



Woodlands Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	127784
Inspection date	09 August 2005
Inspector	Stephanie Graves

Setting Address	Woodlands County Primary School, Hunt Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 4BQ
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Registered person	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Woodlands Playscheme opened in 1993 and is run by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. It operates from two rooms and an interconnecting hall in Woodlands County Primary School in Tonbridge, Kent. A maximum of 100 children may attend the scheme at any one time. The setting is open each weekday from 09:00 to 13:00 during the school summer holidays. All children share access to secure, enclosed outdoor play areas.

There are currently over 100 children aged from 5 to 11 years on roll. Children come from the local area. The setting currently supports a number of children with special

educational needs.

The nursery employs 12 part time staff. At least half of the staff, including the play leader, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a range of experiences, which help promote their knowledge and understanding of good health issues. They are mostly independent with routine self help skills, including toilet visits. Good hygiene practices are in place to help prevent cross infection. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly with anti-bacterial hand wash and staff use specific cloths for cleaning. Individual medical needs are addressed through up to date first aid training and detailed record keeping. Children's physical development and sense of well being are promoted effectively. They delight in playing outside in the fresh air and taking part in a wide range of sporting activities. They also know when they need to find a quieter activity, or to have a rest.

Children have access to drinks at all times and enjoy opportunities to learn about making healthy choices regarding the food they eat. They take part in activities, such as making popcorn and discuss their favourite foods with adults and one another. Children's dietary needs are discussed with parents and recorded. Therefore, the individual dietary needs of all children are met.

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Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure environment. There is plenty of space for

them to move around and play within safe boundaries and with good staff supervision. Toys and equipment are checked regularly to ensure they remain safe and appropriate for the needs of all children attending. A daily risk assessment ensures potential hazards are competently identified and reduced. Children learn how to help keep themselves safe through well planned activities. For example, when practising the fire drill, they follow instruction calmly and sensibly, assemble quietly outside and listen for their name to be called to confirm their presence.

Children are well cared for because effective procedures promote their welfare and safety at all times. These include the emergency evacuation procedure, which is practised with the children every week the scheme is open and child protection procedures which demonstrate a good understanding of current requirements.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and settled at the playscheme. They demonstrate high levels of well being and involvement, because staff provide stimulating opportunities through a very good range of toys, resources and experiences. They can learn to master energetic sporting activities, including tennis, football and cricket, or take part in more relaxing activities, such as chess, art and craft activities and reading. Children enjoy playing and learning with warm friendly support from the staff.

Children enjoy their time together and play purposefully and co-operatively. For example, they make their own creations, such as craft flowers and weather cones and enjoy acting out stories, including 'The Three Little Pigs' on a purpose built outdoor stage. Children are supported well by staff who allow them to lead in their play, but know when to offer support. They actively communicate with adults and one another as they talk about their favourite activities and interests.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are warmly welcomed into the playscheme and are cared for according to their individual needs. They demonstrate a sense of belonging, because staff have sound relationships with them. Toys and resources reflect some positive images of diversity. Children show a great sense of confidence and self esteem, enjoy the activities on offer and give staff thank you cards and gifts to show their appreciation. Children with special educational needs are supported effectively, because staff ensure all children attending, are included in all play opportunities.

Children are generally well behaved and polite. This is because staff are good role models, encourage them to understand the difference between right and wrong and praise their good behaviour. Children benefit from consistency of care, due to staff and parents working together to support their needs. Parents feel staff are approachable and their children want to attend. Posters are displayed to illustrate the activities included in the summer scheme.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and settled within a well organised environment. They feel secure and at ease with staff and their surroundings and confidently access a range of play opportunities. Toilet facilities are not currently sufficient for the numbers of children attending. The registration certificate is displayed and the necessary records are shared with parents. However, policies are generally not shared with parents and the uncollected child policy lacks detail. Children's welfare, care and learning are promoted, due to the policies and procedures, which underpin the group's practice. Overall, the summer scheme provides a professional service. As a result, the needs of all the children attending are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to provide a policy for lost or uncollected children.

Policies are now in place. The provider has taken steps towards ensuring children are safe and are well cared for at all times, although the policy for uncollected children, does not include measures that would be taken in the event of a child remaining uncollected by parents or carers.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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):

- promote consistency of care for children by sharing the written policies with parents and ensure the uncollected child policy contains sufficient detail
- ensure children have access to adequate toilet facilities.

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