

Hillview Community Playgroup (Cheltenham)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	101515
Inspection date	08 February 2008
Inspector	Angela Cole
Setting Address	Hillview Community Centre, Hulbert Crescent, Up Hatherley, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 3FZ
Telephone number	07951 214591
E-mail	
Registered person	The Trustees of Hillview Community Playgroup (Cheltenham)
Type of inspection	Integrated
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.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Hillview Community Playgroup (Cheltenham) is managed by a voluntary committee of parents of children at the setting. It has been open since 1990 and meets in a community centre in a suburb of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. A library is housed within the centre and there is a health centre nearby. The group shares the accommodation with other groups from the community and experiences restrictions caused by limited storage and the prohibition of certain activities. The indoor accommodation is wheelchair friendly and consists of a spacious hall with access to a kitchen. There is an adjacent, outside area with a brick surface for children's play. A maximum of 24 children may attend the setting at any one time. The playgroup operates on weekdays during term time from 09.15 to 12.15.

There are currently 32 children aged from two years six months to under five years on roll. Of these, 28 children receive funding for early education. Children come from the local area where there is a large amount of new housing. The playgroup currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The playgroup employs four members of staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications. The staff are supported by regular helpers and parents on rota duty. The group has close links with local schools, community library and nearby shops.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have satisfactory opportunities for exercise and fresh air. They enjoy a physical activity in the spacious hall, such as negotiating an obstacle course, jumping on the trampoline or moving pompoms to music. They learn to balance on challenging wheeled toys and occasionally climb. They handle some large materials, such as mat pieces, and become involved in group activities with small equipment, including bean bags. They satisfactorily use familiar tools for sticking, drawing and cutting. They help with tidying and gain some independence in dressing and eating.

The children's health is satisfactorily promoted as they are cared for in a clean hall where staff attend to the tables and floor as required. Children know to wash their hands, though do not always use running water, soap and an individual means for drying their hands after toileting and before eating. Suitable arrangements are in place for the children's consistent care regarding illness, accidents and medication.

Children have free access to the drinks bottles they bring from home. At snack times, they gain some understanding of the value of good nutrition as they have milk or water and choose from the varied menu available, including fruit, plain biscuits and multicultural foods. Individual dietary needs are most effectively met as all children share the same, appropriate foods and staff have particular regard to wider implications, including playdough ingredients.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children play safely in community premises made bright and welcoming with displays and posters. Staff work hard at keeping the hall temperature appropriate so children are comfortable. Children have ample, indoor space that is satisfactory organised into different areas so they feel more secure. They have free access to the quality toys and resources that staff set out each day, including some additional items in boxes, drawers and on low shelving. The equipment is entirely suitable for the age groups attending, including very young children with the parent helpers.

Children move safely within the secure playgroup environment and staff supervise them effectively, particularly when they visit the toilets shared with the public. All staff are actively involved in daily checks, though formal risk assessment is not completed for outdoor play or outings to minimise hazards for children. Children begin to learn to keep themselves safe as they hear staff's explanations on, for example, about running and how to use chairs safely. They think about their own safety in an emergency during regular fire practices and use rules learnt from the road safety officer on local walks.

The children's welfare and safety is satisfactorily promoted through the adults' understanding of relevant issues and procedures. All staff hold current child protection certificates. They know

