

Emmanuel Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 400366 |
| Inspection date | 09 November 2007 |
| Inspector | Carol-Anne Shaw |

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| Setting Address | St Saviours Church Hall, Gladstone Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO12 7BL |
| Telephone number | 07743 938441 |
| E-mail | |
| Registered person | Emmanuel Playgroup |
| Type of inspection | Integrated |
| Type of care | 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.

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 good.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Emmanuel Playgroup has been registered for 28 years, it has operated from three venue's in the area over this time. It provides Full Day Care for children, it is managed by a voluntary committee, who are a registered charity. The provision is based in St Saviours Church Hall, in the centre of Scarborough. It serves the local community which has a variety of needs.

The group use the main hall and a smaller room for some activities, there is access to an enclosed outside play area on site. The playgroup is open Monday to Friday, on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 09.15 to 15.00, this includes the lunch club, on Tuesday and Friday from 09.15 to 12.00. It operates in term time only. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

There are 19 children on the register of these 12 are in receipt of nursery education funding. Support is provided for children with learning difficulties, no children currently attend with English as an additional language.

There are five staff employed at the group, of whom all have a relevant childcare qualification, two have early years foundation degrees. The group have regular volunteer helpers as well as parents to support the staff.

Emmanuel playgroup receives support from the local authority. They are members of the Pre-school Learning Alliance (PLA), they have been awarded the 'Aiming High' PLA accreditation.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children demonstrate a positive attitude to their well-being. The staff work effectively to the group's policies and procedures, meeting the children's physical and health needs. They provide the children with very good guidance and support, children gain a good understanding of hygiene and become increasingly independent in their personal care. The older children are confident in accessing the facilities, for example, they wash their hands before snack time and after creative activities. Children learn the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Children have good opportunities to extend and develop their physical control in the well organised daily indoor and outdoor experiences. This is supported by the staff having a good understanding of individual children's development through observations and assessments. They support children effectively in their physical development. They encourage and support children to try out new skills, the children are confident to set their own limits within the safe environment. The children develop a positive attitude to physical exercise and enjoy using both the indoor and outdoor areas to support their development.

Children have a very good range of healthy options for snacks throughout the sessions. Lunch is a very social occasion with food from home served in small groups. Guidance is given to parents on how to provide healthy packed lunches. The older children have a very good understanding of why they eat healthy foods and how it relates to their bodies. Effective liaison with parents ensures children's individual dietary needs are fully met. Good attention is paid to managing children's cultural and medical needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff are vigilant and use comprehensive risk assessment systems to reduce potential hazards. The children learn about protecting themselves, learning about walking safely and the dangers of fireworks. The staff are very effective in supervising and monitoring the children to promote their safety.

Children access a wide range of suitable, safe toys, resources and equipment, all very appropriate to their age and stage of development. The equipment is set out to enable children to freely access throughout the sessions, children make choices to enhance their play.

Children are very well protected by staff, who have a very good understanding of the safeguarding policies and procedures of the provision. All staff have attended training to keep updated with current information. They are fully aware of their responsibilities relating to the safeguarding of children, priority is given to children's welfare. Parents are made aware of the policies and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the playgroup. They develop effectively because staff are confident and skilled using their knowledge and understanding to promote children's development and learning. Staff are motivated and interested in the children as individuals. The very good staff ratios enable children to have lots of adult support.

The children arrive happy and eager to participate, they part from their parents and happily wave goodbye. All staff know the children well and are sensitive to their individual needs. The close and caring relationships are increasing children's trust and help them develop confidence and build self-esteem. Early communication skills are very well supported through good adult child interactions. Children learn about the world and express their ideas through lots of different planned activities and free play that supports children's development and learning.

There is a positive bond and appropriate physical contact between the younger children and staff, which increases children's well being and sense of self. There are opportunities for the children to express their ideas and be involved with a wide variety of activities and experiences. The children enjoy the many play activities and explore paints, textures, music and songs. Overall, this provides the children with an environment which promotes development and effective care

Nursery Education.

The quality of teaching and learning is good. Staff demonstrate a sound knowledge of the principles of early years education and how it links to children's play. They plan and provide effective and realistic challenges for the children in most areas. The activities are well organised and supported with relevant resources and equipment. A wide range of teaching methods are used, this ensures children learn across most areas of the curriculum. Children are motivated, confident, self-assured and keen to participate. This is promoted by staff's enthusiasm and interest in them. Children work well together and follow simple rules to support sharing and safety. The more able children assist others in accessing resources, helping with shoes and tidy the resources.

