

Torview School Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

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Registered person Torview School Playscheme
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Torview School Playscheme was first registered in 1997. It operates for 3 weeks during the summer school holidays on weekdays from 10.00 to 15.00. The scheme is located in Torview School on the outskirts of Haslingden, Rossendale, Lancashire. It is a registered charity, run by a parents' management committee. Children who attend the school, and other children with learning disabilities and difficulties who live in the surrounding area, use this scheme.

The playscheme is registered to care for 16 children from four to eight years and there are currently 30 children on roll of whom 12 are under eight years of age. Some children attend on a part time basis. Children over eight years and up to 19 years also attend this scheme. The facilities available for the scheme include a large hall, food technology and art room plus a large enclosed outdoor area.

All the children attending the playscheme have learning difficulties and disabilities. The playscheme employs 13 members of staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because practitioners are active in following current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines. Staff follow procedures, such as wiping tables before lunchtime and ensuring children wash their hands at relevant times during the day. Children relish opportunities for many activities which involve exercise. These include waterskiing, dry slope skiing, bowling, cycling, climbing and football. The scheme leader works as a play development officer and is qualified to coach many sports. She, along with the staff team, actively encourages all children, including wheelchair users to join in activities and take exercise. Emergency contact numbers are maintained and a clear sick children policy offers protection in case of illness.

A detailed history of each child's health is obtained to ensure they receive appropriate care and medication.

Children are beginning to learn about healthy living because staff talk to them about keeping well. For example, children are aware of the importance of using sun cream when outdoors in the sun 'otherwise we will get burned'. All children bring their own packed lunches to the scheme and staff are aware of any specific dietary needs, requirements or allergies. Children's dietary needs are catered for during parties and special events, for example, staff provide gluten-free food. The only snacks provided for the children is the healthy option of fresh fruit. Water is available from drinking fountains and at snack time. Staff monitor children to ensure they do not go thirsty as some children are not able to access drinks independently due to their disabilities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are satisfactorily cared for in a welcoming environment. Children are able to develop a sense of belonging through the warm and friendly accommodation where their artwork and photographs are attractively displayed. Space is used creatively and children have access to various rooms for specific activities, such as cookery or artwork. Equipment and activities are set out before children arrive, accommodation is clean and well maintained.

Children benefit from a large range of suitable and child-size equipment and furniture. Staff provide a very good and stimulating range of accessible toys and resources that meet the needs of the children attending. Some positive steps are taken to keep the children safe, such as the use of safety seats in vehicles. However, a risk assessment has not been carried out and this has resulted in some omissions in safety policies and procedures. Notably, there is no record of visitors to the premises, the door and perimeter fence are not secure, there has been no fire drill during the current playscheme and accident, medication and pre-existing injuries are not fully recorded, putting children at risk.

Children are protected because staff have a good knowledge of signs and symptoms of child abuse. Staff have undertaken appropriate training and are familiar with the procedures to follow if concerns are raised. Relevant guidance and contact numbers are easily available and the setting has their own detailed policy which contains all the necessary information.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are developing confidence and self-esteem because they are consistently praised for effort and achievement. Key workers ensure children's needs are well met and that the children have fun at the playscheme. Children show curiosity and interest in the activities on offer, recalling in the afternoon the pleasure they had that morning in the play centre, proudly showing a leaflet with the huge slide they used. Equipment is stored at children's level and they are helped with activities and resources when necessary.

Children are very involved in the activities available, enjoying their time playing both indoors and outdoors. For example, younger children squeal with laughter as they meet the challenges of the outdoor equipment and other children talk about the food they have cooked. Photographs from the previous year's playscheme show the children enjoying their time at many events including the zoo, canoeing, a farm and waterskiing.

Children have positive relationships with their peers and staff as they are listened to and valued. They are happy and settled, with parents saying the children are really keen to attend. Children's individual needs are very successfully met, with activities adapted when necessary and specific needs incorporated into planning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children gain an awareness of their local environment through a very good range of activities in the local community, using facilities, such as play centres and lakes. There are some resources and art activities that reflect different cultures, including making international flags and trying food from different cultures. Children are valued as individuals and staff respect their choices, for example, one child did not want to go water skiing and an alternative was organised.

All children on the scheme have learning disabilities and/or difficulties. The staff have detailed knowledge and experience of how to offer individual care and the importance of working with parents and external agencies.

Children's needs are paramount to the staff and many staff work full time with children who have specific and complex needs. There are suitable facilities and resources to meet the needs of the children, with the staff adapting activities when necessary to ensure children are fully included in the scheme.

Staff encourage good behaviour through talking to the children about inappropriate behaviour. Staff offer consistent praise and encouragement, use distraction methods and are highly aware of individual children's levels of understanding and ability.

Children are cared for very well by staff who work closely with parents to meet individual children's needs. Comprehensive information is collected on each child and their families to ensure routines and requirements are complied with. Each child has a daily diary with their photograph, outlining the day's activities and this is used to pass information to and from parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe because relevant checks are undertaken on staff and volunteers. People who have not been cleared are not allowed to be alone with children, nor to take them to the toilet. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of child development and most have a relevant qualification and many years of experience of working with children. Children are protected in cases of accidents and illness because most members of staff have a current first aid certificate and there are plentiful supplies of first aid equipment. Practitioners have a high regard for the well-being of all children and respect each child as an individual. Volunteers are well supported in their work with the children, having a mentor and working in small teams to ensure children are suitably cared for.

Space, time and resources are effectively organised as the practitioners are well prepared and experienced in planning and delivering the summer programme. Children are cared for in a manner which suits their needs and parents can request one-to-one care if they feel it is necessary. Registers of attendance of both staff and children do not show hours of attendance, meaning accurate records of children's attendance and staffing ratios are not recorded. Policies and procedures generally work in practice to promote children's health, safety and enjoyment, but some do not meet all requirements. Children's records are stored in a locked filing cabinet in the school office to ensure confidentiality is maintained.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the group had two recommendations with regard to staff clearances and providing an accident book for sole use of the playscheme. These two recommendations have been complied with, although further improvements are required in the accident records.

A further recommendation was made in regard to providing additional resources which reflect diversity. There are now some resources and activities which meet the requirements of the National Standards.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- review accident, pre-existing injuries, incident and medication policies and procedures
- ensure registration system records times of arrival and departure of children and staff
- ensure fire drill is practised and recorded
- ensure the building and grounds are secure and a record of visitors is maintained
- conduct a risk assessment and if necessary an action plan with timescales to minimise identified risks.

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