques to develop their creativity. Most children can name a wide range of colours with success. They have regular opportunities to develop their musical skills, singing their favourite songs and using musical instruments. Their imagination is well developed as they cook food and care for 'babies' in the home corner and develop different scenarios with the construction toys, sand and role play. Children play together sharing resources and playing co-operatively when acting out a hospital theme in the home corner. Children benefit from staff sitting with the children looking at books and talking and listening about home experiences.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met well as the staff and parents regularly exchange information to ensure their continuity of care. Boys and girls are given equal opportunities to access all activities and they use resources that reflect positive images. Children take part in celebrating festivals, for example, Diwali, Christmas and the Jewish new year, all of which contributes to their understanding of the wider world and its diversity.

Children's behaviour is good. They are familiar with the rules and routines of the group and co-operate well with each other when sharing resources or tidying them away. Their good behaviour is reinforced and rewarded by the regular praise and encouragement they receive from staff. Staff act as good role models and children follow their example with the use of good manners.

Parents are well informed about the activities of the playgroup and how the children have spent their time. They receive an abundance of information via the notice board in the foyer. Parents are able to access policies and procedures on request. They receive a welcome pack informing them of the day to day running of the group and they are encouraged to join the parents rota to join in with the children activities.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care is securely underpinned by all the required documentation, including comprehensive policies and procedures, which have recently been updated. Children are cared for by a well-qualified staff team and ratios are good, ensuring that all children have plenty of individual attention.

Children enjoy the facilities of two rooms, where the space is used very effectively, to provide a good variety of resources and activities. All children play in good safe surroundings and most hygiene routines are good. The committee works effectively with staff, to oversee the quality of children's care, implementing good systems, such as regular staff appraisals. All required documentation, policies and procedures are in place and the required checks are completed for new members of staff. The group inducts new staff well and carries out appraisals regularly. Training is organised to meet individual needs as well as the needs of the group to continually improve the provision. Effective deployment ensures that unvetted persons are prevented from

accessing premises or having unsupervised contact with children and that required staff to child ratios are met at all times.

Overall children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the setting was asked to ensure all paperwork is maintained and contains the relevant information. They were also asked to increase the opportunity the children have to access table top activities. The paperwork is fully maintained and contains all the required information, which ensures children's safety and well-being. Children are now able to select from a variety of table top activities which ensures their needs are met.

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

Since the last inspection 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):

- ensure that children's independence is encouraged during all activities.

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)