

# Hop Skip and Jump South West

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY240258
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Carol Cox
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<b>Registered person</b>	Hop Skip and Jump South West
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day 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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Hop, Skip and Jump South West, Grimsby Farm was established in 2003. It is part of a larger voluntary organisation, which provides care for children who have learning difficulties or disabilities and their families. The purpose built Grimsby Farm establishment is set in a semi-rural location, close to the Bristol ring road. It comprises a large hall, craft room, quiet room, dark sensory room, white sensory room, quiet room and toilet facilities for children. The kitchen, clinic, office and store rooms are not accessible to children. The centre is open from 10:00 to 17:30 from Monday to Friday and from 10:00 to 16:00 on Saturday all year round. Children share access to a secure outside play area which includes an adventure area, enclosed games court and a sensory garden.

The setting is registered to offer care to a maximum of 40 children under eight years, children may attend for a variety of sessions with their families. The setting also offers sessions to specific groups. During the past year there have been 1961 children using the centre and the number of children on roll varies.

The setting employs eight staff who work directly with children. Of these five have appropriate play work or early years qualifications and one member of staff is currently working towards a qualification.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is extremely well promoted by knowledgeable staff who work closely with parents to meet any specific health needs. Children's independence is enhanced by the provision of excellent toilet facilities which include different specialist aids and adaptations. Robust nappy changing procedures include the use of gloves and anti-bacterial cleansing sprays. The rigorous medication procedure ensures that staff only administer medication in emergency situations, with full guidance and consent from parents. Usually parents administer medication to their own children.

There is a high awareness amongst staff of how to prevent the spread of infection between children and stringent policies ensure that children who are unwell do not use the setting in order to protect others. There are many opportunities for children to challenge themselves physically and benefit from fresh air. The indoor play space offers a soft play area and bouncy castle and the garden has abundant exciting places for children to explore movement and enjoy new challenges. Children may rest as they need to in travel cots or relax in the sensory rooms.

Children enjoy healthy and nutritious snacks and drinks provided either by the staff or their own parents. All special dietary needs are carefully noted and adhered to by attentive staff.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Staff have implemented many excellent measures to ensure the safety of all children attending the setting. There are stringent procedures in place to identify and record all visitors to the setting. Staff ensure that all volunteers and students are closely supervised and not left alone with children until they are fully checked and only with the consent of parents. The premises, resources and equipment are fully checked and comprehensive risk assessments made. There is an abundant range of specialist equipment and furniture to meet the diverse care, learning and play needs of all the children who attend. The garden has been made safe and accessible for all children, for example, a wheelchair roundabout has been installed. There are sensory rooms within the building to provide relaxation as well as stimulation for children. All health and safety policies are meticulously detailed to ensure staff are able to follow procedures confidently.

Staff have a good knowledge of how to address any concerns they may have about protecting children from abuse. They attend regular training and the child protection policy includes an extremely well written and detailed procedure, including contact details for appropriate agencies and Ofsted. The policy and procedures are shared with parents.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Staff have a very good knowledge of how to promote children's care, learning and play appropriate to their individual needs and abilities. There is a great wealth of toys and resources to stimulate children's imagination. For example, children enjoy making collages with a range of interesting materials in the very well resourced craft room. Staff sensitively stimulate children's learning and development through play activities, for example, a member of staff challenges

a child to throw the large die cube in the soft play area. He correctly counts six and then finds the numeral on his T-shirt. Staff recognise the need for children to burn off energy and children thoroughly enjoy the bouncy castle inflated in the large playroom on a rainy day.

Skilful staff offer counselling and a range of therapies to promote children's emotional well-being. Children love the sensory rooms where they experience different responses to sensory stimulation and equally benefit from dressing up in a variety of costumes to express their imaginations. Children's language skills are enhanced and promoted through positive interactions with staff in everyday play, for example, some children sign with staff whilst others talk about their activities.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children and their parents are warmly welcomed and feel highly valued by the staff who work hard to build supportive relationships. Families from different countries and cultures find staff and children excited about sharing different festivals and celebrations and equally enjoy joining in the large Christmas celebrations. Staff have great knowledge and experience of identifying the needs of each child in partnership with their parents and other professionals involved. There is a clear and explicit statement setting out the rights and expectations for all children using the centre.

Children's behaviour is managed sensitively by staff. Staff are well trained to recognise how to help children who have behavioural difficulties. A quiet room offers a haven for supervised time out if children need to break away from others to calm down. Parents are given clear information about the behaviour management strategies used and appreciate help offered by staff.

Parents feel tremendously important and valued by staff. They talk about the excellent service where children can enjoy a safe play space whilst they have the chance to relax. Staff provide comprehensive information about support services available to parents and ensure that extra services, such as counselling, massage and relaxation therapies, are made accessible to all. Generally parents cannot speak highly enough of the wonderful support which they are offered. There is a clear complaints procedure in place and a comments and suggestions book always available, although most comments are very complimentary.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The setting is well managed by a voluntary committee who support the staff with fundraising and provide management support. The staff group are very well qualified and have great depth of experience to provide a high quality service to families with children who have learning difficulties or disabilities. The management committee help attract a variety of local businesses to support the centre with practical projects, such as building the barbeque area or planting a sensory garden.

The manager supports staff through daily discussions and regular meetings and supervision. The appraisal system helps to identify the training needs of both the organisation and individual staff members. Staff are committed to on-going professional development and enjoy access to regular training. Recruitment procedures ensure that staff are suitably qualified and checked

before working with children. New staff are carefully supported through a comprehensive induction programme.

All necessary records and documentation are in place, robustly maintained and stored securely. Parents have easy access to all policies and procedures and any records kept about children are shared with families in confidence. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the setting was asked to address the following recommendations: ensure all staff have a good understanding of child protection issues; improve safety through completing regular risk assessments; and make policies and procedures available to parents. There is now a comprehensive and supportive child protection procedure in place and all staff attend child protection training, thus children are safeguarded from abuse and staff have a clear knowledge of the action to take in case of any concerns. Staff ensure children's safety through thorough and regular risk assessments and daily checks of the premises and gardens. Parents enjoy free access to all policies and procedures which are kept in the quiet room where parents sit and relax.

### **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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)