



## Headcorn Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	127232
<b>Inspection date</b>	27 July 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Clare Stone
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<b>Registered person</b>	Headcorn parish Council
<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?

Headcorn Playscheme is controlled by Headcorn Parish Council and Maidstone Borough Council.

It opened in the 1980s and was registered in 1991 under the 1989 Children Act. It operates from part of the local school premises, including the hall and an outside play area, during three weeks of the summer holidays.

It is registered to accept a maximum of 90 children aged 4 - 12 years of age, with no more than 50 being under 8 and no more than 40 under 5. There are currently

approximately 150 children on roll.

Ten full-time staff work with the children of whom two are qualified primary school teachers.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The children are offered healthy snacks every morning and can help themselves to drinks whenever they are thirsty. This teaches them about healthy eating options and promotes awareness of the choices that they are making. Children learn about hygiene practices and how to incorporate these into their daily routines. This assists in a healthy lifestyle. Throughout the morning the children have plenty of opportunity for physical play and this is organised by the staff to follow the children's interest. This allows the children to take risks in a secure and safe environment and build on their physical abilities. There is a separate room allocated for the children to rest and relax. Children are protected from the risk of infection by the play scheme's clear procedures not to admit children that are unwell.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The playscheme is warm and welcoming, allowing children to feel secure and build on their confidence. Children's safety is promoted by regular risk assessments and the evaluation of these practices. This ensures the children are cared for in a safe, child friendly and well organised environment. There is plenty of space for the children to move around freely, allowing them to face new challenges. The equipment is sufficient and well maintained, preventing the children from becoming injured. The playscheme has clear policies surrounding child protection issues, however the staff would benefit from extra training in this area. This would ensure the safety of the children in their care.

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

The provision is good.

The children are involved in a wide range of fun and stimulating activities. The children were engaged in activities such as football, painting, flower arranging, games, pottery and dressing up. The staff allowed children to choose which activities they wanted to do and supported them if needed. This allows children to make decisions and be independent. The children are talked to in a kind and reassuring fashion allowing them to be themselves and express their likes and dislikes. The staff praised the children regularly building their self esteem and confidence.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The playscheme have limited resources that promote equal opportunities, however children that attend are valued and respected as individuals. This makes them feel good about themselves. They are taught to think of other people and respect their feelings. Children's behaviour is good and the staff keep parent's informed of any behavioural issues. This ensures that children know their boundaries and feel confident in their surroundings. The playscheme does not have any children on role with special needs but is forward thinking on how they would support and assist children and parents that joined the scheme.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The playscheme staff have a good understanding of the National standards. They are organised with their documentation which is paramount to the children's welfare. The children benefit from the clear systems in place for working with parents and sharing information. All documentation is up to date. The staff plan their time effectively to ensure the children have their support and guidance if needed. The playscheme have staff with various childcare qualifications and 6 members of staff with current first aid certificates. This helps them provide good quality care. Overall, the needs of all the children who attend are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The playscheme have addressed some of the previous recommendations.

## **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):

- increase staff awareness of child protection procedures and possible signs of abuse.
- increase resources promoting equal opportunities

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)