They use their imagination in role play situations, for example, a child playing at being the fireman, informed me, 'Firemen eat lots for their breakfast to make them strong so they can put out fires.' They use their creative play to demonstrate their sense of the world around them. The displays of the children's work, show a wide variety of creative methods used by them. The creative work is done to support topics.

Children communicate and express themselves very well, both with each other, staff and visiting adults. Interaction with children is very appropriate and staff encourage children to share their experiences at circle time. Children develop their language and thinking skills as well as confidence and independence. They use resources to mark make in their play, and learn to recognise letters through displays, labelling and books. Children are gaining confidence in their mathematical language. They use numbers and solve simple problems in their every day activities, for example, at circle time counting how many children are attending playgroup. They learn sequencing through patterns and observing the life of the butterfly and frog. Physical skills are extended and supported with good access to equipment and outside play opportunities, the use of music and movement and the ability to use a wide variety of tools and resources. Children explore and investigate their surroundings through a variety of mediums, for example,

looking after plants and growing bulbs. The children have limited access to resources that support their understanding of information technology.

Assessments in all areas are used to plan for the children's next steps in their learning. However, this is not effectively documented at this time. The staff are in the process of evolving the weekly planning to include children's interests and to inform the planning for individual children. The staff ensure all children are given sufficient challenge to extend their skills. They meet each week to discuss the progress of all children and how it can be better documented, this work is ongoing.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The partnership with parents is good. The children are made very welcome, staff value children's individuality and respect parents views and contribution to the education and care provided. Younger children's home routines are discussed and staff support appropriately. The children's behaviour is good, the staff show a consistent and caring approach to managing behaviour. The older children follow simple rules and know the routines and boundaries in place. Children learn to share and show respect for others, they take turns and use please and thank you. They learn to negotiate and take responsibility for their own behaviour. The older children support the younger children.

There are effective arrangements in place to care for children with learning difficulties. The staff work with parents and other professionals, planning for individual children. All children are fully integrated into the group and enjoy the range of activities.

Children have very good opportunities to learn about the wider world, through topics and resources that promote diversity. Their own and other cultures are explored through festivals and celebrations. As a result children's spiritual moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Effective systems are in place to ensure parents are kept informed of how their child is progressing in their development and learning. The partnership with parents contributes effectively to children's well being in the group. Children benefit from the involvement of parents in projects and topics at home, they are asked to read stories and look at books at bedtime, this contributes to their good health, development and learning. The group also focus on supporting parents with information and resources to develop personal skills.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The recruitment and vetting procedures are comprehensive, ensuring children are well protected and cared for by staff who are suitable and have the knowledge and understanding to promote children's development in all areas. The management have a sound understanding of how to ensure initial and continuing suitability of staff by implementing the rigorous procedures that have been developed in line with current requirements. However, the registration of sessional care is incorrect for providing childcare for a continuous period of more than four hours in any day. This is a breach of registration, operating full day care when registered for sessional care. This has affected the overall outcome of the care inspection to satisfactory. Changes have been made to the registration, to full day care to ensure continuity of care for the children attending.

The group provide the required standard of care to meet the full day care registration requirements.

The leadership and management of the setting is good. Comprehensive planning is in place to cover all six areas of learning, the evaluation of activities and the monitoring of the nursery education takes place. The staff work effectively together as a team. They organise the environment and plan a wide variety of interesting activities for both indoors and outdoors. The children enjoy their time at the group, therefore are eager to attend and settle well into their play allowing parents to leave. The staff ensure children are supervised effectively giving them opportunities to explore the various areas of play. The staff team are aware of their roles and responsibilities, this contributes to the smooth running of the sessions.

Training is promoted positively with courses accessible through the local authority for staff. Several staff have completed training at a higher level to promote their professional development, to degree level, therefore enhancing the care provided for the children.

The documentation is well organised and reviewed appropriately. The operational plan is detailed and available to parents and visitors to the setting.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection there were a number of recommendations relating to documentation and safety. The group have developed how they record any medication and incidents. The risk assessment is now reviewed by the staff and updated each year.

There were a number of key issues made for the nursery education. These linked to communication, mathematical and creative development. Working with parents was also a key issue.

All have addressed by the group, children now have many opportunities to mark make and use mathematical resources in their daily play. Children's creative experiences are supported with access to a wide range of resources that children can self select. Parents are asked to access their children's profiles and contribute to these through the home diary.

This has improved the safety and enhanced the opportunities for children to learn and develop in a supportive environment.

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.

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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 Ofsted is informed of any significant changes in the operation of the provision.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- improve the opportunities for children to access information technology to support their development and learning
- continue to evolve the short term planning.

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